Responding to the Call

Grace, Faith, and Obedience

Main Scripture

Genesis 6:8–10

Extended Reading

Genesis 6:13–22

Supporting Scriptures

Genesis 5:28–29; Genesis 6:22; Genesis 9:20–23; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:8–10; James 2:17; Matthew 13:23; Romans 12:1–2; Proverbs 4:23; 1 Corinthians 10:12

Key Thought

Noah lived in the same corrupt culture as everyone around him, but he did not allow that culture to determine his response to God. Grace enabled him to walk differently, faith caused him to take God seriously, and obedience made his faith visible.

Big Idea

God's grace calls us, our character prepares us, and genuine faith moves us to visible and specific obedience.

Introduction: Responding to the Call

The previous lesson showed how compromise can become a culture, a cycle, and ultimately a consequence. Genesis 6:8 introduces the person God would use to interrupt that cycle:

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Grace did not remove Noah from his generation. Grace enabled him to live differently within it.

Genesis 6:8–10 describes the kind of man Noah had become. Genesis 6:13–22 shows how that man responded when God gave him an assignment. The practical question is not simply, **“What did Noah believe?”** It is, **“What did Noah do because he believed?”**

Core Points

1. Grace Is the Starting Point of Our Response

Genesis 6:8

Before Scripture describes Noah’s work, it introduces God’s grace. Noah did not earn God’s favor by building the ark. God extended grace, and Noah responded through faith and obedience.

The same order applies to us. We are not saved because we perform perfectly. We are saved by grace through faith, and that grace teaches and empowers us to live differently.

Key Statement

Obedience is not the price of grace. Obedience is the proper response to grace.

Consider

- Am I trying to earn what God wants me to receive by faith?
- Have I used grace as an excuse to remain unchanged?
- How should my daily decisions reflect the grace God has shown me?

2. Character Prepares Us to Carry the Call

Genesis 6:9–10

Scripture describes Noah in three practical ways:

He was a just man.
Noah sought to live rightly in his relationship with God and in his dealings with others.

He was blameless in his generation.
Blameless does not mean sinless. It describes integrity, consistency, and a life that is not divided between public appearance and private conduct.

He walked with God.
Noah did not begin walking with God when the ark assignment arrived. The assignment revealed the walk that was already there.

God often develops our character before revealing the full weight of our assignment. Public responsibility must be supported by private integrity.

Key Statement

The strength to obey God publicly is developed by walking with Him privately.

Examine

- **Relationships:** Am I treating people justly?
- **Integrity:** Does my private conduct agree with my public confession?
- **Devotion:** Am I consistently walking with God, or only seeking Him when I need direction?

3. True Faith Engages the Mind, Heart, and Will

Hebrews 11:7

Hebrews tells us that Noah received God's warning by faith, responded with godly fear, and prepared the ark.

True faith involves the whole inner person:

The mind understands God's Word.
Faith is not emotional excitement without truth. We must hear, understand, and accept what God has said.

The heart responds with reverence.
Noah took God's warning seriously. Godly fear recognizes the authority, holiness, and reliability of the One speaking.

The will acts in obedience.
Understanding without action is incomplete. Faith becomes visible when the will says yes to God.

A person can understand a sermon, feel deeply convicted, and still leave unchanged. Genuine faith moves beyond information and emotion into action.

Key Statement

If faith reaches the mind and heart but never reaches the hands, our response is incomplete.

The Mind–Heart–Will Test

- **Mind:** What has God made clear to me?
- **Heart:** What attitude, fear, desire, or resistance must I surrender?
- **Will:** What specific action must I take?

4. Obedience Must Become Visible and Specific

Genesis 6:14–22

God did not give Noah a vague instruction to “prepare for the future.” He gave specific directions concerning the ark’s materials, dimensions, rooms, covering, occupants, and provisions.

Noah responded just as specifically:

“Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”

Noah turned revelation into construction. He converted God’s instruction into measurements, materials, schedules, labor, and daily decisions.

Practical obedience may require:

- Making the telephone call
- Ending a concealed behavior
- Apologizing without defending yourself
- Restoring a neglected spiritual discipline
- Establishing a necessary boundary
- Beginning the assignment you have delayed
- Changing how you manage your home, time, or resources

God did not require Noah to understand every detail of the future. He required Noah to obey the instruction he had already received.

Key Statement

You do not need to see the rain before you begin building what God commanded.

Consider

- What instruction have I kept in the discussion stage?
- What would obedience look like on my calendar?
- What can I begin within the next twenty-four hours?
- Who should know about my decision so I can remain accountable?

5. Yesterday's Victory Does Not Eliminate Today's Vulnerability

Genesis 9:20–23

Noah demonstrated extraordinary faith, survived the flood, and became part of the beginning of a renewed world. Yet after this great victory, Scripture records a serious personal failure.

The removal of a corrupt environment did not remove the possibility of sin from the human heart. Noah's private failure also affected his household.

This account teaches us two important truths:

1. We must remain watchful after spiritual victories.
2. We should respond to another person's failure with truth, honor, and restoration rather than gossip, entertainment, or public humiliation.

Key Statement

The moment after victory is not the time to abandon vigilance.

After a Victory

- Keep your spiritual disciplines in place.
- Do not mistake relief for permission to lower your guard.
- Pay attention to exhaustion, isolation, pride, and unguarded appetites.
- Protect your household from the effects of private compromise.
- When someone falls, refuse to expose what God has called you to help restore.

Five Practical Steps for Responding to God’s Call

1. Receive Grace Without Making Excuses

Begin with what God has provided, not with what you believe you lack. Grace does not deny your weakness. It gives you power to respond faithfully.

2. Strengthen Your Daily Walk With God

Do not wait for a major assignment to develop spiritual consistency. Build prayer, Scripture, worship, and honest self-examination into your ordinary routine.

3. Clarify What God Has Already Said

Write the instruction in one clear sentence. Separate what God has actually said from your fears, assumptions, and imagined outcomes.

4. Turn Conviction Into Visible Action

Put your response on the calendar. Make the call, establish the boundary, begin the work, or have the necessary conversation.

5. Guard Your Life After the Victory

Continue doing what kept you close to God during the difficult season. Do not allow success, relief, or celebration to reopen the door to compromise.

Reflection Questions

1. What does Noah's life teach me about the relationship between grace and obedience?
2. Which description of Noah challenges me most: just, blameless, or walking with God?
3. Is there an area where my public confession and private conduct do not agree?
4. What has God made clear to my mind that my will has not yet obeyed?
5. Am I waiting for visible evidence before doing what God has instructed?
6. What would "building the ark" look like in my life this week?
7. Where am I most vulnerable after a victory, breakthrough, or answered prayer?
8. How can I respond to another person's failure without excusing it or unnecessarily exposing them?
9. What pattern could my obedience change in my household or family?
10. What specific action will demonstrate my faith within the next twenty-four hours?

Personal Application

Complete the following statements:

The instruction from God that I clearly understand is:

The fear, desire, or resistance I need to surrender is:

The action I have delayed is:

My first visible step of obedience will be:

The area I must guard after victory is:

The person who can help hold me accountable is:

The family pattern my obedience can begin changing is:

Weekly Challenge

For the next seven days:

1. Begin each morning by reading Genesis 6:8–10 and reviewing Genesis 6:22.
2. Ask: **What do I understand? What must I surrender? What must I do?**
3. Write down one clear instruction or conviction.
4. Take at least one practical step of obedience within twenty-four hours.
5. Continue one spiritual discipline that helped you during a difficult season.
6. Refuse to participate in gossip or unnecessary exposure when someone fails.
7. End each day by praying:
   “Lord, let my faith become visible through obedience.”

Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for the grace that finds us in the middle of brokenness and calls us into Your purpose. Develop in us the character to carry what You have assigned. Give us minds that understand Your Word, hearts that reverence Your voice, and wills that respond in obedience.

Show us where we have delayed, resisted, or waited for visible evidence before acting. Give us courage to begin building what You have commanded. Keep us humble and watchful after every victory. Protect our homes from the effects of private compromise, and teach us to respond to the failures of others with truth, honor, and restoration.

By Your grace, let our obedience interrupt destructive cycles and establish a new legacy. In Jesus’ name, amen.