

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“BUILDING BLOCKS:
DOWN CAME THE RAIN”**

Some of us have felt the acute awareness of being one of the few believers at work, at school, or even in our families. This week we will study a man who has the only righteous person on earth. His faith saved not only his family but also preserved mankind.

DAY 1

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 6:5-10; 4:1; Ephesians 4:30

The Word

The nightly news tells stories of a horrific nature. People commit crimes that shock us, depress us, and frighten us. If these stories offend us, how much more is a holy God offended?

Genesis 6:5-6

⁵ The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

Verse 5-6: The Lord was the one who created people. He formed man from the dust of the ground. He was like a delighted father watching his children with joy. However, Adam and Eve sinned. They were cast from their perfect environment. Yet, the Lord still desired a relationship with the ones He had made. Eve understood this.

Genesis 4:1

¹ Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

Verse 1: Eve understood that God was still involved in her life. She was able to recognize his help. But within a few short generations, this message was lost. God was not acknowledged and people committed evil. God was sad that He had made humans.

Did you know that the feelings of God can be hurt? We know that God is God. We believe that God judges sin, which He does. But do we understand that the judgment follows a broken heart? Every parent understands this. You discipline your child but it is out of the hurt that they would commit such an offense against you. The old saying before punishing the child is "this hurts me more than it hurts you." Of course, no child believes this. However, if a parent has a true love for the child, then it is true. You

hurt over your child's offense and you hurt that you must discipline the offense. Our heavenly Father's heart aches because of our sin.

Please understand that it is not only unbelievers' sin that breaks the heart of God. As believers, we can still hurt Him because of our sin.

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Verse 30: The Holy Spirit who resides within you can be grieved by your sin. This part of the trinity of God has a heart that can be broken. In a society that takes sin so lightly we often forget that we can hurt the Lord. He is such a tender Father, who is sensitive to our choices in life. You can not truly love someone unless you are able to let that person hurt you. The Lord is transparent enough to let us know that He loves us and is willing to be hurt by us when we sin. Do not grieve the Spirit of God.

Genesis 6:7

⁷ So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."

Verse 7: Do not read this verse and think God is pouting. Often people misunderstand this verse. Instead, this verse showcases two attributes of God: judgment and grace. The judgment is evident that those committing sin are to be blotted out. They are sinning against a holy God. However, the grace of the Lord is shown by the fact that if humans were blotted out then future generations would not be born. Thus, there would be fewer people who live to offend a holy God. There would be less people who sin against the Lord and have to be punished eternally for that sin. In this one verse, we see both attributes at work.

The Lord had to view an entire corrupt earth. There was one man who had to live in it.

Genesis 6:8-10

⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the account of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Verse 8-10: One person on the entire earth is righteous. Noah had three sons; they were not in the list of righteous people. Noah had a wife; she is not listed as a righteous person. Noah alone, not only on earth but also in his very own family, finds favor in the eyes of God.

We have all heard about peer pressure and the difficulty in staying strong in the midst of it. Noah was being “peer pressured” by the entire world, yet he remained righteous. He was righteous at home, at work, and among friends. His integrity was consistent no matter where he was or whom he was with. His choice to not conform led to salvation for future generations. How will your choices for integrity, or for righteousness, impact those around you?

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you to be righteous like Noah despite the pressures around you to conform to this world.

What benefit is it for us to know that the heart of God can be grieved?

Do you know of any examples of someone living righteously despite pressures from those around them? How were lives changed because of these righteous people?

In what ways are you an example to this world of the way of righteousness?

What part of your life do you need to change in order to be a better example to those around you?

DAY
2

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 6:11-22; Colossians 3:17; John 14:23-24

The Word

The movie *The Great Escape* tells the true story of captured soldiers in a German camp. They form an escape plan in which they tunneled under the camp to outside the barb wire fences. Sadly, only three survived to tell the tale of the ingenuity these men had to create their way to freedom.

Noah also had an escape plan. But his plan was given in detail by God Himself.

Genesis 6:11-16

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.

Verse 11-16: Noah was told how to build an ark. The details had to be followed in order to ensure his survival. This was not a thrown together project but one that would take patience and excellence.

Is your work done with the utmost care? Each of us, like Noah, is called by God to complete the tasks before us. Noah followed his assignment to the last detail. Of course, we may not hear the voice of God aloud about how to handle our workload. But we do know that He wants us to do our best in it.

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Verse 17: We are to do all of our work as unto the Lord. Noah had a great motivation for doing this for he knew it would save his life as well as his family's lives.

Genesis 6:17

¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

Verse 7: Would you be motivated to build an arc if you knew a flood was coming? I am sure you would want to get started as soon as possible. You would not shortcut your project in anyway for you would not want to risk the possibility of the boat sinking. Not only that, other lives may be on the line!

Genesis 6:18-21

¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to

you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

Verse 18-21: All humanity and all living creatures' survival were dependent upon Noah obeying God, even in the details. All people and animals may not be relying on you but there are probably some people whose lives are affected by your obedience to the Lord. Obey Him in all things, even the small matters. Only God knows who can be saved by you.

John 14:23-24

²³Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Verse 23-24: Follow the example of Noah and show your love to God by obeying Him in all matters.

Up Close and Personal

Confess any tendency to do a mediocre job. Ask the Lord to help you to do everything unto Him.

How do we discover the will of God for our lives?

What helps you follow the will of the Lord?

How can our work be a witness to others?

DAY
3

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 7; 2 Peter 2:5; John 1:11

The Word

Familiarity with Bible stories often leave us cold to the Word. We no longer experience truth for we shut it off before it has a chance to change us. The story of Noah is well known. Even the world is familiar with the term of the “ark”. Today, read the words as if for the first time. Think through how it must have felt for Noah, a righteous man in a corrupt generation.

Genesis 7

¹ The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that

move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴ The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Verse 1-24: All the people of the earth are wiped out. These are people Noah knew. He probably heard people pounding on the ark, desiring to get in. Maybe he heard the screams of those knowing that they would soon perish. Faces and names of people flashed before his eyes. Pictures of the ark usually show Noah smiling with all the animals. This is false. He knew the gravity of the situation. The entire time he had built the ark he also labored in getting people to join him on it.

2 Peter 2:5

⁵if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

Verse 4-5: Noah was a preacher of righteousness. He pointed the way to those who were lost. He spoke truth to the lies of culture. He extended the gift of life for those he knew would soon perish. Sadly, his message was ignored.

This was also how Jesus felt.

John 1:11

¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Verse 11: The Way, the Truth, and the Life experienced rejection. Those who refuse to accept His gift of salvation are condemned. Just as in the days of Noah. Just as in our day today. Our hearts need to break over the lost for they will soon face punishment. We should not take this lightly. Noah knew the way to salvation and over a hundred years he was faithful in sharing this message. Only seven people came aboard with him out of the entire human race. Yet, he was still faithful with the message. Will you be faithful today?

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you be a “preacher of righteousness” to the lost around you.

How can we begin viewing the lost as those who are under the sentence of punishment?

What about Noah's example can inspire you to share the gospel message?

DAY 4

Today's Scripture:
Genesis 8, 9:1-17

The Word

Have you ever had to wait? I mean, really wait. I am not talking about having to wait for dessert until after dinner. I am referring to waiting for the fulfillment of the promise of God. Noah knows all about this type of waiting. The waiting seemed to drag on and on.

Genesis 8:1-12

¹ But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ² Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. ³ The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴ and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

⁶ After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

Verse 1-14: Noah had waited and waited and waited. In his waiting, he still literally tested the waters. Often we go into two extremes when we are waiting upon the Lord. First, we do not truly wait but work to control all of our circumstances. We claim to be waiting but instead of devoting time to prayer and Bible study, we are too busy working for the Lord. The other extreme is to spend so much time "waiting" that we no longer do anything. We are not proactive in seeking the answers of God. Noah had just the right balance between these two extremes. He did not send out a bird daily. Instead, he would send one out but then wait a week before sending a bird out again. He was waiting while taking initiative to seeking the answers of the Lord.

Genesis 8-13-19

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it."

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Verse 13-19: Noah knew that the waters had abated from the earth. However, he did not attempt to leave the ark until he had received permission from the Lord. In our lives a door may be opened but we need to wait for God's command to walk through it. When the Lord does give us permission, our response needs to be like Noah.

Genesis 8:20

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

Verse 20: Noah worshipped. How often has God answered our prayers and we forget to take time to thank Him? Noah immediately set up an altar so that he could praise the God who had delivered him and his family through the waters. God responded to this act of praise.

Genesis 8:21-22, 9:1-17

²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

*²² "As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."*

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

⁴ "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made man.

⁷ As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Verse 21-22, 1-17: Noah's act of worship, led to a covenant made by God. His praise preserved future generations. On response to a sacrifice at the altar, the Lord promised to never destroy the entire earth by flood again. The sign of this promise is the rainbow. After thousands of years, there has never been another world-wide flood. God is faithful to His promises. Noah received this covenant from God because he took time to worship.

Worship is powerful. Noah's worship still affects us today. Tragedies like Katrina remind us of the devastation of floods. Imagine that world-wide. It will never happen

because God responded to the praise of Noah. How will your life of praise affect others?

Up Close and Personal

Praise God who is faithful to His promises.

Of the two extremes of “waiting”, which one do you lean towards?

How can you learn to wait upon the Lord in a balanced way?

How will you increase the amount of time dedicated to worship?



Today's Scripture:

Genesis 9:18-27; 1 Peter 4:8

The Word

Noah's life exemplifies righteousness but it also teaches carelessness. After the spiritual high of receiving the covenant of God, Noah fell into sin.

Genesis 9:18-21

¹⁸ *The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)* ¹⁹ *These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.*

²⁰ *Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.* ²¹ *When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.*

Verse 18-21: The man who had guarded himself against the corruption of the entire world did not guard against himself. Often I am the bad influence in my life. This flesh of mine can lead me to the direction of the sin.

Sadly, someone else walked right into sin himself.

Genesis 9:22

²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside.

Verse 22: The sin of Ham was mockery. He did not go to tell his brothers so that they could help him think of a way to help Noah. Instead, he went outside to gossip. Instead of covering the sin of his father; he exposed it. As people of God, this is the opposite of what we are called to do.

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Verse 8: We are to cover the wrongs of others. We do not expose them for the purpose of belittling or mocking someone else. We must find a way to cover their action. This is how we show them our love. Noah's two other sons showcased this type of love for their father.

Genesis 9:23

²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.

Verse 23: The actions of Shem and Japheth led to promoting the relationship with their father. But Ham's actions evoked the anger of his father, leading to a broken relationship.

Genesis 9:24-27

²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him,

²⁵ he said,

*"Cursed be Canaan!
The lowest of slaves
will he be to his brothers."*

²⁶ He also said,

*"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem!
May Canaan be the slave of Shem."*

*²⁷ May God extend the territory of Japheth;
may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,
and may Canaan be his slave."*

Verse 24-27: In your relationships be like Shem and Japheth. Show forgiveness through love. Don't expose others but cover them. Then your friendships will be blessed.

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to fill you with His love and allow it to overflow to others.

How can we guard ourselves against the flesh?

In what ways do we expose the sins of others?

When others have fallen into sin, how can we cover them with love?

Who is someone you know that needs your "covering"?