

INTRO

- Do you enjoy water? Why or why not?
- What is meant by “turn over a new leaf”? Have you ever wanted to have a fresh start at something?

Gen 6-9 recounts how Noah and his immediate family are rescued from the flood. The whole narrative is presented as the undoing of creation and then the “re-creation” of the earth as it emerges from the flood. But after the flood not everything returns to a pristine condition.

READ & REFLECT

Four things this narrative tells us.

1. GOD GRIEVES OVER EVIL

Rd Gen 6:5-6. What does v6 tell you about God? About sin?

Gen 6:6 is possibly the saddest verse in Scripture. God regrets making mankind. Sin means to miss the mark and it means we fall short of God's intended purpose for us as mankind. Our lifestyles (choices, attitudes, actions) have the capacity to break God's heart.

Qu: are there sinful actions, attitudes in your life right now that grieve God? How can you respond?

2. GOD JUDGES OUR SIN

Read Gen 7:4,23. What does the Flood illustrate? How does it demonstrate both God's judgement and grace?

Read 1 Peter 3:20-22. The same waters that brought judgement saved Noah through the Ark. Likewise, Peter tells us that we are saved through baptism into Jesus (demonstrated by water baptism).

Qu: have you been water baptized? Would you like to get baptized?

3. GOD REMEMBERS US

Read Gen 8:1. What does it mean “God remembered”?

Read Gen 8:20-22. What strikes you about v21? Does this mean God failed in correcting the problem of sin and evil?

Although the human heart hasn't changed (v21), we see a significant act of Noah's offering change God's attitude towards mankind. This is preparing us for something greater in God's Story where God, through the ultimate sacrifice of his Son, will be able to remove our sinful hearts, and give us new ones.

4. GOD REDEEMS CREATION

Read Gen 9:8-13. Noah is like a second Adam being given a fresh mandate to fill and form creation. It is striking that God makes covenant with mankind AND the earth.

Qu: what does this show you about God's intention not just for mankind but for creation too? Is God only interested in saving us 'to go to heaven'? Discuss.

Not only will God save us from sin's effects, but God will also save creation from sin's effect. **The Christian hope is *not* an escape from this world to heaven. Rather, the future is a *new* heaven and a *new* earth.** (we'll be exploring this more fully when we go to Revelation in the series).

RESPOND & PRAY

- What does Noah's Ark & The Flood teach you about sin, judgement, grace?
- How does it connect to the saving work of Jesus on the Cross?
- In what way/s does this part of God's Story encourage & challenge you?
- Pray accordingly.