

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

EPISODE 2: THE FLOOD

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- This is a shadow story: a story from the Old Testament that is loaded with gospel themes and meaning
- Man's rebellion in the garden has led to a corrupt world filled with evil
- Man's sin ultimately leads to judgment and death
- God has provided a way to bring us safely through the coming judgment
- God will cleanse this world and give it to the people he has saved

EXPLORING THE STORY

◀ Look Back

Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:

1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ **Last time...** God created a perfect world. In the beginning, all things were in harmony with him. He created people in his image and entrusted the world to their care. But they rebelled against God's rule and chose to determine good and evil for themselves rather than trusting and obeying God. Because of this, they were cast out of paradise and lost God's blessing and fellowship. Pain, suffering, and death entered the human experience.

▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

4. Setting the Stage

“ This week we'll see how man's disobedience in the garden led to a corrupt world full of wicked people. God will bring judgment on the earth for man's sin but will also provide a safe way through the judgment for a few survivors.

As we read the story, be thinking about these things:

- How does God deal with a corrupt world full of evil people?
- What does this story teach us about God's commitment to his creation?
- What does this story teach us about humanity? About God?

5. Read **Genesis 6.5-8** and **7.1-23** and then discuss:

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- What do you like about the story? What questions do you have?
 - When you consider humanity and our world today, how are they similar to what we see in this story? How are they different?
 - What does this story teach us about God and his ways?
 - Where in the story are people called to trust God instead of their own wisdom? (see Hebrews 11.6-7)
 - What are the gospel shadows you see in this story that will ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus? How does this help you understand what God is doing in the world today?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

6. Implications and Applications

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- Genesis 7.22-23 says that only those who were in the ark survived God's judgment and made it through to the other side. Anyone not in the ark perished. This is a gospel shadow. What is the parallel today?
 - How can you follow the example of Noah and his family?
 - What do you need to do to respond to this week's story?

7. Closing Prayer