

The Gospel Project



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 5: October 8–14, 2016

Day 1

October 10



Pray | Thank God for not being fair.

THAT'S NOT FAIR—or a similar phrase—is something that is frequently heard on playgrounds and in homes throughout America. We seem, at times, to be obsessed with having the same portion as those around us, despite what we truly deserve. The story of Noah brings fairness to mind, but in a different way. Noah and his family lived in a time when the world was evil through and through. Things were so bad that God decided to kill everything on earth. The only exception was Noah, who had found favor in God's eyes. He walked with God and was described as righteous and blameless. Because Noah was faithful to God while living in a dark world, God showed mercy and spared him and his family.

In the same way, we have not been treated fairly by God. We deserve death because we have all sinned and fail to live by God's standards. Instead of punishment, God offers mercy to all of us through the gift of Jesus and his death on the cross. This isn't what we deserve but is what God has offered because he loves us.



Read | Genesis 6:5–7



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Our current world seems pretty bad, but it may pale in comparison to the wickedness of Noah's time when every intention of the people was evil always. What do you do to spread the light of God's Word in your neighborhood, job, school, or family? Reflect on what you have done and how you can intentionally spread the light in the future.

Today's passage contains glimpses of God's love and grace for us. God regretted making man and was grieved by the situation because he loved them. Is there a time in your life when God may have been grieved by your actions? Reflect on what brought you to that point and how your loving God responded.

Verse 7 paints a picture of a just, or "fair," God. His people sinned, and he decided to destroy them. Tomorrow we will read how Noah and his family are spared. We are all given the opportunity to accept the gift of salvation through Jesus' death, even better than the earthly lives saved by Noah's choice to walk with God. Spend some time listing the ways God has shown you grace when you deserved judgment. If you don't have a relationship with God and want to pursue one, reach out to a small group member, leader, or pastor today.

Day 2

October 11



Pray / Thank God for his plan.

IN THE MIDST of a corrupt and violent world is Noah, who found favor in the eyes of the Lord. God and Noah were so close that God spoke to Noah and told him of his plan to end all the flesh on earth. In the next breath God tells Noah to make an ark. His directions are very specific, from what type of wood to use to the dimensions of the ark and how to finish it.

Though God is determined to end the corruption and violence brought about by most of his creation, it seems that he may have other plans for Noah and his family. In the same way, God knew the heart of the people he created and planned to send his son to die for us from the time of the fall. We serve a God of great love who gives us the freedom to make choices and then helps us when we make mistakes.



Read / Genesis 6:8–16



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Genesis 6:8–9 contain some pretty powerful descriptions of Noah: he found favor in the eyes of the Lord, and he was righteous and blameless and walked with God. Notice that two of the descriptors include God. If you were an impartial judge observing your life, how would you describe yourself? Would your description include God?

God's instructions to build the ark are very detailed, including material descriptions and detailed measurements. People may think that God was being controlling, or alternatively, that he was so concerned with Noah's safety in the storm to come that he wanted to make sure no harm would come to Noah and his family. When you give help or instruction to someone, is it typically with an eye toward control or caring for the other person?

Genesis 6:13–14 give us some good clues to the strength and health of the relationship between God and Noah and the level of trust between them. In verse 13 God said he would destroy all flesh with the earth, and in verse 14 he tells Noah to build an ark. Rate your trust in God on a scale of one to seven. Are you a one, like the people God destroyed for going their own way, a seven, like Noah, or somewhere in between?

Day 3

October 12



Pray / Thank God for his provision.

GOD PLANNED TO destroy the evil in the earth in a dramatic way, but he put a lot of thought into how to save and provide for Noah and his family, both during and after the flood. Yesterday we saw how God instructed Noah to build the ark in a way that would protect and sustain him, his family, and all of the animals. Today we'll see more of that plan and that God took things a step further and established a covenant with Noah.

God is not like an earthly judge concerned with their docket and how the person before them will impact society for the next few months or years. He has a vested interest in the health and well-being of Noah, his family, and every living thing on earth. Like a mom who checks her child's lunch before school or a suitcase before a trip, God made sure that Noah had what he needed to survive the adventure to come.



Read / Genesis 6:17–22



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

In Genesis 6:18 God speaks of establishing a covenant with Noah and his family. Even better, God created a covenant for us through the death of Jesus on the cross if we accept the gift of salvation. Are you living like a redeemed child of God or like someone trapped in the evil of this world?

Just as God gave Noah and his family the responsibility to feed and care for the animals on the ark, he has given us the responsibility to care for the earth and steward its resources. Are you being a good steward of the resources God has entrusted you with?

Genesis 6:22 is the “money shot” of this passage. It says that Noah did everything God commanded him to do. Notice that it doesn’t say Noah improved on God’s plan and made the ark a few cubits longer than God told him to or that he debated with God about adding another deck to the ark or about the type of wood that would work best before he started construction. Noah trusted that God knew what was best, and he did it. Think about your relationship and trust level with God. Would you have done all that God commanded like Noah did?

Day 4
October 13



Pray / Thank God for second chances.

AT THE END of Genesis 6, we learned that Noah followed all of God's commands related to building the ark and providing for his family and the animals he was entrusted with. Genesis 7 and 8 describe in detail what happened during and right after the flood. Genesis 9 picks up after Noah and his family leave the ark.

Today's passage includes a blessing and God's detailed instructions to Noah and his sons. This continues our theme of life not being fair with God. He gives Noah and his family the freedom to eat and control anything that moves, and green plants. God destroyed the evil flesh on the earth and gave his trusted friend Noah and his family a fresh start to fill the earth with good rather than evil.



Read / Genesis 9:1-5



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

God has given us dominion over all his creation, both plants and animals. With that power comes the responsibility to steward and protect the resources we have been given. We talk a lot about stewarding our money, time, and talents, but not as much about protecting the rest of God's creation. Is your stewardship in this area where God would want it to be?

Genesis 9 begins with God blessing Noah and his sons. Though Genesis 6 describes Noah as righteous and blameless, he was still part of the human race that was found corrupt and deserving of destruction. Do you bless people that you come into contact with as God blessed Noah and his sons? Or, do you wish destruction on them?

Genesis 9:5 says that God will require a reckoning for the life of man from both people and animals. It doesn't list a certain class or type of people; we are all equally important to and loved by God. What can you do today to show God's love to those less fortunate than you?

Day 5

October 14



Pray / Thank God for forgiveness through his son, Jesus.

IT WAS MORE than fair for God to save Noah and his family and make a provision for them via the animals and plants of the earth. But, he didn't stop there. He took things one step further and made a promise to never again use a flood to destroy the earth and its inhabitants.

There is a lot of talk to blood in today's passage. This may seem strange if you aren't familiar with the story of God. If you have had some exposure to the Bible, you may know the importance that blood plays in a covenant relationship and can see the similarities between this passage and Jesus' death on the cross.

God will require a reckoning for each of us. On our own, we will be found lacking. Through the sacrifice of his son Jesus to wipe away our sins, we can be pure and blameless before him if we accept the gift of salvation.



Read / Genesis 9:6–11



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Genesis 9:6 states we were made in the image of God. He made us to be like him, the holy God of the universe. Consider your opinion of yourself and your self-talk. Does it reflect God's image or something else?

As Noah and his family stepped off the ark and saw a world that was basically empty, they probably felt fear, anxiety, and loneliness and were overwhelmed. This made God's words to them very important. He commanded them to fill the earth giving them purpose, and promised not to destroy the earth by flood again, giving them hope. When have you felt overwhelmed and found hope and purpose in God's promises?

Typically, a covenant is an agreement between two parties, and both parties bring something to the table. In Genesis 9:11 God tells Noah and his sons that he is establishing a covenant with them and doesn't ask anything in return. God's gift of salvation to us is similar. All we have to do is receive it. How do you respond to the generosity of the God you serve?

Portions of this study were adapted from The Gospel Project Chronological: The Story Begins, Vol. 1, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.

Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved.