

**INTRO**

- Would you describe yourself as an avid reader?
- Fiction or non-fiction? What is your preference?
- True confessions: Do you ever flip to the last few pages of a book to see how it will end?

**READ**

Genesis 6: 5-14, 17-22

Hebrews 11:6-7a

**REFLECT**

When I know the story of a man or woman in the Bible well, I might not pay attention to detail, or ponder the things not told. If I know the end of the story, I can miss the details:

- Then, as I read, I don't ask questions
- I easily overlook the humanity, the thoughts, the feelings, the emotions, the struggles of the real people involved
- I forget that what I can read in a couple of minutes was often days, weeks, months, years of someone's life

What we just read from Genesis 6 (in less than 3 minutes) covers 60 to perhaps 100 years of Noah's life.

*Qu: What would you love to know about those years that passed between God's direction to Noah to build the ark and its completion?*

*Qu: How might you have responded if you were in Noah's shoes? How would you have felt?*

*Qu: Do you sometimes think that obedience to God was easier for men and women in the Bible, than for you?*

Remember:

1. Noah found favour (grace) in the eyes of the Lord. We, too, live in the grace of God, a gift to us, not as the result of anything good we have done. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

2. Noah was a righteous man (one who was just and had right standing with God). Because God put our sin, our unrighteous upon Jesus, in a beautiful and gracious exchange, we are also righteous in the eyes of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
3. Noah did all that God commanded him.

For whatever was written in **former days** was written for our **instruction**, that through **endurance** and through the **encouragement** of the Scriptures we might have **hope**.  
Romans 15:4

As we remember the life of Noah, the grace, the favour, the standing he had with God, we are encouraged and we have hope that we, too, can do "all that God commands".

**RESPOND**

Hebrews 11 helps us understand faith using examples of men and women like Noah.

As we come to God, the writer of Hebrews tells us, we must believe that God exists, and that he rewards those he seek him.

Noah's faith was expressed in action. In obedience, he built the ark. This truth is timeless. In His love and grace, God draws us to himself. Our response is always one of action, acting in faith on those things God asks us to do.

*Qu: What's your ark today? What are you supposed to be doing in obedience to God?*

**PRAY**

Take some time to pray together, to ask God, to listen, to reflect.

Because I believe that God exists, and that he rewards those who seek him, it is time for me to\_\_\_\_\_.