

Noah – Lesson 2: Raising A Family

Joshua 24:15 Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 1 (Introduction)

1. According to Genesis 5:3, how old was Adam when Seth was born?

Answer: 130 years old.

2. According to Genesis 5:28-29, who is Noah's father?

Answer: Lamech.

3. According to Genesis 5:28-29, how old was Noah's father when he was born?

Answer: 187 years old.

4. According to Genesis 5:29, what was the hope of Noah's father upon his birth?

Answer: Comfort concerning our work and toil – Because the LORD hath cursed.

5. Complete the following scripture:

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

True / False

False Noah is a descendant of Cain (GEN 5:1-29 – Adam's third son Seth)

True Cain was marked by God (GEN 4:14 – Marked by God)

True Curse of humanity includes misalignment with nature (GEN 3:17 – Cursed is the ground for thy sake)

False God will protect you from your own mistakes (PSM 81:12 – Gave them up to their own hearts' lust)

Extra Credit - In your opinion, are children the hope of something better? Why or why not?

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'I hope you have kids just like you' – Every mom (specifically my mom – when I was about 12ish)

This is every parent's curse when faced with the reality that your kid is a brat (virtually true of every child from about 10 to 25 years old). It is mostly out of frustration for two reasons: 1 – They were just as bad as we were (apple does not fall far from the tree), and 2 – They are stuck with you (it is a fitting punishment).

From my experience, no family starts out that way, as the first born is all joy and optimism. The parent's attitude for the second really depends on the first (a double blessing, or what are the chances of having two like this?). Also, different levels of maturity sometimes clash and it becomes a test of wills (this is why grandparents can be such a blessing, as they are a generational barrier): Young parents simply want their way (the old 'do as I say, not as I do' routine) as do the children. It is only with wisdom and maturity where parents learn to outsmart their children:

Proverbs 1:2-4 – A king's guidance

(2) To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

(3) To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

(4) To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

King Solomon, the wisest of God's chosen (**1 KINGS 4:29-34** – Wiser than all men) provided an introduction to his guidance contained in the book of Proverbs, aimed at offering the reader a path of maturity through wisdom in application.

Noah does not simply burst into life and assume the role of the instrument of God, but endures a long road, and we will begin with Noah's transition to parenthood.

A large gap in time:

Genesis 5:32 – A time of turmoil but the beginning of blessings

(32) And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Being born in the 933rd year of creation (just three years after Adam passed away), Noah lived among thousands of very close relatives, to include many children.

At some point, Noah took a wife, leaving his family (**GEN 2:24** – Leave father/mother and cleave unto thy wife) and embarking on the path of his own life. The Christian Bible does not specifically identify Noah's wife, but historical texts offer other clues:

The Jewish book of Tobit (CH 4, VS 12) notes Noah's wife as one of his own kindred

- This is no surprise as Noah is only the 10th generation of humanity. This most likely means she was a daughter of a close family member, with no reference to the age alignment.

The Jewish book of Jubilees (CH 4 VS 33) names Noah's wife as Emzara

- This reference notes Emzara to be the daughter of Noah's uncle (Rake'el, brother of Lamech, Noah's father) and her name means "Mother of a Princess".

It is possibly hundreds of years later that Noah and his wife start their own family (1.433 years after creation) to bring the next generation into the world, and it is with good reason as we reviewed in the last lesson:

Genesis 6:5-6 – No environment to raise children

(5) And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

(6) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

With nothing to tame the heart of humanity - A mixed population of a cursed people (**GEN 4:23-24** – The descendants of Cain), unnatural beings (**GEN 6:4 / JUDE 1:6** – Angels who have left their first estate of heaven to dwell with humanity), and the children of a new hope (**GEN 5:3** – The descendants Adam's third son Seth), they are also under the deceptive influence / attack of Satan (**GEN 3:15** – At enmity) to contaminate the creation of God.

In all this wickedness it is no surprise Noah and his wife had no children for so long – It instantly reminds me of the people of today who refuse to bring children into this world as it is a continual example of all that is wrong:

- Romans 1:28-32 – Willful disobedience has a cost

(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

(29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

(30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

(31) Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

(32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Nothing has changed with humanity – We are the same creature now as when we were when expelled from Eden (**GEN 3:23** – Sent forth) with the same heart that is misaligned with God (**ROM 8:7** – The carnal mind is enmity against God) – Full of hate, excess, disregard of responsibility as good stewards of this world, selfishness, greed, pride, etc. – God will allow you to choose (you sleep in the bed you make).

It all starts by setting an example

Genesis 6:8-9 – YOU chose who you are

(8) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

(9) These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

Every building starts with a foundation, and that foundation will define the stability of your character (structure):

Luke 6:47-49 – A good foundation

(47) *Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:*

(48) *He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.*

(49) *But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

The Lord clarifies the differences between a good foundation (**JOHN 14:6 I am the way**) and a bad foundation (**2 PET 2:1** – Denying the Lord/swift destruction)

Noah begins preparations before bringing children into the world – He starts with his relationship with God:

- Separating himself from the 'problems' of the world

Leviticus 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

The expectation is to choose between God and the world (ourselves), separating ourselves from error, and Noah excludes himself from the sources of confusion to limit temptation and preserve his focus on God.

- Seeking to align with God (putting God first)

Deuteronomy 6:5 (MATT 22:39) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Allowing nothing between oneself and God. Noah places God firmly at the pinnacle with nothing above.

The result – Perfect in his generations and walking with God

Up to this point, God had previously visited humanity for many purposes, but is only described as 'walking' with Adam (**GEN 3:8-9**) and Enoch (**GEN 5:24**), and now with Noah – This reveals Noah's unique character and places him in a prestigious position as he is one of the few people God had chosen to establish a personal relationship with. Note: Each believer can 'walk' with the Lord (**MATT 28:20 – I am with you always**)

Why this is important - Having children requires no special skill, level of intelligence or holiness, as we have seen the nine generations before Noah produce a population of wickedness and confusion.

Being a good parent means setting a good example by first establishing your own testimony

- **1 Peter 1:15-16 – The Lord has set the standard**

(15) But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

(16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

God had established the standard, and had offered His Son Jesus to provide an example (**JOHN 13:15 – For I have given you an example**) where we have a path to become examples ourselves in guiding the generations to come (both worldly and spiritual children).

Next Lesson: Noah – God's Plan

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Study Questions

1. According to Genesis 5:32, how old was Noah when he had his children?

2. According to Genesis 5:32, what are Noah's son's names?

3. According to Genesis 6:9, what set Noah apart from the rest of humanity?

4. According to Genesis 6:9, what indicates Noah had a special relationship with God?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Joshua 24:15 _____ you this day whom ye will _____.

True / False

Reference

T F Noah had three sons

T F Noah sets a good example

T F The believer should separate themselves from sin

T F The believer should seek to be an example

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, are you an example of God's love, and why or why not?
