



BY FAITH

MAY 24 - AUG 2

(2) "Noah"

HIGHLIGHT: *Hebrews 11:1-2; Hebrews 11:7; Selected verses from Genesis 6—8*

H

Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.

Hebrews 11:1-2 NLT

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. **2** Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.

Hebrews 11:7 NLT

7 It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

Genesis 6:9-13 NLT

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. **10** Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. **12** God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. **13** So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!"

Genesis 7:11-24 NLT

11 When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. **12** The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

13 That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. **14** With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large

and small—along with birds of every kind. 15 Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. 16 A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord closed the door behind them.

17 For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. 18 As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. 19 Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, 20 rising more than twenty-two feet above the highest peaks. 21 All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. 22 Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. 23 God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. 24 And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

Genesis 8:1 NLT

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede.

EXPLAIN

E

The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.

See week one ("Abel") for notes on Hebrews 11:1-2

Hebrews 11:1-2 One of the classic lines for defending our disobedience to God is, "That has never happened before" (the implication being, *so it can't happen now*). To his credit, **[Noah] obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before.**

Hebrews 11:7 Noah's walk with God was "true"—he **built a large boat** (because God "commanded him to" [Genesis 6:14-22]). And this brought **condemnation from the rest of the world**. *Noah, what are you going to pull that thing with? It was so large that CITYSTATION would probably fit inside it if you cut off the auditorium. Where are you taking it, Noah? You say that the world will be destroyed by water. It's never happened before. You're going to put what in that boat? You're a mad man!* Being a preacher of righteousness can bring pain (see 2 Peter 2:5; John 3:19-21). Doing the Lord's bidding is not easy. Loving people as Jesus asks can be costly. It looks beyond the color of their skin; it takes not account of their social status; it jumps in the ditch and "soothes the wounds" of those "who have been left for dead" (see Luke 10:33-35). Your righteousness will be a condemnation to the rest of the world.

Genesis 6:9-13 **Earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence (v.11).** "It broke God's heart" (6:6) that His creation had chosen to ignore His love and care for them. The only thing to do was start over. **"I will wipe them all out along with the earth" (v.13).** Noah was **righteous and blameless** (not perfect, but had a wholehearted love for God and obedience); it was a **close fellowship with God (v.9)**. Your daily routine shines a light on what is really important to you. What does your routine say about your walk with God?

Genesis 7:11-24 But Noah persevered for 120 years (6:3 probably means that God was giving men and women 120 years of grace to repent and walk with Him as Noah). God always longs for people to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). He sent Jonah to Nineveh to let them know that His judgment was on them, and the Nineties responded with repentance). Noah staked everything on the trustworthiness of God's character ("He did everything as the Lord commanded him" [v.5]). And Noah and his family experienced the grace of God, too. **The underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents for forty days and forty nights...lifting the boat high above the earth.** Did Noah see people scrambling to get to the ark? When **the Lord closed the door of the ark** there was no opening it. Did Noah wonder if the boat would make it? He and the world had never seen anything like this? It was "Noah's faith" (Heb. 11:7) that steadied him through all the mob's ridicule and the 120 years of aching muscles. And it was his faith that sustained him in waters like no one else has ever seen. Faith makes a decision ahead of time that it will "not be conformed to this world, but will be a living sacrifice to the glory of God" (see Romans 12:1-2).

Genesis 8 But God remembered Noah and all that was with him (v.1). That's the grace of God. It doesn't mean that God had forgotten Noah. The Hebrew word means to "pierce, mark". God "made note of" of Noah and the promises He had made to Noah. Just as He "remembered the covenant He had made with the Israelites" (Exodus 2:24). The only thing God forgets is "sin that has been repented" (Micah 7:18-20; Psalm 51:7-10; Jeremiah 31:34).

Noah was "600 years old when the floods covered the earth" (7:6). I don't know how that translates to 21st century life spans. But it does tell that we are never too old to be used by the Lord. We are reminded in Revelation 2 and 3 that "anyone who has ears to hear *must* listen to the Spirit." The question is, *do you have ears that want to hear the Lord's voice, and if you do are you listening?*" Can it be said of us that we "did everything as the Lord commanded" (Genesis 7:5)?

APPLY

Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. How does God's response to wickedness reveal God's character? (See Genesis 6:11-13)
3. How does the account of Noah demonstrate faith?
4. Read Matthew 24:36-44. In what way does the flood point to another reality that is yet to come?

RESPOND

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. Sometimes, obedience to God seems big or crazy (like building an ark without seeing the rain—Hebrews 11:7). More often, obedience to God entails: turning from sin and confessing it (Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9, etc); loving and serving others (Matthew 25:31-40, etc.); doing justice (Micah 6:8). If we constantly seek “big” ways to serve God, we will miss daily opportunities to love and obey Him. Have you ever ignored clear commands from God because you are looking for something “bigger”? What helped you change your mindset?
2. Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 7:5 make it clear Noah listen and obeyed God because of his faith in Him. Where has your faith led you to obedience to God?

Is there an area of your life you aren't being obedient to the Lord? If so, confess this and ask for his strength to walk in obedience to Him. If you aren't sure, like David did in Psalm 139:23-24, ask God to search your heart and “point out anything that offends [Him].” Then ask Him guide you to obedience.