

THE BEGINNING

NOAH AND THE FLOOD

FALL

Lesson 03

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

LESSON TEXT

Genesis 6–10

FOCUS VERSES

Genesis 9:11–13

¹¹And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

¹²And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

¹³I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

TRUTH ABOUT COVENANT

God made a covenant promise that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood.

MY RESPONSE TO COVENANT

I will not live in fear for God is in control.

COVENANT CONTEXT

When humanity's sin reached its boiling point, God promised to wash the world of wickedness, but He extended grace to righteous Noah and provided a way of escape from the Flood. God splashed a rainbow across the sky as a token of His covenant to never again destroy the earth with a flood.

TEACHING OUTLINE

Icebreaker: What is the scariest storm or natural disaster you have ever experienced?

Teacher Tip: Connect the group's answers to help them feel how afraid Noah may have felt during humanity's first storm.

Lesson Connection: Share the Lesson Connection.

I. THE WORLD AFTER THE FALL

A. Evil Runs Rampant

B. A Righteous Remnant

- C. I will resist the pressure of the world and walk in covenant with God.

DISCUSS: *In what ways do you feel pressure from your surroundings to walk with the world instead of walking with the Lord?*

II. THE FAITHFULNESS OF NOAH

- A. A Prophesied Savior

- B. Noah Found Grace through Obedience (I)

DISCUSS: *What changes do you need to make in your life to be more obedient to the voice of God and His Word?*

- C. I will commit to obedience even when I do not have full understanding.

DISCUSS: *Do you sometimes find it hard to believe and obey God, regardless of your level of understanding? If so, why?*

III. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

- A. Faithful in Judgment (V)

DISCUSS: *Do you sometimes have difficulty reconciling the judgment of God with the love of God? If so, why?*

- B. Faithful in Salvation and Restoration

- C. I will not live in fear, for God is in control.

DISCUSS: *In what areas of your life do you need to relinquish control to God? How has fear kept you from doing so?*

Internalizing the Message

PRAYER FOCUS

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- For God to help us walk by faith and not by fear
- For God to help us be constantly aware of His covenant promise

LESSON CONNECTION

Late one night, long after the family had gone to bed, a father was startled awake by a rustling sound coming from the closet by his side of the bed. Groggy but alarmed, he held his head up slightly off the pillow and listened to see if the disturbance was part of a frightening dream or, worse yet, a frightening reality. Just as he was about to lower his head back to his pillow, he heard the sound again. This time it was a scratching sound. Fully awake now and with adrenaline coursing through his veins, he threw off the covers and fumbled to turn on the lamp.

Coupled with the noise from the closet and the father's less-than-quiet response to it, his wife awoke. Fear gripped them both as they pondered their next move. What kind of critter could have gotten into their house? Had one of the children left a door or window open? Was there a hole in the roof or an opening in the floor? Every worst-case scenario flooded their minds.

After some harried, intense deliberation—and though they could not see the source of the noise—they logically

concluded it was a mouse or a rat. With newfound confidence the father devised a plan. He would push a stack of shoeboxes against the wall, pinning the intruder, while the mother retrieved an empty container to capture, transport, and rid the house of the rodent, returning their home to peace and quiet (and them back to bed).

As the mother ran to the kitchen, the father put his plan into motion. He began shoving shoeboxes against the back of the closet wall. He pushed and pushed, but the noise grew even louder. The mother returned with her tools, but she found the frustrated father still fumbling with the boxes, which were now bending under constant pressure. The plan was not working.

Concerned that the commotion would wake the kids, the mother went to check on their son, whose bedroom was closest to theirs. When she entered his room, she began to panic. The boy's beloved pet hamster, Buddy, was not in his cage. The lid was ajar with the food dish and toys positioned close enough to allow Buddy to climb up, pop the lid off the cage, escape, and roam—roam down the hall to the closet in the adjacent bedroom.

Thankfully, her scream reached the father's ears just before his last full-throttled attempt to pin the mouse or rat or whatever in with the shoeboxes. They opened the closet doors and pulled back the boxes to reveal Buddy, wedged in the corner of the closet having survived by the grace of God and a thin barrier of baseboard. He was shaken, but unharmed, and quickly returned to his habitat, where the family placed a heavy book on top of his enclosure.

How often do our fears prove to be unfounded? Worst-case-scenario thinking can plague our minds. There is often more to the story—more than we can see in the moment. Faith is not always a walk in the park; sometimes it is more like a walk in the dark. In these moments, we must remember we are in covenant with the one who knows all, sees all, and commands us many times to “fear not.”

BIBLE LESSON

I. THE WORLD AFTER THE FALL

A. Evil Runs Rampant

Adam and Eve could not have fully understood the ongoing consequences of their disobedience—that is until one of their sons murdered the other. Sin is destructive. The first six chapters of the Bible tell a sordid story about the progressive spiral of sin. The decision to violate the one commandment in the peaceful Paradise of the Garden progressed with devastating speed to the condition described in Genesis 6:5: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Great wickedness and continuously evil imagination—this description paints a bleak and discouraging picture indeed.

Thousands of years later, humanity is still navigating a world where sin abounds. Many news headlines today portray an equally dark picture of our world. Strife, abuse, animosity, greed, envy, pride, theft, and murder reveal that sin's destructive presence is still running rampant through humanity. It is wreaking havoc and leaving nothing but pain, regret, and hopelessness in its wake. The continuous and relentless nature of sin's effects can belie the empty soul's longing for its Creator. Mercifully, the apostle Paul, an expert in the law of God and the consequences of disobedience, declared: “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Romans 5:20).

B. A Righteous Remnant

The picture Genesis 6:5 paints of humanity at that time does not inspire much hope. But not all hope was lost, not for those who chose to live faithfully in covenant with God. The Bible identifies certain individuals—a righteous remnant—such as Enoch who “walked with God” (Genesis 5:24). Despite his surroundings, Enoch had such a close relationship with God that one day the Lord just took him. God simply rescued Enoch from the wickedness of the world. The writer of Hebrews 11:5 described the scenario like this: “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

What faith...what a testimony! Throughout history there has always been a righteous remnant living in an unrighteous world. Adhering to God’s Word even when those around us are not joins us to that growing remnant. One day just like Enoch, the righteous remnant will be translated from the world in an event called the rapture of the church. Until that day, may our testimony be the same—that we pleased God.

C. I will resist the pressure of the world and walk in covenant with God.

Though his story only fills a few lines on a few pages of Scripture, Enoch’s testimony still speaks to humanity. Interestingly, his covenant relationship with God is defined by walking. He walked with the Lord. He was not perfect and he faced temptation, yet his desire was to please the Lord and follow His ways. Psalm 37:23 states: “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.” God has always concerned Himself with ordering humanity’s steps, even in a wicked world.

Sin remains a force in our world. Pressure to conform to it through temptation will require our resolve to resist. But we are not alone. We have God’s Word to guide us, His Spirit to empower us, and a great cloud of witnesses (including Enoch) encouraging us to walk in covenant with our covenant-making and covenant-keeping God.

***DISCUSS:** In what ways do you feel pressure from your surroundings to walk with the world instead of walking with the Lord?*

II. THE FAITHFULNESS OF NOAH

A. A Prophesied Savior

Scripture reveals another member of the righteous remnant who, in the midst of rampant wickedness, walked in covenant with God. Noah arrived on the scene of history accompanied by a prophecy from his father Lamech, declaring Noah would “comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed” (Genesis 5:29). We see no indication Noah knew how he would fulfill this prophecy, or if he even knew about it at all. But we do know there was something special about Noah, something that separated him from the rest of the world.

God’s creation had turned its back on their Creator en masse. This rejection hurt the heart of God and caused Him to promise aloud: “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them” (Genesis 6:7). Thankfully that is not the end of the story. The next verse hints at hope: “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8).

The picture paints God searching the world for even the slightest reason to extend grace. Then, God found Noah, whose prophetic birth announcement foreshadowed his purpose and God's plan. Comfort had come to combat the curse.

B. Noah Found Grace through Obedience

Like Enoch, Noah walked with God. While the world devolved into unbridled wickedness, Noah remained faithful to the Lord. Noah's obedience resulted in the salvation of his family and the preservation of the entire human race. The covenant relationship between God and humanity endured in the face of evil, thanks to one man's obedience.

God laid out in great detail the plans for the ark Noah was to build. God dictated its dimensions, the type of wood to be used, the locations of the window and door, and how the pitch was to be applied. The ark was supposed to be at least one hundred fifty yards long and three stories high. God's desire and direction was for Noah and his family to prepare for what was to come. Faith requires obedience to God's instructions as Noah did, without hesitation or reservation. "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he" (Genesis 6:22). Obedience is not complicated: God instructs and we obey.

***DISCUSS:** What changes do you need to make in your life to be more obedient to the voice of God and His Word?*

C. I will commit to obedience even when I do not have full understanding.

Commitment is easier when we have a lot of details or previous experience with the person to whom we are committing, not so much when there are unanswered questions and parts we do not understand. God told Noah to build an ark, something that had never been done before. He was to build an ark because it was going to rain, also something that had never happened before. The rain was going to cause a catastrophic, worldwide flood, another brand-new experience for humanity. No one, including Noah, fully understood what was going to happen or how building an ark was going to save anyone. Yet Noah obeyed.

As the sole representative of the righteous remnant, Noah undoubtedly felt isolated. But because of his obedience, he was also insulated. When the rain came and the water rose, Noah and his family were safe in the ark. They had all the provisions they needed for the duration of the storm, its aftermath, and the subsequent rebuilding efforts. Lack of understanding did not inhibit Noah's obedience. He trusted God, and God trusted him. Through Noah, God reaffirmed His covenant with humanity. Noah chose not to live in fear, but to trust in God's faithfulness.

***DISCUSS:** Do you sometimes find it hard to believe and obey God, regardless of your level of understanding? If so, why?*

III. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

A. Faithful in Judgment

Yes, the Flood is a story of judgment, but it is also a story of mercy; it is a story of the faithfulness of God. Sin's progressive effect on creation's caretakers reached its inevitable conclusion—death. A just God could no longer allow wickedness to rule in the world. The earth which God originally declared to be "good," was now described as

“corrupt before God” and “filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11). Humanity’s wicked ways had to be judged. Humanity had broken its covenant with our Creator and thus warranted judgment.

The Flood accomplished its holy purpose of washing away sin, leaving the earth clean of sin and poised for re-creation. Our righteous God had saved the righteous remnant and simultaneously showcased His justice and mercy. Remember, humanity had broken their covenant with God; truth and righteousness demanded judgment on sin, but God provided humanity a way of escape: the ark. Noah’s stay in the ark proved God’s faithfulness to save and restore those who follow Him.

***DISCUSS:** Do you sometimes have difficulty reconciling the judgment of God with the love of God? If so, why?*

B. Faithful in Salvation and Restoration

Noah found God’s grace through his obedience. Noah and his family weathered the wickedness of the world, stood firmly in righteousness, escaped the destruction of the Flood, and lived to replenish the earth. God was faithful to His word, faithful to Noah, and faithful to His covenant with humanity. God spoke to Noah and his sons saying: “And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth” (Genesis 9:11). We are living testaments to the fulfillment of this enduring promise.

God proved faithful in restoration. The Flood did not reverse the curse from the Garden of Eden; humanity still had to till the ground. Humanity still had free will to obey the Lord or give in to temptation. Sin was still lying at the door. As it is today, obedience was blessed—Noah blessed his sons Shem and Japheth for their righteousness, and Noah cursed his son Ham for his unrighteousness. Yet each man was used in God’s restorative plan to repopulate the earth and set us on a trajectory toward the ultimate salvation and restoration with a new covenant in Jesus Christ.

C. I will not live in fear, for God is in control.

This story is not scribed in Scripture for us to fear; it is for us to hope. Each time it rains, we can look up and see the pages of Scripture come alive before our twenty-first-century eyes. “And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth” (Genesis 9:12–13). God splashed a rainbow across the sky as a token of His covenant with us that He will never again destroy the earth with a flood.

Our covenant-making and covenant-keeping God continues to prove Himself faithful. This assurance should free us from paralyzing fear. No matter what we hear or see on the news or online, God is in control. No matter which nation threatens another or who is in power in our nation, God is in control. We know how our story ends; we who are in covenant with God will reign and rule with Him. Let us live and act with the ever-present awareness that there is a God, and we are not Him. And let us follow God’s Word and obey His oft-repeated command: “Fear not.”

***DISCUSS:** In what areas of your life do you need to relinquish control to God? How has fear kept you*

from doing so?

Teacher Option: *Tell the story below or share one of your own to illustrate our need to have faith in Jesus during life's storms.*

INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

Every year just prior to the summer, the National Hurricane Center issues its forecast of projected storm activity for the upcoming hurricane season. In recent decades each annual forecast has bombarded the inhabitants of the southeastern United States from southern Texas to the Carolinas with words and phrases such as “potentially overactive,” “highly volatile,” “conditions conducive to storm development,” and the like. Throughout the heat of summer, people in hurricane-susceptible areas pay particularly close attention to the weekly tropical outlooks for any disturbances or areas of concern, which warn them to watch closely. Newscasters and prognosticators often issue the clichéd guidance to “prepare for the worst and hope for the best.”

Meteorologists monitor the conditions and weather patterns that make it possible for them to predict, with extraordinary accuracy, when and where a storm will form before it shows up on the radar screen. This ability is impressive, and for anyone who has ever ridden out a hurricane or suffered damage or displacement from one, it is valuable. Preparing for an oncoming storm can save lives and minimize property damage. Yet because of the inherent unpredictability of storms, even the most prepared individuals can experience fear, especially when a storm rapidly intensifies and appears to be barreling straight for an area they call home.

Noah did not have the luxury of satellite imagery and radar apps on his smartphone. He had an even more trustworthy early warning system—the word of God. The Lord gave Noah a warning about the storm of all storms. He also gave Noah specific instructions on how to prepare for it. Obedience was crucial, the results inevitable. Exactly as God said, He brought floodwaters to the earth, destroyed His creation, and saved only those in the ark. He proved His control over creation while also proving His faithfulness to His word.

Before the rain fell for the first time in the history of the world, Noah had a choice to make: fear or faith? We have the same choice to make. With a horizontal gaze, we find ample reasons (or excuses) to fear. Sin’s spiral is on full display; figurative and literal storms continue to batter us in what seems like seasonal cycles. Yet if we are walking in covenant with God through obedience to His Word, we only need to look up after the rain to be reminded of the faithfulness of God. We have nothing to fear, for God is in control. The next time fear rears its ugly head, raise yours a bit higher, fix your eyes on Jesus, and remember the rainbow. He who was faithful to Noah will be forever faithful to us.