

Tell Me the Stories – Noah

How does this Bible Study Work?

You can read through this on your own through a paper copy. You can read through this on the website or our Facebook Page. You can read this with your family or a small group. If you have questions, comments or want to share your answers you are invited to either post them in the Facebook Page. If you have children I invite you to use the scripture readings and there will be kid questions in each section as well.

Week 1, Genesis chapters 5 & 6

Brief history of Old Testament

A couple of things to remember about the Old Testament and the book of Genesis specifically. Unlike the New Testament, where people who lived the story wrote it down, it was passed down orally. The priests, scribes, and theologians were not news reporters but takes the shape and emphasis of their reality the Israelite monarchy (9th – 10th centuries) and the Babylonian exile (6th century) along with the family stories to comprise the book. We do not have documents that identify specific times, places or locations that allows us to pinpoint our history. These stories tell us more about God rather than a specific history. Many an argument has been had about creation and if the 7 days that were listed were 7 days like we know it or 7 days as God experiences it.

Question: What do you remember, without looking in the Bible from the book of Genesis. You can list names, stories etc.

Question: What questions do you have about the stories in Genesis? Are there things that don't make sense?

Kid question: What do you know about the first people in the Bible?

Kid question: What do you want to know about the first people in the Bible?

Different translations & resources

To help us hear the story a little better, we are using *The Message* which is a translation from the original languages put into sentence that feel like the way we speak. This is not a study version of the Bible so much as a story version. I've also attached a longer explanation of this translation for you to read more if you are interested or if you're reading online – click here

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Message-MSG-Bible/?src=embed>)

Also attached (or available on the website) are different translations of verses to see a bigger picture of what is available.

Question: What translation do you usually use and why?

Kid Question: Do you know why we have different translations of the Bible?

Family Trees

Chapter 5 is the genealogy tracing from Adam & Eve through Noah. Most people skip over this reading. In fact I often tell people to skip it if they are reading through the Bible for the first time. I have put it in a diagram form to help it make a little more sense. Also included in this diagram is the genealogy from chapter 4 of Adam's son Cain. You can find it on the left side of the chart.

Question: What stands out about the genealogy? What is most interesting? What do you want to know more about?

Kid questions: Do you know what your family tree looks like? This one maps out the family from Adam (of Adam & Eve to Noah). How many generations between Adam & Noah? Can you figure out how many years from Adam to Noah?

Enoch

There is a specific pattern for each couplet of verses. There are 2 notable exceptions for Enoch & Lamech. In verse 22 & 24 we learn more about Enoch. First that he walked with God for 300 years and then he walked with God, then he was no more because God took him. According to scripture he does not die.

All age question: What does it mean to walk with God?

Noah

Verse 29 we learn that Noah “will be the one who gives us a break from the hard work of farming the ground that God cursed.” This verse points us to chapter 4 when Cain is cursed for having killed his brother Abel. On the family tree chart you can see Cain’s genealogy mapped out. This is important because Noah’s father shares a name with a descendant of Cain – Lamech. Lamech, descendant of Cain was awful – he tells his wives (which are the only 2 women named in either genealogy) that he killed a man for wounding me and killed a young man for striking me. He compares himself to Cain saying in verse 24, If Cain is avenged sevenfold, he will be avenged seventy-seven fold. In the genealogy of Seth, that this Lamech descends from says that his son Noah will essentially heal the curse of the land that been Cain’s punishment, which was a further compounding of the curse God gave Adam in chapter 3.

Question: Why do you think Noah was to bring relief?

Kid question: What makes Noah special?

Chapter 6

The beginning of chapter 6 is odd especially in traditional translations with the discussion of the sons of God and giants. The New Interpreters' Bible – the go to beginning place for many scholars and preachers says (6:1-4) “This brief segment is one of the most difficult in Genesis both to translate and interpret.” There is a variety reasons, both because of word choices, fragments and ambiguity. It may have been part of a longer section we don't know. In traditional translations the word for giants is The Nephilim in verse 4. In traditional translations the word for giants is The Nephilim. There are a variety of theories, some say it's referencing a place. It could have been a contemporary reference that readers would have understood. What it does highlight is that human sin has effect in all of creation. As we continue to read through verse 7 God says that human evil is out of control. Short story is the world is awful. This part of the text may have given rise to “stories associated with a revolt in heaven followed by the casting out of these beings from the heavenly realm. This may be where the “fall of Lucifer” began. We do not know the particulars but this helps us understand why God was sorry that he had made human-kind on the earth.

Question: What stands out as important?

Kid question: Are there levels of bad in the world? Can you name some things that are a little bad and some that are really bad?

Difference between the people & Noah

Verse 5 says that God saw that human evil was out of control. People though evil, imagined evil – evil, evil, evil from morning to night. Looking at multiple translations (18 – attached if you're interested) most used the word wicked. 1 used sin and two used the word evil.

Question: Are there differences between wicked, sin & evil?

Kid question: What do the words wicked, sin & evil mean to you?

Merriam Webster defines the words this way:

Wicked - 1: morally very bad: EVIL; 2a: FIERCE, VICIOUS, b: disposed to or marked by mischief: 3a: disgustingly unpleasant : VILE, 4: going beyond reasonable or predictable limits : of exceptional quality or degree

God was sorry that he had ever made the human race and it broke God's heart.

Sin – 1a: an offense against religious or moral law; b: an action that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible; it's a sin to waste food; c: an often serious shortcoming : FAULT; 2a: transgression of the law of God; b: a vitiated state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God

Evil – 1a: morally reprehensible : SINFUL, WICKED; an evil impulse b: arising from actual or imputed bad character or conduct a person of evil reputation 2a: causing discomfort or repulsion : OFFENSIVE b: DISAGREEABLE
woke late and in an evil temper; 3a: causing harm : PERNICIOUS the evil institution of slavery b: marked by misfortune : UNLUCKY

Question: Does it matter which word is used?

Kid question: Describe the worst possible situation.

The Ark

It is so bad that God wishes he had never created humans. But Noah was different. It is notable that the text described Noah as a good man, a man of integrity in his community and that he walked with God. Because Earth was awful God told Noah that God is going to start over and gives very specific instructions on what to do. Depending on translation cypress, teak or gopher wood. It will have rooms, cover inside & out, roof, door on the side and 3 decks. It's length 300 cubits, width 50 cubits, height 30 cubits. So the question is what is a cubit? A cubit is about 18" so if you do the math it is 450 x 75 x 45 feet. For reference "an office building of three stories is about 38.39 feet tall. A three-story residential building is about 30 feet tall. A mixed-use building with three stories is about 34.5 feet tall" (<https://www.reference.com/business-finance/tall-three-story-building-bdf4175bef42add3>). After building it 2 of every animal, bird, creepy thing & food.

Question: Do you think it was easy for Noah to obey God?

Kid question: Using a tape measure – see how big the ark would be.

What questions do you have after studying chapters 5 & 6 that were not answered in the study?