

SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING

NOAH'S OBEDIENCE

1.4

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///

God saves those who obey His Word.

SERIES AIM

God was intentional about His creation and the purpose it would serve, and the same can be said for the way He created you and me. God loves us, and He made us to thrive and live according to His perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Genesis 6:5–21; 8:15–22

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will obey God's Word and enjoy the salvation He gives.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? ///

The gospel is a beautiful story, but for the story to matter, we have to do something about it! Obedience to the gospel positions us for salvation.

Like Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose again, we can experience new birth. We must die to our sin through repentance. As we learned a couple of weeks ago, repentance is not just asking forgiveness; it is actually making a change. We must be buried in baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (or cancellation) of our sins. This is not just a ceremony; it is a commitment we make to live for God. Because we are making that commitment, He washes our sins away. We must come alive by receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is the miracle of Jesus' Spirit coming and dwelling within us. Like all miracles, it has a sign of confirmation; we speak in a language we've never learned (speaking in tongues). If Noah and his family wanted to experience salvation, they couldn't just believe in the boat; they had to actually obey God by building it and getting in it! If we want to be saved, we have to do more than just believe in Jesus. We have to commit to obeying God's Word to enjoy the salvation He brings.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Obedience is accepting God's way over ours. What does that mean?

/// How do we know what God's ways are?

/// Do we have to agree with God in order to obey?

/// Think of a time when you did not agree but obeyed anyway. Did you ever understand why obedience was important in that instance?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

GOD BRINGS SALVATION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Read Genesis 6:5-7.

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. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, 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.

This passage is an incredible look at the character of God. God loved humanity, but in spite of His love, people did evil, as the Scripture says “continually.” At times in our walk with God we come to understand our actions have consequences and not just for us or the people around us. When we sin, God is hurt by our actions; He is sad and grieving over us because of our sin. When we lose sight of God and harm Him through our sin, we lose step with His will for our lives, and we lose sight of our relationship with Him. Take the time to realign yourself with God, and take the time to tell Him how much you love Him today.

Jr. High /// Think of an obstacle you struggled with earlier in your relationship with God. Journal about how God helped you overcome.

Sr. High /// Society resists identifying anything as wicked. Journal about how you can take a stand for righteousness.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Read Genesis 6:8.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

As we talked about in yesterday’s devotional, God saw His creation and how far it had fallen from righteousness. But in the middle of all of that darkness, there was a small flicker of light, a source of hope representing the love and faith God desires from each of us. Noah was that man of great faith and hope. He was the only source of obedience in the world at that time. It is what God is looking for in each of us. In a world of increasing darkness and sin and unbelief, God is searching for committed believers willing to serve Him and listen to His voice. If we are willing to follow after Him and do things His way, there is nothing God cannot do in us and through us.

Jr. High /// Noah was far from perfect, so what made him the focus of God’s blessing and rescue?

Sr. High /// What can we learn from Noah about faith and obedience?

GOD BRINGS SALVATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Read I Peter 3:20–21.

Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The power of baptism is shown here on full display when compared to the great Flood God used to cleanse the earth of evil. Much sin and darkness were washed from existence. So when we go down in the waters of baptism, we must understand that every piece of sin, every broken feeling, and every source of darkness is washed away from our hearts and souls. In just a moment, the blood of Jesus floods our souls, and we can be free from the darkness that threatens to overtake the world. In an instant of grace, every fault and mistake are removed from our lives in the presence of our loving God, our great Redeemer.

Jr. High /// *If you have been baptized, write a letter to God on what baptism has done for you. If you have not yet been baptized, write about how you would like baptism to change your life.*

Sr. High /// *Take some time to write down some ways in which you have seen your thoughts and actions change since being baptized. If you have not yet been baptized, write about how you would like baptism to change your life.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Read Genesis 6:22.

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

Think about the simplicity of this verse and how much it tells us about the character of Noah. Noah was so committed to God, so committed to the things that God loved and commanded, that there was no question in his mind what he was going to do when God spoke. What if we could have that kind of faith? If we could all find just an ounce of Noah's willingness to do what God wanted, the world would be a much better place. Even more than Noah's faith, it was his willingness to act that set him apart from so many others. When we are asked to do something for the Kingdom and doubt enters our minds, the greatest thing we can do is act in willingness. As long as we are willing, our service and our efforts can and will be blessed.

Jr. High /// *Pray about what God wants you to do to deepen your relationship with Him.*

Sr. High /// *Pray and journal about obedience. Ask God to give you clear direction about your future and how He wants you to use your abilities for His kingdom.*

GOD BRINGS SALVATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

Read Genesis 6:14a.

Make thee an ark of gopher wood.

The ark will always be a great symbol of hope in the Bible. Despite the incredible disaster that was coming, regardless of the sin of the world, and even through unbelievable circumstances, to Noah and his family, the ark represented their refuge. With hope Noah hammered those nails and assembled that wood without a question in his mind. When we find our hope in the promises of God, nothing can distract us from the promise that is coming. When we invest our lives in the kingdom of God and the things God has built, we can be certain that in our times of need, He will reach down from Heaven and rescue us. He will deliver us when we need Him the most. God truly is our salvation and strength when we are at our most helpless, when we feel the weakest. He is our hope for a new tomorrow.

Jr. High /// What things serve as a foundation for your faith in God and commitment to the church?

Sr. High /// Who do you credit with pushing you to be a better Christian and a more faithful believer?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

Read Genesis 6:13.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

In much the same way that God was Noah's only security and hope for a new life, God knew that Noah was the only hope for a new start and a righteous new world. Noah was far from perfect, but as we discussed, it was his love, faith, and willingness that set him apart from the rest of the world. God is searching the world for people who are set apart, people who are faithful and passionate about the kingdom of God. You must find your passion for the Kingdom; you have to embrace your faults and imperfections and understand that God uses the broken to do mighty things. You are incomplete, but in God you can be made whole. You are exactly who God is looking for to change the world around you.

Jr. High /// God doesn't need you to change the whole world, just the world around you. Pray about who or what God wants you to impact first.

Sr. High /// Think of someone who is broken and needs Jesus. In your journal, write a letter to that person about how Jesus can transform his or her life.

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