

In the Beginning...

An Exploration of Genesis

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 April 21, 2024
"Noah and His Ark"

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, your creation always gives us fresh reasons for wonder. We refresh our own devotion to you and welcome your creative touch in our lives. Thank you for bringing us into the ark of your church. Keep us always faithful and true. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Genesis 6-7 selected verses (NIV)

Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 450 feet its width 75 feet, and its height 45 feet ... You shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female ... Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth ... The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights ... All flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings ... only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days.

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INTRODUCTION

From the simple children’s Bible story to the Hollywood movie, the story of Noah frequently raises questions. Did it really happen? Why are there flood stories in different cultures and religions around the world? Has Noah’s ark been found? Why would a loving God destroy the earth with a flood? What is the story of Noah’s ark all about?

The story of the Ark is about us listening and being willing to do what God asks. The story of the Ark is about God’s concern for all creatures, not just human beings, but animals as well. And the story of the Ark is a promise that God is going to be with you through the storms.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you hope there will be animals in heaven?
2. Noah heard God tell him to build an ark. How does God speak to us? How do you know it’s God?
3. Marcello Fava, an Italian Mafia hit man once said this *“before I had to kill someone I would cross myself and I would say dear God stand by me and make sure nothing happens to me.”** Marcello believed in God but carried out acts of murder. How can we make sure that we don’t just know God, but we are doing God’s will?
4. The early Christians believe that the ark was a symbol of the church. In what ways do you see the church like the ark? How, despite its flaws and failures, can we help make the church an ark of salvation for others we know?
5. God’s concerned for all creatures, not just human beings, but animals as well. How can we show care and compassion for all of God’s creation?

FINAL APPLICATION

In order to be like Noah we need to not only listen to God but to do what he asks. We need to show concern and compassion for all of God’s creation including the animals. And we need to learn to trust God in the midst of the storms. What can you do this week to be more like Noah?

* Reski, Petra. *The Honored Society: A Portrait of Italy’s Most Powerful Mafia*. United States, PublicAffairs, 2013.