

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 6: October 18-25

Genesis 6

The account of Noah and the flood is recorded in Genesis chapters 6-9. That's four chapters devoted to one event. Genesis 1-11 covers over 2,000 years of world history! These first 11 chapters of the Bible describe important events like the creation of the universe, the creation of mankind, the fall of mankind, and the development of different people groups and their dispersal into different parts of the world. But four of these chapters are devoted to the flood. That must mean that this is a crucial event in the history of the world!

Read Genesis 6:1-22

1. What was happening in verses 1-2?

We are not certain who the “sons of God” are in this passage. Bible scholars have suggested three possible interpretations. First, they could be fallen angels (Job 1:6; 2:1) who either manifested themselves in human form or possessed the bodies of men. Second, they could be tyrant kings taking women for their harems. Third, they could be the descendants of Seth taking wives from the descendants of Cain. A fourth possibility could be some combination of these interpretations.

2. Why did God limit life to a hundred and twenty years? (6:3)

3. Who were the “Nephilim”? (6:4 see also Num. 13:33)

James Smith writes,

The *nephilim* were those who were bullies, who fell upon others to force their will upon them... This violence is again emphasized by the narrator in 6:11. Some hold that the *nephilim* were the product of the marriages just mentioned; others think they were contemporary with, but separate from, the marriages. Still another view is that the *nephilim* were the “sons of God.”¹

¹ James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 84.

² Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 1* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 281-282.

4. How does verse 5 describe the thoughts of people before the flood?

5. How did God feel about the condition of mankind? (6:6)

6. What did God say He was going to do in verse 7?

7. What does the text tell us about Noah? (6:8-10)

Paul Kissling notes,

"He walked with God" recalls the statement about Enoch in 5:23. The verb "walked" is in the *hithpael* (reflexive "he walked himself") form and reminds the reader of the Garden scene in 3:8 where the same verb form occurs of the Lord's walking in the garden in the cool part of the day. To walk with God is to enjoy the same sort of direct and easy access to the Lord's presence as Adam and Eve had in the garden.²

8. What kind of sin filled the world before the flood? (6:11-13)

9. What did God tell Noah to do in verse 14?

John Woodmorappe comments,

The identity of gopher wood used to construct the Ark remains a mystery, although some commentators have suggested that “gopher” is not a type of tree, but a process which makes wood very hard. But what kind of wood was the Ark made of? Indian teak has been found by archeologists in ancient Babylon, so it had been known to the peoples immediately after the Flood and—by implication—also the antediluvians. Because of its strength and durability, teak is probably the best wood of all for the construction of ships.³

10. What were the dimensions of the ark? (6:15)

The Bible says that the ark was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. But what is a “cubit”?

³ John Woodmorappe, *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study* (Santee, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 1996), 51.

A “cubit” was the distance from the elbow to end of the longest finger. Archeology reveals three different established standards for the cubit. In Jerusalem, during the time of Hezekiah (700 BC), the cubit was 17.5 inches. At the time of Hammurabi (1750 BC), the Babylonian cubit was 19.5 inches. In the days of Ramses II (1250 BC), the Egyptian cubit was 20.5 inches.⁴ The NIV uses an 18 inch cubit when it says that the ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

11. What details did God include in verse 16?
12. According to verse 17, what was the flood designed to do?
13. What did God say to Noah in verse 18?
14. With what did God instruct Noah to fill the ark? (6:19-21)
15. What did Noah do in verse 22?
16. When you read this chapter does it give you the impression that this will be a local flood or a global flood? Why?

Ed Werner writes,

In chapters 6-9 of Genesis, we don't find incidental statements that could have a limited sense. In these four chapters, at least 45 times, statements such as “all flesh”, “every living thing”, “every beast”, “every creeping thing”, “all the high mountains”, and “all mankind”, etc., are used! (The statements are used 30 times in chapters 6-8).⁵

17. How does humanity before the flood compare to our society?
18. Why do you think our sin causes God to feel so heartbroken?
19. What can we do to “find favor in the eyes of the LORD”?
20. What can you do to help others be better prepared for the day of judgment?

⁴ Allen C. Myers, ed., *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996), 247.

Sermon Notes 10/18/20 Noah's Ark (part 1)

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 6?

1. _____ God's favor.
Genesis 6:5-10
2 Peter 2:5
2. _____ for God's judgment.
Genesis 6:11-17
2 Peter 3:3-7
3. _____ in God's promises.
Genesis 6:18-22
Hebrews 11:7
1 Peter 3:18-21



At first, Noah's wife thought her husband was just trying to tell her that he wanted to buy a boat.

⁵ Edward Werner, *Noah's Ark and the Great Flood* (Coos Bay, OR: Edward Werner, 1988), 7.