



3/22/2020
Genesis 6:9-22

BIG IDEA

God has brought salvation through precise planning.

LOOKING BACK

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Invite members to share any questions or points that came up in their family discussions regarding last week's study. Invite them to share ways God continued to speak to them as they sought to apply those truths throughout the week.

- What are some reasons God might allow devastating events that impact humanity on a global scale (such as what we're experiencing now)?

LOOKING IN

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| *Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6:9-10.*

- Has God ever asked you to do something you didn't completely understand or that you knew people would mock? How did you respond to the amount of trust that had to be invested?
- What excuses do people use to avoid doing what God has commanded them to do? Are any of these excuses valid before God? Why?

Surrounded by people willingly trapped in sin, Noah followed God's leadership and sought to live for Him. This choice requires a close, personal walk with God. Our relationship with Him involves spending time with Him, listening to Him, learning about His love and perspective, following His leadership, and depending on Him.

| *Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6:11-13.*

- What do these verses teach us about the seriousness of sin? How would your life look different if you took your sin as seriously as God does?
- How do you see evidence of both God's judgment and His mercy in these verses?

God exhibits His grace by providing many opportunities to repent before He punishes, but punishment does come. God does not tolerate rebellion and disobedience forever (see 2 Pet. 3:8-9). God's grace and call to repentance do not mean God will not punish sin.

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| *Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6:14-16.*

- God gave Noah very specific instructions. What specific instructions do you wish He would give His people right now? In the context of the pandemic we're experiencing right now, what instructions has He given us that we need to pay better attention to?

| *Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6:17-22.*

- How does Noah's promise from God in global disaster encourage you today?

God not only planned to save Noah and his family; He promised to establish His covenant with Noah. Covenant refers to a binding agreement linking two parties together. Noah already lived in a close, personal relationship with God, and their relationship formed the basis of the covenant. Through establishing His covenant with Noah, God pledged to maintain the relationship. Since Noah would be the ancestor of all humanity, however, the covenant would bless people far beyond Noah's time.

LOOKING FORWARD

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- Read Romans 3:23-26. What similarities do you see between Noah and Jesus?
- How has God's working in your life been similar to the account of the flood and the character of Noah?

FAMILIES

Use the following questions and truths to disciple your children throughout the week.

- Do you think Noah and his family were afraid when they knew the flood was coming?
- Read verse 18. God's promise of safety in the ark is a picture for those of us who trust in Jesus today. What promise of safety do we have in troubled times?
- It's easy to see the trouble we're facing in the world today. What hope and blessing can Christians focus on, instead?

PRAYER

Thank God for His willingness to use us if we follow Him in obedience. Thank God for His grace and mercy and His desire to walk with His children.

COMMENTARY

| *Genesis 6:9-22*

6:9-10 In a world of increasing sin, God found a person named Noah whose commitment to Him stood out. Noah was righteous, a description given to no other person up to this point in the Bible. Noah and

his wife had three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The list of Noah's sons provides a link between the end of the list of Seth's descendants (Gen. 5:32) and the Table of Nations (10:1). After the flood, humanity had another opportunity to begin again through Noah's sons. Before the flood ever arrived, God in His mercy had determined to provide this opportunity.

6:11-13 God's world had become the complete opposite of what He created and intended. God intended the earth to be filled with people and animals (Gen. 1:24,28). Instead, corruption and violence filled the earth. God told Noah of His plans to destroy the earth and its inhabitants. God also explained to Noah why the earth was about to face destruction. Sin had corrupted the world, perverting humanity and causing nature to suffer. The world no longer existed as God intended, so God would destroy the earth and its inhabitants and undo His creation. Since humanity insisted on corrupting itself through disobedience to Him, God would make the corruption complete by destroying the earth and its living creatures.

6:14-16 God had decided to destroy the world due to its sin. He instructed Noah to construct an ark, indicating He intended to deliver Noah and provide a new beginning for the world. Unlike most ships through the ages, the ark had no curved bow or rudder. God did not intend Noah to sail the vessel. He intended the boat only to be a container in which Noah, his family, and animals could survive the flood.

6:17-22 God stated His intention to use a flood to destroy the earth, which provided the rationale for Noah's building the ark. The flood constituted a unique event in world history. Waters would flood the earth, destroying all human and animal life, but only this one time (see Gen. 8:21). The flood in Noah's time constituted a horrible judgment that will never be repeated. God told Noah that he and his family would escape the destruction of the flood. God determined to preserve Noah and his family as a remnant through which He would repopulate the earth. Although Noah was a righteous individual, he had sinned and would continue to sin (see Gen. 9:20-21). God's salvation of Noah and his family demonstrated His grace.

God not only planned to save Noah and his family, He also promised to establish His covenant with Noah. The word (as well as the concept) "covenant" occurs here for the first time in the Bible. "Covenant" refers to a binding agreement linking two parties together. In God's covenant with Noah, God constituted the stronger party; but He imposed obligations only on Himself. Noah already lived in a close, personal relationship with God, and their relationship formed the basis of the covenant. Through establishing His covenant with Noah, God pledged to maintain the relationship.

To preserve each species and repopulate the earth after the flood, God instructed Noah to take on the ark a male and female of each bird and each land animal. God also commanded Noah to gather the necessary food to sustain himself, his family, and the animals while on the ark (Gen. 6:19-21).