GENESIS: THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS · STUDY NOTES

Study 6: The flood

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

📖 **Before you start: read Genesis 6:9–8:22.** Read it in your own Bible, all the way through, before the videos. Then in this study we go through it together, a few verses at a time. (About 6 minutes.)

PART 1

Noah walked with God

Genesis 6:9–22

Noah and the flood is one of the best-known stories in the Bible, often told to children with bright pictures of smiling animals. But it is a very serious story. It is about God's holy judgement on sin, and about His mercy, which carries a few people safely through.

1. Grace first, then a changed life. "This is the account of Noah" begins a new section of Genesis, and it begins after "Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD" (6:8) and before "Noah was a righteous man" (6:9). First God showed Noah grace, kindness he did not deserve; then we see what that grace did in his life. His goodness was not the reason for God's grace, but the result of it. As Paul says, "by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

1 **Read Genesis 6:9–10**

What three things are said about Noah? What were the names of his sons?

2. Who was Noah? The son of Lamech and grandson of Methuselah, the tenth generation from Adam in the godly line of Seth. His name sounds like the Hebrew words for "rest" and "comfort" (5:29). He became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth, and lived 950 years. Centuries later God named him with Daniel and Job as men known for their righteousness (Ezekiel 14:14), and the Lord Jesus spoke of "the days of Noah". The Bible treats him as a real man in real history.

2 **Read Ezekiel 14:14**

Which three men does God name together, and for what?

3. Righteous, blameless, walking with God. "Righteous" appears here for the first time in the Bible. Noah was right with God by faith: he "became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith" (Hebrews 11:7). "Blameless" does not mean sinless; it means whole-hearted, a man of integrity. And like Enoch, he "walked with God". He did all this "in his generation", when no one else did. Like Joshua later, he could say: "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!" (Joshua 24:15).

3 **Read Joshua 24:15**

What choice did Joshua set before the people? What did he say about himself and his house?

4. Corrupt and full of violence. At creation, "God looked upon all that He had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Now "God looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt". "Corrupt" speaks of how people treated God: they had turned away and twisted His worship. "Violence" speaks of how they treated one another. When people stop fearing God, they soon stop caring for their neighbour. God meant the earth to be filled with people bearing His image; instead, "the earth is full of violence".

4 **Read Genesis 6:11–13**

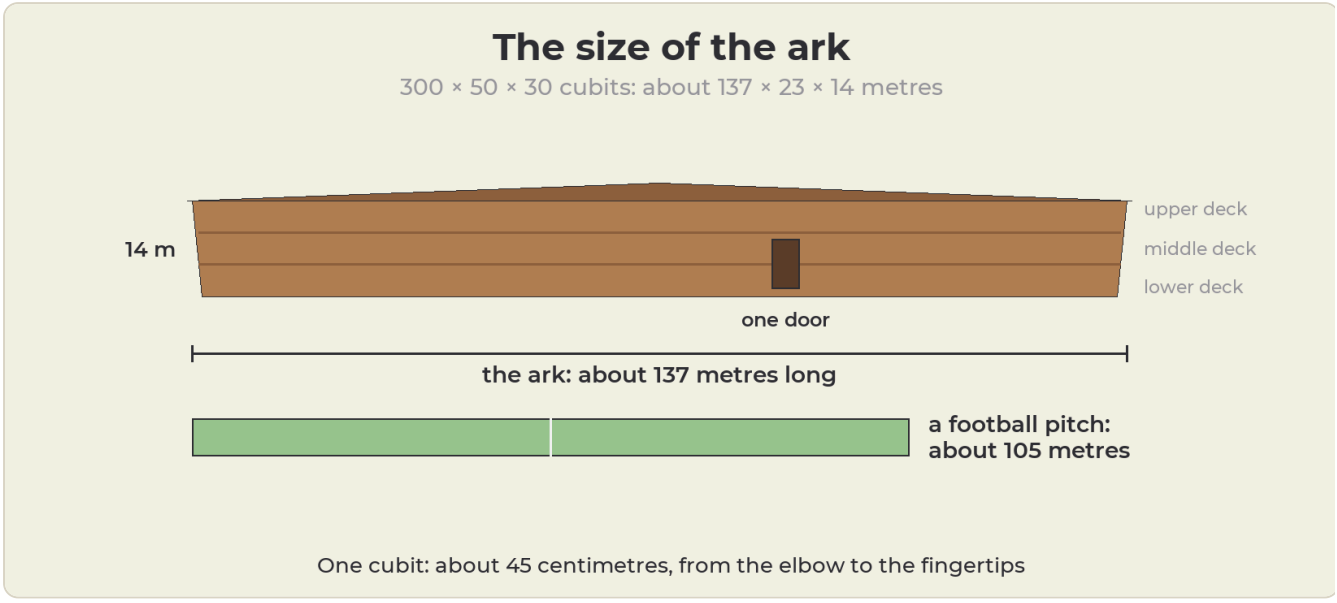
What did God see when He looked upon the earth? What did He say to Noah?

5. Judgement and rescue together. God told His friend what He would do: "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). In the same speech He announced the end of all flesh and gave Noah a way of escape. The God who judges sin is the God who provides a way to be saved.

6. The ark. About 137 metres long, 23 wide and 14 high (a cubit is about 45 centimetres): longer than a football pitch, as high as a building of four or five floors, with three decks, a roof and one door. It was not made for speed or steering, but to stay afloat and carry its passengers safely. The plan came from God, not from Noah: salvation was God's idea and God's design. And there was only one door.

5 **Read Genesis 6:14–16**

What was the ark to be made of? How long, wide and high was it? How many decks and doors did it have?



The size of the ark: 300 × 50 × 30 cubits, about 137 × 23 × 14 metres, beside a football pitch drawn to the same scale.

7. Another ark. The Hebrew word for "ark" appears in only one other story: the basket in which baby Moses was hidden. His mother "got him a papyrus basket and coated it with tar and pitch" (Exodus 2:3). Once again God kept someone safe in an ark while others died in the waters.

6 **Read Exodus 2:3**

What did Moses' mother make, and what did she coat it with?

8. The first covenant. "But I will establish My covenant with you." This is the first time the word "covenant" appears in the Bible: a solemn agreement, with promises that define a relationship. God bound Himself to bring Noah through, and the blessing reached his whole family. All through the Bible God blesses many for the sake of one: Abraham, David, and at last Christ, in whom all who believe are blessed.

7 **Read Genesis 6:17–22**

What did God promise Noah? Who would come into the ark with him? What did Noah do?

9. "Noah did everything precisely as God had commanded him." We read it four times in these chapters, and we never hear Noah say a word: we only see him obey. For many years, while the world went on as usual and perhaps laughed at him, he kept on building. And he did it "precisely", in every detail. Real faith does not pick and choose which of God's words to obey.

10. Faith that obeys. "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen … built an ark". He had nothing to see but God's word. And "by faith he condemned the world": every plank was a silent sermon. "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Noah's ark points to a greater rescue: not a boat of wood, but a Saviour.

8 **Read Hebrews 11:7**

What was Noah warned about? How did he respond? What did he become heir of?

9 **Read 2 Corinthians 5:7**

How do we walk?

PART 2

The door shut and the waters rose

Genesis 7:1–24

1. "Go into the ark." God called Noah in, with all his family. "I have found you righteous" does not mean Noah had earned his place: grace had made him righteous, and God was pleased to see the work of His own grace. His family was brought in because they belonged to him; but to be saved for ever, each of us must come to God for himself. God does not only warn us of judgement: He calls us to come in to safety while there is still time.

10 **Read Genesis 7:1–5**

Whom did God tell to go into the ark? How many pairs of clean animals were to go in? How long would it rain?

2. Seven pairs of clean animals. Long before the law of Moses, God's people knew that certain animals were "clean": fit to be offered to God. God was already planning for worship after the flood. Then He gave one more week: after 120 years of warning, seven more days.

3. A real date. "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month". Fables begin "Once upon a time"; Genesis gives a date. And the Lord Jesus spoke of the days of Noah as real, to warn us of the real judgement to come (Luke 17:26–27). The animals "came to Noah": God brought them, as He had brought the animals to Adam.

11 **Read Genesis 7:6–12**

How old was Noah when the flood came? On what day did it begin? Where did the waters come from?

12 **Read Luke 17:26–27**

What were people doing in the days of Noah? What happened to them?

4. Creation undone. On the second day of creation God separated "the waters from the waters" (Genesis 1:6). Now "all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened": it is as if God undid His work of creation and let the world sink back into the waters. It rained for forty days and forty nights; in the Bible, forty is often a time of trial.

5. "Then the LORD shut him in." It was not Noah who closed the door, but the LORD. Those inside were kept by God; no water and no enemy could open what He had closed. But the same door shut everyone else out. For many years it had stood open; then, one day, it was shut. Jesus told a parable about a door like that: "Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut" (Matthew 25:10). One day the door of God's mercy will be shut, but not today: "now is the day of salvation!" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

13 **Read Genesis 7:13–16**

Who went into the ark with Noah? Who shut him in?

14 **Read Matthew 25:10**

Who went in to the wedding banquet? What happened to the door?

6. The waters prevailed. People in a flood climb to higher ground, but "all the high mountains under all the heavens were covered", and the waters stood fifteen cubits (about seven metres) above them. Three times the chapter says it: every living thing perished. This was the judgement of God on the whole earth, just as He had said. Moses does not describe the horror; he tells us soberly that God did what He said.

15 **Read Genesis 7:17–24**

How high did the waters rise? What happened to every living thing on dry land? Who remained?

7. Only those in the ark. "Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained." They were not better people; Noah himself was a sinner saved by grace. The only difference was that they were inside the ark God had provided. And they were few: out of the whole human race, eight people. The way to life is not the way of the crowd.

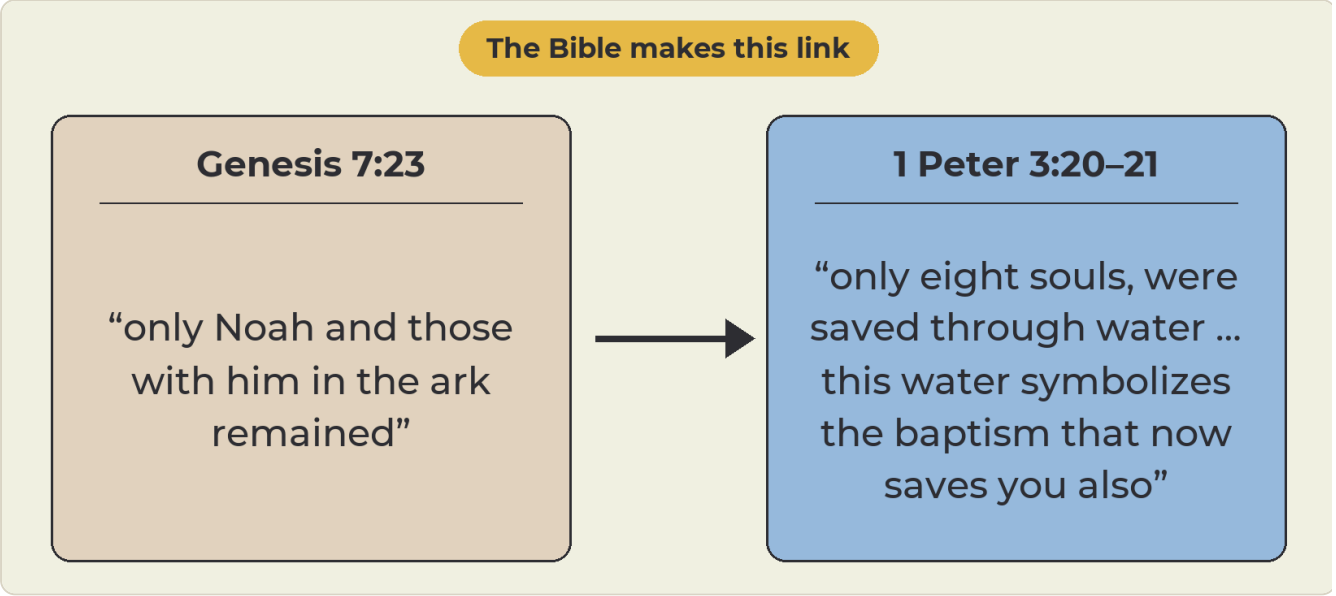
8. "How can a loving God send a flood?" God is loving and kind, more than we will ever understand; but He is also holy and just. A judge who never punished wrong would not be a good judge. And He had been patient: 120 years of warning, preachers, an ark being built in full view. Perhaps the real question is not "Why did God send the flood?" but "Why does God still let me live?" He is patient with us too, "not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

16 **Read 2 Peter 3:9**

Why has the Lord not yet come in judgement? What does He want for everyone?

9. Other flood stories. Other ancient peoples, such as the Babylonians, remembered a great flood. That should not worry us: if the whole world was flooded, we would expect it to be remembered. But in their stories the gods send a flood because people are too noisy, and are frightened by it themselves. The God of Genesis sends it because of real evil, warns first, waits patiently, saves those who trust Him, and is in control from beginning to end.

10. Christ, our ark. Peter links the flood with baptism: "In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved through water. And this water symbolizes the baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ". Jesus spoke of His death as a baptism (Mark 10:38): at the cross the flood of God's judgement poured over Him. All who belong to Him by faith are safe in Him, as Noah was safe in the ark. Baptism pictures it: a believer goes down into the water and comes up again, having died and risen with Christ. So the question is: Are you in the ark? Are you in Christ?



A link the Bible itself makes: "only Noah and those with him in the ark remained" (Genesis 7:23); "only eight souls, were saved through water … this water symbolizes the baptism that now saves you also" (1 Peter 3:20–21).

17 **Read 1 Peter 3:20–21**

How many people were saved in the ark? What does the water symbolize? Through what does baptism save?

18 **Read Mark 10:38**

What did Jesus call the death He was going to undergo?

PART 3

God remembered Noah

Genesis 8:1–22

1. The turning point. Moses counts the days as the waters rise (seven, seven, forty, 150) and again as they go down, in reverse order (150, forty, seven, seven). And in the middle stands the turning point of the whole story: "But God remembered Noah."



The flood year: the days counted going in (7:4, 7:10, 7:12, 7:24) and coming out (8:3, 8:6, 8:10, 8:12), with "But God remembered Noah" (8:1) at the centre.

19 **Read Genesis 8:1–5**

Whom did God remember? What did He send over the earth? Where did the ark come to rest?

2. "God remembered." God never forgets anyone. When He "remembers", He turns towards someone and acts in kindness, keeping His promises: "God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her womb" (Genesis 30:22); "He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Exodus 2:24). After five months with no word from God, He acted for Noah, and for the animals too.

20 **Read Genesis 30:22**

What did God do when He remembered Rachel?

3. God remembers His people. A dying criminal said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!", and Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:42–43). And God finishes what He begins: He did not bring Noah into the ark only to

leave him there. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

21 **Read Luke 23:42–43**

What did the criminal ask Jesus? What did Jesus promise him?

22 **Read Philippians 1:6**

What was Paul confident of?

4. A new beginning. "God sent a wind over the earth". At creation, "the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters" (Genesis 1:2), and in Hebrew "Spirit" and "wind" are the same word. Once again God's wind moves over the waters, the waters are held back, the dry land appears, the birds and animals come out, and God says, "be fruitful and multiply". The flood was an ending, and also a new beginning; Noah is like a new Adam on a new earth.



A new beginning: Genesis 1 and Genesis 7–8 side by side.

5. The ark came to rest. "Rest" sounds like Noah's name. The ark came to rest "on the mountains of Ararat", in the region once called Armenia, today eastern Turkey. Noah had not steered it; God carried it and set it down. It was the first sign that the end of the flood was near.

6. The raven and the dove. A raven can live on almost anything, so it kept flying back and forth. A dove needs dry ground and green plants: the first time, she "found no place to rest her foot", and Noah "reached out his hand and brought her back inside". Seven days later she came back with "a freshly plucked olive leaf": trees were growing again. Ever since, a dove with an olive branch has been a picture of peace. And Noah waited patiently, for God's time.

23 **Read Genesis 8:6–12**

Which two birds did Noah send out? What did the dove bring back the second time? What happened the third time?

7. "Come out of the ark." Even when Noah could see dry ground, he waited almost two more months. He had gone in at God's word; he would come out only at God's word. They were in the ark for about a whole year. And God's words as they came out were the words of creation: "be fruitful and multiply".

24 **Read Genesis 8:13–19**

What did Noah see when he removed the covering? When did he come out? What did God say the animals were to do?

8. An altar first. Noah did not first build a house, plant crops or put up a monument to himself. He built an altar to the LORD. He knew he had not saved himself: God had warned him, shown him how to build, shut him in, remembered him and brought him out. In a burnt offering an animal died in the place of the worshipper: he laid "his hand on the head of the burnt offering, so it can be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him" (Leviticus 1:4).

25 **Read Genesis 8:20–22**

What did Noah do first? What did the LORD promise in His heart?

9. The pleasing aroma. God was pleased with Noah's offering, made in faith. But "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). Noah's sacrifice pointed forward to the one that could: "Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God" (Ephesians 5:2).

26 **Read Ephesians 5:2**

How did Christ show His love for us?

10. Our sacrifices of thanks. Christ has offered Himself once for all, so we offer no animals. But we still bring sacrifices, not to earn God's favour but to thank Him: "offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1); "a sacrifice of praise ... And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:15–16).

27 **Read Romans 12:1**

What are we urged to offer to God, and why?

11. The heart unchanged. God sent the flood because "every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time" (6:5). After the flood He says that "every inclination of his heart is evil from his youth". The flood had washed the earth, but not the human heart. God's promise never to do this again rests on His grace, not on our goodness. A flood could not deal with sin; only the Seed promised in Genesis 3:15 could, and God kept the world going so that the Saviour would come.

12. As long as the earth endures. "Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall never cease." Every sunrise and every harvest is a promise kept: God "has not left Himself without testimony to His goodness: He gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons". He even points to day and night as proof that His other promises will not fail (Jeremiah 33:20–21). But "as long as the earth endures" reminds us that the earth will not go on as it is for ever: "the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment" (2 Peter 3:7).

28 **Read Acts 14:17**

How has God shown His goodness to all people?

29 **Read 2 Peter 3:6–7**

How did the world of that time perish? For what are the present heavens and earth reserved?

Study 6 in summary

God showed Noah grace, and grace made him a man who walked with God and did everything God commanded. God warned of judgement and provided a way of rescue: an ark with one door. God shut Noah in, and the waters covered the whole earth; only those in the ark were saved. Then God remembered Noah. He sent His wind over the waters and made the earth new. Noah came out, and his first act was to worship. And God promised that as long as the earth endures, the seasons will not cease. All through the story the Bible points us to Christ: the true ark, who went under the flood of God's judgement for His people; the One in whom we are safe; the perfect sacrifice, the pleasing aroma to God; and the One through whom God keeps every promise.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Why does it matter that "Noah, however, found favor" (6:8) comes before "Noah was a righteous man" (6:9)?

2. What two words describe the world in Noah's day?

3. What did God promise Noah in the middle of His words of judgement?

4. How did Noah show that he believed God?

5. Who shut the door of the ark, and what did that mean for those inside and those outside?

6. What was the only difference between those who died and those who lived?

7. How would you answer someone who asks, "How can a loving God send a flood?"

8. How is Christ like the ark?

9. What does it mean that "God remembered Noah"?

10. What was the first thing Noah did when he came out of the ark, and why?

11. Why did the flood not change the human heart?

12. What does God promise in Genesis 8:22, and how do we see Him keep it?

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 6

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

GENESIS · STUDY 6 · MEMORY VERSE

“But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And God sent a wind over the earth, and the waters began to subside.”

Genesis 8:1

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“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Genesis 6:9–10** *9This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. 10And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

2 **Ezekiel 14:14** *then even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were in it, their righteousness could deliver only themselves, declares the Lord GOD.*

3 **Joshua 24:15** *But if it is unpleasing in your sight to serve the LORD, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"*

4 **Genesis 6:11–13** *11Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and full of violence. 12And God looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt; for all living creatures on the earth had corrupted their ways. 13Then God said to Noah, "The end of all living creatures has come before Me, because through them the earth is full of violence. Now behold, I will destroy both them and the earth.*

5 **Genesis 6:14–16** *14Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark and coat it with pitch inside and out. 15And this is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. 16You are to make a roof for the ark, finish its walls a cubit from the top, place a door in the side of the ark, and build lower, middle, and upper decks.*

6 **Exodus 2:3** *But when she could no longer hide him, she got him a papyrus basket and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in the basket and set it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.*

7 **Genesis 6:17–22** *17And behold, I will bring floodwaters upon the earth to destroy every creature under the heavens that has the breath of life. Everything on the earth will perish. 18But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. 19And you are to bring two of every living creature into the ark—male and female—to keep them alive with you. 20Two of every kind of bird and animal and crawling creature will come to you to be kept alive. 21You are also to take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten and gather it as food for yourselves and for the animals." 22So Noah did everything precisely as God had commanded him.*

8 **Hebrews 11:7** *By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in godly fear built an ark to save his family. By faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

9 **2 Corinthians 5:7** *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

10 **Genesis 7:1–5** *1Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 2You are to take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate; a pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate; 3and seven pairs of every kind of bird of the air, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of all the earth. 4For seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living thing I have made." 5And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.*

11 **Genesis 7:6–12** *6Now Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters came upon the earth. 7And Noah and his wife, with his sons and their wives, entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8The clean and unclean animals, the birds, and everything that crawls along the ground 9came to Noah to enter the ark, two by two, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10And after seven days the floodwaters came upon the earth. 11In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12And the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.*

12 **Luke 17:26–27** *26Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man: 27People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.*

13 **Genesis 7:13–16** *13On that very day Noah entered the ark, along with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and his wife, and the three wives of his sons— 14they and every kind of wild animal, livestock, crawling creature, bird, and winged creature. 15They came to Noah to enter the ark, two by two of every creature with the breath of life. 16And they entered, the male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.*

14 **Matthew 25:10** *But while they were on their way to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.*

15 **Genesis 7:17–24** *17For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and the waters rose and lifted the ark high above the earth. 18So the waters continued to surge and rise greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters. 19Finally, the waters completely prevailed upon the earth, so that all the high mountains under all the heavens were covered. 20The waters rose and covered the mountaintops to a depth of fifteen cubits. 21And every living thing that moved upon the earth perished—birds, livestock, animals, every creature that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind. 22Of all that was on dry land, everything that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. 23And every living thing on the face of the earth was destroyed—man and livestock, crawling creatures and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth, and only Noah and those with him in the ark remained. 24And the waters prevailed upon the earth for 150 days.*

16 **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.*

17 **1 Peter 3:20–21** *20who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved through water. 21And this water symbolizes the baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

18 **Mark 10:38** *"You do not know what you are asking," Jesus replied. "Can you drink the cup I will drink, or be baptized with the baptism I will undergo?"*

19 **Genesis 8:1–5** *1But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And God sent a wind over the earth, and the waters began to subside. 2The springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained. 3The waters receded steadily from the earth, and after 150 days the waters had gone down. 4On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5And the waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.*

20 **Genesis 30:22** *Then God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her womb,*

21 **Luke 23:42–43** *42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" 43And Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

22 **Philippians 1:6** *being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

23 **Genesis 8:6–12** *6After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark 7and sent out a raven. It kept flying back and forth until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8Then Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had receded from the surface of the ground. 9But the dove found no place to rest her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, because the waters were still covering the surface of all the earth. So he reached out his hand and brought her back inside the ark. 10Noah waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. 11And behold, the dove returned to him in the evening with a freshly plucked olive leaf in her beak. So Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12And Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove again, but this time she did not return to him.*

24 **Genesis 8:13–19** *13In Noah's six hundred and first year, on the first day of the first month, the waters had dried up from the earth. So Noah removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. 14By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was fully dry. 15Then God said to Noah, 16"Come out of the ark, you and your wife, along with your sons and their wives. 17Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock, and everything that crawls upon the ground—so that they can spread out over the earth and be fruitful and multiply upon it." 18So Noah came out, along with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19Every living creature, every creeping thing, and every bird—everything that moves upon the earth—came out of the ark, kind by kind.*

25 **Genesis 8:20–22** *20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. And taking from every kind of clean animal and clean bird, he offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, He said in His heart, "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from his youth. And never again will I destroy all living creatures as I have done. 22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall never cease."*

26 **Ephesians 5:2** *and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.*

27 **Romans 12:1** *Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

28 **Acts 14:17** *Yet He has not left Himself without testimony to His goodness: He gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness."*

29 **2 Peter 3:6–7** *6 through which the world of that time perished in the flood. 7 And by that same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 6: The flood

> **Memory verse:** “But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And God sent a wind over the earth, and the waters began to subside.” (Genesis 8:1). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- See from Genesis 6:9–22 that God's grace came first and made Noah a man who walked with God and obeyed Him in everything; and that God, who judges sin, also provides a way of rescue.
- See from Genesis 7 that God Himself shut the door, that only those in the ark were saved, and that the flood points to Christ, our ark, and to baptism (1 Peter 3:20–21).
- See from Genesis 8 that "God remembered Noah": He keeps His promises and finishes what He begins; Noah's first act was worship; and God's promise of the seasons rests on His grace, not on our goodness.

Suggested timing (about 90 minutes, or three meetings)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer. Ask the group to read Genesis 6:9–8:22 before the meeting.
- **25 min** Part 1 video (15 min); Genesis 6:9–22, with Hebrews 11:7, Joshua 24:15 and Exodus 2:3.
- **25 min** Part 2 video (15 min); Genesis 7, with Luke 17, Matthew 25:10, 2 Peter 3:9 and 1 Peter 3:20–21.
- **25 min** Part 3 video (16 min); Genesis 8, with Luke 23:42–43, Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 5:2, Romans 12:1 and Acts 14:17.
- **10 min** Reflection questions. Close in prayer, thanking God for Christ, the true ark.

For most groups, take one part each week. If you do, read the passage for that part aloud together before the video.

Tips

- Many in your group will know this story from childhood. Help them see it afresh: it is a serious account of God's judgement and of His mercy, not only a children's story.
- Keep the order of 6:8 and 6:9 in view: grace first, then a changed life. Noah was not saved because he was good.
- Someone may ask: "How can a loving God send a flood?" Part 2, point 8, gives an answer: God is loving and also holy and just; He had been very patient; and the better question is why He still lets us live. Answer gently.
- The study takes the flood as the text describes it, covering "all the high mountains under all the heavens", without discussing geology. If questions come up, return to what the passage says and why it matters.
- 1 Peter 3:20–21 links the flood with baptism. The study says that the water itself does not save; it pictures union with Christ in His death and resurrection, and is "the pledge of a clear conscience toward God". If your group includes people who have not been baptised as believers, this is a natural moment to speak of it, without pressure.
- End with the turning point, "But God remembered Noah", and with Christ: the One who remembers all who call on Him.
- The four pictures (the size of the ark, the Genesis 7 and 1 Peter 3 link, the flood year, and the new beginning) are good for a short recap at the next meeting.