

Noah: A Righteous Man in a Wicked Generation

Passages: Gen 6–9

Memory Verse

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Noah was righteous because He was obedient to God’s instructions.Understand the importance of preparing ourselves for Jesus’ second coming.	God is faithful.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Be watchful and prepared for Jesus’ second coming.Show our faith by having a heart of obedience.

Overview

Spiritual Teachings

- A. Introduction: Noah’s Generation
- B. Preparations Before the Flood
- C. The Flood
- D. God’s Covenant with Noah
- E. The Flood and Jesus’ Second Coming

Life Application

- 1. Preparing Ourselves for Jesus’ Second Coming
- 2. Having a Heart of Obedience

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Let us make sure that we are as aware and prepared as Noah was, so that we can be ready to receive the salvation that God has planned for us.

Spiritual Teachings

A. Introduction: Noah's Generation

The story of Noah and the flood is well known all over the world. Though his story may be one that we are familiar with, we can take a deeper look at Noah's obedience and faithfulness to God's commands.

Genesis chapters 4 and 5 record two genealogies. First, we have the descendants of Cain whom God cursed, though the Bible still describes them as having many different talents and being quite prosperous. Second, we have the descendants of Seth. Not much is mentioned about their talents or accomplishments; instead, the Bible simply records how many years they lived and the names of their sons and daughters. This is the line that Noah had descended from.

These two genealogies could also represent the "daughters of men" (Cain's descendants) and the "sons of God" (Seth's descendants) as recorded in Genesis 6:1–2. Descendants from each line began to intermarry with each other, and the people became corrupt and wicked. Though the Bible does not tell us exactly what evil deeds the people committed, we do know that when God saw their wickedness, He was grieved that He had made mankind. He had made man in His image, but mankind had become corrupt.

In contrast to the others of his generation, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was different because he was righteous, blameless, and walked with God. Noah's righteousness is mentioned not only in Genesis, but also in the Book of Ezekiel and 2 Peter (Ezek 14:14, 20; 2 Pet 2:5). So, what does it mean to be righteous? It simply means to follow God's commandments (Lk 1:6). Because he was unlike the wicked generation around him and instead followed God's will, the Lord chose to save Noah and his family from the coming flood.

B. Preparations Before the Flood

Let's read Genesis 6:13–22.

God gave Noah very specific instructions regarding the measurements of the ark, the animals that had to be brought on the ark, and the food preparations. Throughout the process, the Bible never mentions Noah saying a word or questioning God's directions. This demonstrates his complete belief in God, while his subsequent preparations show his faith. It is clear why the Lord chose to save him.

Though the flood was a major disaster that was going to destroy all of mankind, the Bible does not record Noah as having any fear or doubts. Rather, after hearing all of these instructions, Noah did "according to all that God commanded him" (Gen 6:22). At first glance, this may seem very simple, but let's take a moment to put ourselves in Noah's shoes.

Apart from physically building the huge ark, you would also have to gather and prepare all different types of food for the animals. This was an arduous and time-consuming task. Have you ever thought about the process Noah and his family had to go through in order to build the ark, prepare it for all of the animals, and supply it with food? Let's take a few moments and try to think about the steps he'd have to take, starting from square one. *(Allow students to brainstorm. Guide them into thinking of the details, such as: planning; buying and/or cutting the wood; measuring and shaping the planks; finding supplies for and mixing all of the pitch; planting or foraging for "all food that is eaten," while still feeding themselves daily; etc.)*

Though we do not know how much time Noah was given to prepare, these preparations could not have happened overnight. They would have taken months, or even years, to prepare. Noah also did not know when the flood was going to come. A less faithful family may have given up on the difficult task halfway in or seen the cloudless sky and stopped bothering. But Noah believed that it would happen according to God's words, so he obediently prepared according to His instructions. In stark contrast, the rest of the people of his time were still eating, drinking, and marrying one another without belief in the flood that was coming (1 Pet 3:19–20; Mt 24:38–39).

Let's continue reading Genesis 7:1–6. When Noah was 600 years old, God appeared to Noah again. And once again, the Bible records that Noah was righteous before God and did according to all that God commanded him (vv. 1, 5). Once Noah, his family, and all the animals entered the ark, God shut them in, protecting them from the waters (Gen 7:16).

C. The Flood

The Bible records: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights" (Gen 7:11–12). Such a massive amount of water flooded the earth so that even the mountains were covered by water, and God "destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive" (Gen 7:23).

This amount of destruction can be difficult to imagine, but our closest comparison is probably a tsunami, which is able to completely destroy cities and landscapes. The flood even destroyed all the birds of the air, which means that the amount of rain that came down from the sky was enough to wipe away all the birds flying in the air.

Let's now read Genesis 8:1–12.

It was not until his 601st year that Noah removed the covering of the ark to see that the ground was dry. This means that Noah and his family were in the ark for over one year (Gen 7:11; 8:14). This is a long time to be stuck inside, especially with all the animals! Interestingly, even though Noah saw that the ground was dry, he did not leave the ark until God told him that he could leave. From this, we can again see Noah's complete obedience to God's instructions and his willingness to wait for God's timing.

D. God's Covenant with Noah

Let us read Genesis 8:14–22. In the second month after Noah saw that the ground was dry, God told him that he could leave the ark. The first thing that Noah did after exiting was build an altar. He took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered it to the Lord. Noah understood that it was God's protection that had allowed him and his family to be saved. Without God, they would have been destroyed with the rest of the world. It was really the mercy of God that protected them throughout the whole year in the ark.

When God received this offering, He was very pleased and said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake [...]; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done (Gen 8:21). God also blessed Noah and established a covenant with him (Gen 9:9). "Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth" (Gen 9:11). As a sign of this covenant between God and Noah, He set "[His] rainbow in the cloud" (Gen 9:13).

If the flood is a symbol of God's justice, then the rainbow is a symbol of God's mercy and His faithfulness to His covenant. This dual nature of God can be seen throughout history in the Bible. God punishes iniquity and evil, but at the same time, He has mercy and compassion for His faithful people. Today, we also experience the justice and mercy of God. We experience His justice when He punishes us for the sins we commit. We experience His mercy and compassion when we repent to Him and experience His forgiveness. So, whenever we see a rainbow, we can remind ourselves not only of the covenant between God and Noah, but also of the severe justice and compassionate mercy that are both in God's nature.

E. The Flood and Jesus' Second Coming

Let's read Matthew 24:37–39.

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

The people in Noah's time were "eating, drinking, [and] marrying," meaning that they were living their day-to-day lives with the assumption that there would be a tomorrow. They lived each day ignorant of the fact that these were their last days. As a result, they were caught by the flood and destroyed.

Today, we do not know when the Lord will come again, but Jesus Christ has promised that He will, just as the flood eventually did arrive in Noah's time. The parallel between these two events is a warning. It reminds us of how important it is to separate ourselves from the world by following God's instructions and preparing ourselves for His coming, just as Noah did. Though God allows us to eat, drink, and marry, that is not the purpose or end goal of our lives. Rather, we need to make sure that we constantly grow in the knowledge of the Lord so that we are prepared to meet Him when He comes again.

Check for Understanding

1. **How was Noah righteous before God?** He followed the commandments of God.
2. **How was Noah faithful to what God commanded?** He did not question God's instructions but completed all the tasks that God had instructed him to do.
3. **What was the first thing Noah did after exiting the ark?** He built an altar to the Lord.
4. **What covenant did God make with Noah? What is the symbol of this covenant?** God promised never to destroy the earth by a flood, and the symbol of this covenant is a rainbow.
5. **How is second coming of Jesus Christ similar to the flood?** The second coming of Jesus Christ is similar to the flood because we do not know when it will come. Jesus Christ has given us instructions on how to prepare for His coming, just as God gave instructions to Noah.

Life Application

1. Preparing Ourselves for Jesus' Second Coming

We mentioned earlier how preparing for the second coming of Jesus Christ parallels Noah's preparations for the coming flood. This means that we must have the same mentality as Noah did. We need to prepare ourselves just as Noah did and ask ourselves if we are ready to face judgment when Jesus Christ comes again.

a. Am I watchful and prepared for when He comes?

We do not know when He will be coming, but we need to make sure that we are watchful and prepared for when Jesus Christ comes. In the parable of the ten virgins, five of the ten virgins wisely prepared extra oil for the night. We need to have this mentality of preparing this extra portion and not be satisfied with what we have right now. The best way to be watchful and to prepare ourselves for His coming is to seek to grow in our faith always. We should not “coast,” but constantly strive to improve our spiritual lives.

b. Am I a faithful and diligent servant of God?

The parable of the ten virgins not only teaches us to prepare enough oil, but also to shine our light for the world to see. Ask ourselves: Can others tell that we are Christians through our behavior? Do we speak edifying words? Do we keep the Sabbath holy? Do we serve God according to the best of our abilities? God has given us many blessings, and it is important that we are not lazy, but use what God has given us to us. Whatever our age or situation, there are many things that we can do for God, such as preaching the gospel to our friends, helping our parents at home, or picking up trash at church. We should not just sit and do nothing while we wait for Jesus. God wants us to work diligently and do all that we can for Him until He comes!

c. Do I show compassion and love to those around me?

Paul wrote, “And [...] though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing” (1 Cor 13:2–3). Simply doing holy work is not enough. We must put our faith into action by showing love and compassion. Our actions do not have to be big or heroic, but can be simple acts of kindness, such as offering someone a cup of water. When we practice acts of love and compassion towards those around us, we are preparing for when Jesus comes again to judge the nations (Mt 25:34–37). As Jesus taught, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me” (Mt 25:40).

We can reflect upon these three questions each day as a way to evaluate ourselves to see if we are truly prepared to meet Jesus Christ when He comes again. We do not know the time or the hour of His coming, so we must be watchful and prepare ourselves by consistently living a life that is pleasing to God, serving Him diligently, and showing compassion to those around us.

2. Having a Heart of Obedience

One admirable quality about Noah is his heart of obedience. He was unwavering in following God’s instructions despite the long period of time and the amount of effort involved. From his example, we can see that faith and obedience are interconnected. Noah needed to have great faith in God in order to take on and persist in the arduous task of building the ark. Also, Noah was willing to follow all that God told him to do, even though it may have been odd in the eyes of the people around him. Following God’s instructions and commandments completely and without question is not an easy task, but in the Bible, there are many other characters who also had the faith to obey.

a. Isaac – Obedience to parents (Gen 22)

Isaac was obedient to his father Abraham even when he was being offered on the altar, showing how much Isaac trusted Abraham, and how close their relationship was. Isaac is an example to us in how we must be obedient to our parents. Though it can be difficult to obey when we don’t agree, or when what they say doesn’t make sense, it is our duty as their children to obey and

respect them. Of course, this obedience only applies to things that are right in the eyes of God. If our parents tell us to do things that are against the God's commands, then we need to make sure we do the right thing in the eyes of God. The Bible also promises us a long life if we are willing to obey our parents. If we believe and have faith in this promise of God, then we have even more of a reason to obey our parents.

Discussion

- In what situation is it difficult for you to obey your parents?
- What have been the consequences of disobeying? Please give an example.
- What are the benefits of obeying your parents? Please give an example.

b. Naaman – Obedience to God's workers (2 Kgs 5)

When Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, was instructed by Elisha to wash in the Jordan seven times to heal his leprosy, he was furious. He expected Elisha to come out and heal him on the spot! But when his servants eventually convinced him to follow Elisha's instructions, he was healed. If he had allowed his anger to control him and walked away, he would not have received the blessing of God's healing. Today, when we feel like we know better than our instructors, it can be difficult to obey. However, it is important for us to respect and obey God's workers because that is when we are able to see God's blessings in our life. Also, when we obey the workers of God, we obey God Himself (Eph 6:5–8).

Discussion

- Who are the workers of God that you have to obey today? (*Example answers: R.E. teachers, pastors, ministers, R.E. coordinators, church council members*)
- In which situations would you have to obey them? (*Example answers: Following the rules that the church sets, such as wearing proper attire, walking in the hallways, etc.*)
- What keeps you from obeying them?

c. Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego – Obedience to God's commandments (Daniel 3)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were placed in a difficult position when they had to choose between obeying the king or obeying God. Choosing to obey God and refusing to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image meant that they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. However, worshipping the golden image and keeping their lives meant directly disobeying God's commandment. In the end, they chose to fear God and keep His commandment not to worship idols. Though they were still punished and thrown into the fiery furnace, God was there to protect them and save them. Today, we may also encounter a similar struggle. We have to decide whether we want to follow God's commandments or what the world is telling us. In those times, we need to remember that we have nothing to fear if we are on God's side.

Discussion

- Are the Ten Commandments like ten suggestions to you?
- For yourself, which commandment is the most difficult to keep? Why?
- What blessing(s) did you experience when you followed the commandments of God?

It is important to work towards a heart of obedience through growing our faith and trust in God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, and it is also because of our faith in God that we can obey His commandments. Our obedience is important to God because it is more pleasing to Him than any

physical offering we can make. So, let us continue to practice obedience in our daily life by obeying our parents, God's workers, and of course, God Himself!

Memory Verse

"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." (Hebrews 11:7)

Meaning

1. Noah feared God, meaning he had a deep reverence and respect for God. He took the warning that God gave him seriously even though he could see no immediate danger. This illustrates the faith that Noah had in God.
2. Though his actions were to save himself and his family, his actions also condemned the world, or the people of his time. This is because the people could see him construct the ark and prepare for the coming of the flood, but no one apart from his family believed that the flood was coming.
3. The verse begins and ends with "faith," which illustrates how important Noah's faith was in saving himself and his family. It was also by his faith that he was called righteous before God. His faith and trust in God distinguished him from the rest of the people of his generation.

Conclusion

Noah was righteous because he was faithful and obedient to the commandments of God. His faithfulness and obedience allowed him to be used by God. He also sets an example for how we can prepare ourselves for Jesus' second coming today. Let us make sure that we are as aware and prepared as Noah was, so that we can be ready to receive the salvation that God has planned for us.

Lesson 5 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. The memory verse mentions Noah's faith twice. What does this teach us?
It teaches us how important his faith was in saving himself and his family. It was also by his faith that he was called righteous before God, and his faith distinguished him from the rest of his generation.
2. "For as in the days _____ the _____, they [...] did not know until the flood came and took them all _____, so also will the _____ of the _____ of _____ be." (Matthew 24:38–39)
before, flood, away, coming, Son, Man
3. Why does the Bible call Noah "righteous"? What does it mean to be righteous?
Unlike the wicked generation around him, Noah instead followed God's commandments.
4. What was remarkable about Noah's diligence in building the ark and preparing for the flood?
The work was arduous and time-consuming; while a less faithful family may have stopped or given up, Noah believed the flood would happen and persisted in following God's instructions.
5. What can we learn from the parallel between Noah's time and Jesus' second coming?
That just as the flood came, Jesus will come again. The parallel between these events is a warning, reminding us how important it is for us to separate ourselves from the world and prepare ourselves as Noah did.
6. What two lessons does the parable of the ten virgins teach us about Jesus' second coming?
We need to be watchful and prepare ourselves for His coming by seeking to grow in our faith. Also, we must not sit idly by and do nothing, but shine our light for the world to see.
7. Of God's commands, which do you struggle to obey the most? Why do you think this is?
Personal answers.