

Discussion Questions



Overview

This sermon walks through the account of Noah in Genesis 6-9, exploring themes of wickedness, divine judgment, grace, faithful obedience, waiting on God, and the covenant promises of a God who never abandons what he starts. The story of Noah is not simply an ancient account of a flood -- it is a mirror held up to every person who has ever found themselves surrounded by rising waters, wondering if God is still present.

Key Takeaways

- Humanity's sin is not a minor inconvenience to God -- it carries real weight and real consequences, as described in Romans 6:23.
- God's judgment and God's grace are not opposites. In the flood narrative, both are fully on display at the same time.
- God did not simply warn Noah of danger -- he provided a specific way of salvation before the storm arrived.
- The five words "then the Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:16) reveal that God himself secured the means of salvation. Noah built the ark, but God sealed the door.
- "God remembered Noah" (Genesis 8:1) does not mean God had forgotten him. It means God was actively, purposefully at work even in the silence and the waiting.
- The rainbow in Genesis 9 was given as God's own reminder to himself -- he bound himself to his own promise.
- Following Jesus means walking off the ark into a new life and allowing the old one to remain buried. Returning to the old world is always a temptation, but the new creation in Christ is always worth it.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. When you hear the story of Noah, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Has your understanding of this account changed over time? If so, how?
2. Pastor Peter mentioned that we can get so caught up in the fascinating details of a story that we lose sight of what Scripture is actually trying to teach us. Have you ever experienced that in your own Bible reading? What helped you refocus?

On Wickedness and Judgment

3. Genesis 6:5 describes a humanity where every inclination of the human heart was only evil all the time. That is an extreme description. What does it tell us about how seriously God takes sin?
4. Pastor Peter made the point that God had every right to erase all of humanity, but instead chose to spare them through Noah. How does understanding God's justice actually deepen your appreciation for his grace, rather than diminish it?

On Obedience and Provision

5. Genesis 6:22 says Noah did everything God commanded him. Building the ark would have taken enormous time, resources, and likely public ridicule. What do you think sustained Noah's obedience during that process?
6. Pastor Peter observed that God provided a way of salvation before the storm arrived. Where have you seen that pattern in your own life -- God preparing something for you before you even knew the storm was coming?

On the Door and the Waiting

7. Pastor Peter described Genesis 7:16 -- "then the Lord shut him in" -- as one of the most overlooked yet powerful details in the

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passage. What does it mean to you personally that God himself secured the door?

8. Once inside the ark, Noah's family could not see the shore. All they had was God's promise. Describe a season in your own life when you were in a similar position -- unable to see the outcome, but called to trust the promise.
9. Pastor Peter said that for many people, the silence of waiting is more frightening than the chaos of the flood itself, because in the silence you are left fighting yourself. Do you agree with that? Why or why not?

On the New World and the Old Life

10. Pastor Peter described Christians who become "grave diggers," going back to exhume their old life and trying to keep a foot in both worlds. What makes the pull of the old life so persistent, even after someone has genuinely committed to following Christ?
11. Pastor Peter shared the story of a young woman named Tina who told him: "I just have to remind myself daily why I choose to walk away from that lifestyle in the first place." What daily practices or rhythms help you stay anchored to your new identity in Christ when the old world comes calling?

On the Covenant and the Rainbow

12. The rainbow in Genesis 9 was not primarily a sign given to Noah -- it was God's own reminder to himself of his covenant. What does it mean to you that God binds himself to his own promises? How does that change the way you approach him in prayer during difficult seasons?
13. Peter closed by saying the rainbow does not erase the memory of the flood -- it transforms it into a testimony. Is there a painful season in your past that God has begun to transform into a testimony? What did that process look like?

Practical Applications

This week, choose one of the following to put into practice:

1. **Name your flood.** Take time in a journal or in prayer to honestly identify the area of your life where the waters feel like they are rising right now. Bring it before God by name and ask him to remind you of his promise over that specific situation.
2. **Practice intentional silence.** Our culture fills every quiet moment with noise. Set aside fifteen to twenty minutes this week with no phone, no music, and no distractions. Sit with God in the silence and ask him what he wants to say to you in it.
3. **Revisit your new creation.** Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:17 and write down three specific ways your life looks different now than it did before you began following Jesus. Share at least one of those with someone in your group or a trusted friend as an act of testimony.
4. **Encourage someone in their waiting.** Think of someone in your life who is in a season of silence or uncertainty -- someone who cannot yet see the shore. Reach out to them this week with a specific word of encouragement rooted in the faithfulness of God.
5. **Study the covenant.** Read Genesis 9:8-17 slowly and carefully. Make a list of every promise God makes in those verses and every time he uses the word "remember" or "covenant." Reflect on what it means that God initiated this agreement entirely on his own terms.

Closing Prayer Focus

As you close your group time, pray together over the following:

- Those in your group who are currently in a season of waiting and cannot yet see the shore
- The temptation to return to old patterns and old identities
- Gratitude for a God who shuts the door, remembers his people, and keeps every promise he makes
- That your group would be a place of safety -- an ark of sorts -- for people who are drowning in the floods of everyday life

"Whatever flood you are in right now... the question isn't whether God is big enough for your moment. It's whether or not you're going to trust him as the floodwaters rise." -- Peter Klassen