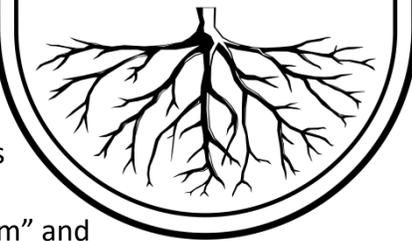




CONTEXT AND CLARIFICATION

Genesis 6:1-8

LIFE GROUPS



Q2: Human Depravity and Degeneration - God places a limit on the extent of human wickedness. "And so the whole pre-flood culture began a headlong plunge into depravity so deep that it deserved to die (K. Hughes). In these verses we see the degeneration of primeval culture but more Important than the details of this episode is that man was beyond self-help. Demonic Powers were in the driver's seat. We also see reference to the terms "sons of God" and the "Nephilim" and there are different views on who these men are. The (3) most popular opinions are that they are angels, human judges or rulers, or descendants of Seth. There are arguments that could be made against each view but ultimately the main point that we need to take away is that whatever they were, they were evil, and God determined that they will be judged with the flood. While our culture is not in the same place as that of Noah's, there are signs that resemble it. Challenge your group to compare and pray for those areas that are so far from God.

Q3: "We must not imagine that God was surprised or taken unaware...Though God's eternal joy and happiness cannot be disturbed, he is not a disinterested observer of the human scene (K. Hughes). Unfortunately, the views of many people in our world today are if there is a God, then he is not engaged in our world today and is just observer. The bible teaches something much different, Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose". God is intricately involved in every detail of our lives and being reminded of this truth should affect the decisions and way we live our life every day.

Q4-5: "One of the marks of personality is feeling, and here in Genesis we read that God's heart was filled with pain" (K. Hughes). In this passage we get a glimpse into some of the characteristics of God and how our sin affects Him. We are made in the image of God and due to that, we have characteristics that make us like Him, but we have to be careful to not think in terms that God is just like us. Yes, there certain things that cause us pain and regret too but the way God feels, and thinks is much more complex than what we can understand. We can only think of God in human terms and there will be certain descriptions of Him that will be hard for us to understand. Isaiah 55:8-9 helps paint this picture: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways and my thoughts than your thoughts".

Q6: Many people struggle with stories like this where God casts judgement on a certain group of people because we don't understand the reasoning. Like we just discussed in the previous question, we have a hard time understanding what God is feeling and his thoughts because He is much bigger than us and he feels pain from sin different than us as well. God plans to destroy the entire world because of the pervasive wickedness of the human race. "Their depravity was not a temporary state. There were no relenting's, no repentances, no hesitations. Lust was their medium. Violence their method. This was total, inveterate depravity...the race was thoroughly demonized and incapable of delivering such a seed, and thus it was only right that humanity be destroyed" (K. Hughes).

Q7-8: Diving Grace – The piece of this story that is typically missed is that Noah was a sinful man just like everyone else and it was not his good life that saved him from the flood, it was God's grace. God provides grace to escape judgment. "Now Noah was a wretch like the rest. He was not saved by his righteousness. He was saved by grace. Left to himself, he would have perished like the rest" (K. Hughes). Noah deserved judgement too but was shown unmerited favor.



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER: What is the best gift that you have ever received?

1. Read Genesis 6:1-8. What insight, lesson, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? How was your experience with the Life Tool's this past week?
2. How relevant is the description of the evil of humanity in this passage to today's culture? In view Matthew 24:36-42, what does this say about the times we live in?
3. Do you have the tendency to view God as just a disinterested observer of humanity or engaged in what is happening in the world today? Why and how has that affected the way you live your life?
4. In what ways are we like God and how is God not like us?
5. How do you think your sin affects God?
6. Do you struggle with divine judgement and God's punishment with the flood? Why or why not?
7. How does the fact that "Noah deserved death for Sin, but the Lord gave him grace", change the way you view this story?
8. Just like Noah, we deserved death for sin but the Lord offers us grace. What would your life be like without God's grace? How will God's grace continue to be at work throughout the rest of your life?



FURTHER STUDY



1 Peter 3:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ After being made alive,¹⁹ he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Matthew 24:37-39 (NIV)

³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Ephesians 2:8-9(NIV)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5(NIV)

⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

“Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross

- **Julie H Johnston**

“Knowing sin and wrath will help you cherish the gospel”

- **John Piper**

“This side of the flood, we don’t have to fear a universal deluge. Nevertheless we must fear a more lethal flood-that of being forever drowned beneath the cold waves of our own sin. Our only hope is in God’s great grace”

- **Kent Hughes**

Additional Resources

Articles –

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/anger-is-essential/>

Devotionals -

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/divine-sorrow/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/noah-found-favor/>

Sermons -

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-wrath-of-god-against-ungodliness-and-unrighteousness> - John Piper

