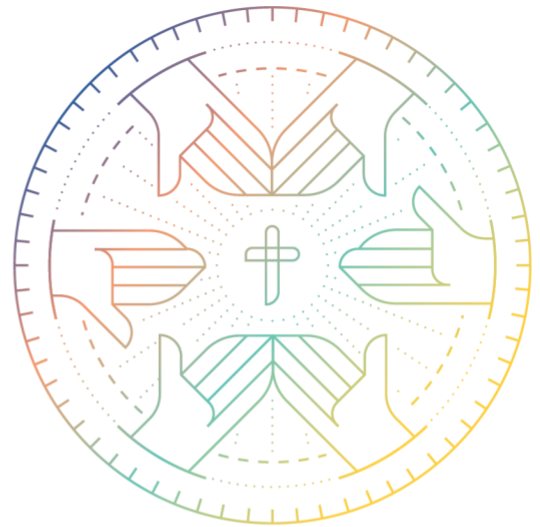


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

God asked Noah to do something unusual, something never done before. What's the most unexpected, perhaps unusual thing God has prompted you, moved you or asked you to do?

OR

If you were in Noah's shoes, what kind of animals would you bring on the ark and why?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

Imagine what it was like for rain to begin to fall and Noah and his family to find safety in the shelter of the Ark. What range of emotions might Noah and his family have felt as the floodwaters rose and they remained protected and secure in their massive vessel?

## INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

**Read Genesis 6:5-8.** How does the condition of man in those verses relate to the condition of mankind today?

What do you think is meant by Genesis 6:6? Does it surprise you to hear God describe mankind as he does? How can we understand this description of God's emotion toward mankind?

How does Genesis 6:8 provide hope for you and me?

**HOST Guidance:** The world we live in is also filled with violence and all kinds of evil. The fallen condition of man's heart has not changed over thousands of years. Isn't it shocking to hear God say that he regretted making man? That powerful statement speaks to the height from which mankind had fallen from his original condition and innocence in the garden of Eden. How encouraging it is, that God spared the life of this one, righteous man and his family. It gives hope to us that God's grace and mercy will never fail as we put our eternal trust in our Ark, Jesus Christ.

**Read Genesis 6:9 and Romans 12:2.** Noah did not conform to the world of his day. Discuss what it means to choose transformation over conformity. What does Paul say will be the outcome of a transformed mind?

How would you describe a person with a transformed mind?

**HOST Guidance:** The evil that was so prevalent around him did not turn his heart from righteousness. The passage says Noah was blameless, even in this horrible environment where people had become so corrupt. Paul says that if we allow God to transform the way that we think, we will be able to live in ways that please God and have the discernment necessary to choose what is good, pleasing and perfect, no matter the evil around us.

**Read Genesis 6:22.** How would you complete this sentence: “Noah’s obedience to God was - \_\_\_\_\_.”? Why did you choose that word?

What are some of the obstacles that can discourage or prevent us from submitting fully to God's authority?

**HOST Guidance:** Your group may choose words like “absolute” or “unyielding” or “commendable.” Try to encourage a robust discussion of the things in our society and in our own hearts, that make it difficult to fully submit to God’s authority.

**Read Hebrews 11:7.** What were the “things not yet seen”? What was Noah’s holy fear? How did Noah demonstrate his faith and how is that similar to you and me?

**HOST Guidance:** The things not yet seen could be a reference to rain, which many scholars believe had never before happened on the earth. Perhaps Noah’s holy fear points to his understanding that catastrophic judgment was coming upon the Earth, and he alone was appointed to build an Ark of refuge. What a tremendous responsibility! Noah was instructed to do things that didn’t make a great deal of sense to him, because he didn’t fully understand the judgment that was coming. He had to obey without complete understanding. Our obedience to God is similar in that we are called to obey him even though at times it doesn’t make sense, or it causes us to be ridiculed, or it seems to place a hardship on our life. Obedience to God is the same, common to all mankind, no matter the time in history. And just like Noah, the benefit of obedience will far outweigh the cost of obedience.

### **APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)**

Noah persevered as a “preacher of righteousness.” Where is God calling you to persevere? Where do you need patience and encouragement to continue persevering?

Pastor Jared said that God used Noah to create a legacy. Considering where you are in your life, where or how can God use you to create a legacy? (Hint: everyone, no matter the age, can have a legacy impact.)

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In what sphere of your life today does God want to use you as His witness? Remember, witness is broader than just evangelism.

What's one thing from this study you can focus on in the next week?

## PRAYER

*Dear Father, thank you for the example of Noah. In a dark world he stood out as a beacon of righteousness. He was blameless in his generation as we desire to be in ours. Guide us day by day in how to live holy lives, separate from sin. Strengthen us to resist ungodliness and to choose each day what will please you and draw us closer to you. As you were faithful to Noah and showed him your favor, may your faithfulness and favor toward us fill us with great joy today. Amen.*