

Small Group Guide: Noah, the Flood, and God's Ongoing Story

October 25, 2025

This teaching explores Genesis through both Jewish and Christian theological lenses, examining God's perfect order in creation, humanity's disruption of that order, and God's covenantal response through Noah. We're challenged to see ourselves as part of Israel's ongoing mission to reflect God's order to the nations.

Key Takeaways

1. ****Two Theological Perspectives Matter****: Christian theology often focuses on the Fall and redemption through Messiah, while Jewish theology emphasizes Israel's role in modeling divine order to the nations. Both perspectives enrich our understanding.
2. ****Good vs. Evil Redefined****: In Ancient Near Eastern context, "good" means everything in God's perfect order; "evil" means the unraveling of that order.
3. ****God's Dual Nature****: God is both Elohim (Creator/Judge) and Yahweh (Grace/Mercy). We must embrace both aspects in our worship.
4. ****Torah as Wisdom****: Torah is primarily instructional wisdom, not just law. "Keeping" commandments means nurturing and cultivating them in our hearts, not perfectionism.
5. ****Our Priestly Calling****: Those grafted into Israel share in the ongoing mission to bring order and the message of Messiah to all people.

Discussion Questions

1. ****How does viewing "evil" as "disrupting God's order" change your understanding of sin?**** What practical examples can you think of where sin creates chaos rather than just "breaking a rule"?

2. ****The sermon states that God's heart was "deeply pained" by humanity's rebellion.**** How does this emotional dimension of God affect your relationship with Him? Does it change how you view your own choices?
3. ****Why did God destroy animals, birds, and insects along with humanity in the flood?**** What does this teach us about humanity's role as caretakers of creation?

Embracing Both Sides of God (10 minutes)

4. ****Do you tend to focus more on God as Judge (Elohim) or God as Mercy (Yahweh)?**** What are the dangers of emphasizing one aspect over the other?
5. ****Noah interacted with God in both capacities.**** How can we practically worship God as both holy Judge and merciful Redeemer in our daily lives?

Torah and Wisdom (15 minutes)

6. ****The sermon describes "keeping" Torah as "nurturing" or "cultivating" rather than perfect obedience.**** How does this perspective relieve guilt while still maintaining high standards? How is this different from cheap grace?
7. ****David was "far from perfect" yet cultivated Torah in his heart.**** What does this teach us about God's expectations and His grace? How can we apply this to our own spiritual growth?
8. ****If Torah is primarily instructional wisdom, what wisdom have you gleaned from Genesis 6-9 (the Noah account)?**** What does it teach you about God? About humanity? About covenant relationships?

Our Mission Today (15 minutes)

9. ****The message states that Israel still has a priestly vocation to fulfill, and those grafted in share that calling.**** What does this priestly role look like practically for you? For this group? For our congregation?

10. **How does understanding Genesis as "the introduction to the story of Israel" change how you read the rest of Scripture?** Does it affect how you see your own place in God's story?

11. **Isaiah 54:9 connects God's covenant with Noah to His everlasting covenant with Israel.** How does this continuity encourage you about God's faithfulness? What does it mean for your own relationship with Him?