

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 4

*By Faith Noah...*

# Noah

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

**Objective** To present Noah’s faith, and to encourage the students to emulate his example of being diligent and completely obedient to the Lord.

## Key Verses

Hebrews 11:7—Main Teaching Passage

Genesis 6:1-7:5

Genesis 8:15-18

Judges 6:13

Jonah 1

**Memory Verse** - James 2:26

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

## Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Hebrews 11:6.

Write the following expressions on the board:

“Practice what you preach”

“If you talk the talk, you gotta walk the walk”

Ask the students what these sayings mean. Ask, what these sayings mean if, for example, someone tells you that they are a Christian?

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

In Hebrews 11:7, we read about the faith of Noah. Noah's faith is intimately linked to his actions. In this one verse we read that Noah moved, prepared, condemned, and became heir. Specifically, he moved with Godly fear (see Proverbs 1:7), prepared the ark as a means to save his family, condemned the world by preaching a righteousness, which was rejected, and finally was made heir to the promised line of descendants that would lead to Jesus Christ.

Noah is only afforded one verse in Hebrews, but in Genesis 6 and 7 we read further about Noah being a man of action, and that action being attributed to him as faith. Starting in Genesis 6:13, God gave a very specific, complex set of instructions. Our focus is on Noah's response. Genesis 6:22 says, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded Him, so he did." In Genesis 7:1-5, we see a repeat of this same story. God gave Noah a second set of instructions regarding the animals which would be brought upon the ark, and again we read, "Noah did according to *ALL* that the Lord commanded." Noah was a man who lived out his faith through his deeds.

The interpretation/  
exegesis of the passage.  
What does this passage  
mean? How does this  
passage apply to my  
life?

# LOOK

Our next hero in the hall of faith is a Bible character familiar to most people. Noah was the great-grandson of Enoch, who we studied last week. Who knows what kind of stories Noah heard about his great-grandfather? Whether he heard about Enoch, who walked with God and was taken off the earth, or not, he clearly shared the same deeply ingrained faith. Noah lived in a world where he was literally the only person who loved God and "found grace" in His eyes. Noah would not be swayed from his staunch obedience to God. In fact one of the key things that we read about Noah is that whatever God told him to do, he was going to do it.

When God appeared to Noah and commanded him to build an ark, Noah didn't question it once. Unlike Gideon, who needed to see proof that it was really God who was talking to Him, Noah simply obeyed. Unlike Jonah, who straight up refused to do what God is asking, Noah obeyed immediately. We see Noah's blind faith recorded at least three times in Genesis 6, 7, and 8. The last verse of chapter 6 tells us that after God commanded Noah to build the ark, with very exact measurements and instructions, Noah simply did "all that God commanded him." Again in chapter 7, when God gave very specific directions about what animals, and what number of those animals, should be brought on board the ark, "Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him" (7:5).

# LOOK (Continued)

In chapter 8 when God instructed Noah, “Go out of the ark” (8:15), Noah’s response was very straightforward, “So Noah went out” (8:18). Noah didn’t have to be told twice. He didn’t have to ask questions, or get clarification on anything God said. God said it, Noah believed it, that was the end of it.

This immediate and complete obedience is made more incredible by the fact that what God was saying was completely unimaginable. Noah didn’t know what rain was, he didn’t know what a flood was, he couldn’t begin to conceive of water covering the face of the Earth, yet he did what God said. He didn’t do half, or three quarters. He didn’t stop at 99%. Noah did all that God asked him without questioning or doubting.

Noah’s example is one to be followed. How often do we question God’s Word, or do it only 50%? Do we take God’s Word to us seriously? Are we preaching the Gospel to every living creature? Are we ready in season and out of season to give a defense for our faith? Are we confessing our sin one to another, asking and giving forgiveness to our neighbor? Do we love God with all our heart soul mind and strength? Are we like Noah, or are we more like Gideon? Do we walk in obedience, or like Jonah, do we have to get swallowed by the fish before we are ready to do what the Lord of Hosts tells us? Abel tells us to trust God’s Word, Enoch tells us to walk with God even when no one else is, and Noah tells us to obey fully and immediately.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize James 2:26.

Make a list of things that we know God asks us to do from His Word. Go through your list and give the students some practical suggestions of how they could start to do those things. Example: We should pray more often.

Response: Set a second alarm clock in your room 5 minutes after your wake up alarm. This will remind you to meet with God every morning.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for His clear instruction to us. Praise Him for the example that He gives us in Noah. Ask for the strength to live out our faith, as Noah lived out his.

**Parent Question:** What are three things that we could do as a family to honor the Lord this week?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6-7 By David Guzik

### 3. (7) Noah's faith.

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

a. **Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen:** Noah was warned of something that had never happened before. His faith was shown in not merely agreeing that the flood would come, but in doing what God told him to do regarding the flood - he was **moved with godly fear**.

b. **Prepared an ark:** Real faith will always *do* something. The book of James repeats this theme over and over again.

c. **He condemned the world:** We shouldn't think that Noah was a man who preached sermons of condemnation to the world. Instead, the mere conduct of the godly, without any preaching at all, can feel like condemnation to the world.

Genesis 3:15-7:1

God tells Noah to build an ark.

“Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.”

a. **Make yourself:** This means this was Noah's project. He was not to simply contract it out to someone else.

b. **This is how you shall make it:** The ark was as long as a 30-story building is high (about 450 feet or 150 meters), and it was about 75 feet (25 meters) wide and 45 feet (15 meters) high. What is described is not really a boat, but a well-ventilated barge, meant only to float and not to sail anywhere. After all, an **ark** is a chest, not a ship; this refers to the “shoebox” shape of the vessel.

i. The ark, roughly the shape of a shoebox, was plenty large enough (about the size of the Titanic), and had a cubit-wide opening (18 inches) all the way around the top.

ii. It was not until 1858 that a boat bigger than the ark was built. The ark was certainly big enough to do the job. If the ark carried two of every *family* of animal, there were around 700 pairs of animals; but if the ark carried two of every *species* of animals, there were around 35,000 pairs of animals.

iii. The average size of a land animal is smaller than a sheep. The ark could carry 136,560 sheep in *half* of its capacity, leaving plenty of room for people, food, water, and whatever other provisions were needed.

c. **You shall make it:** God had not yet told Noah *why* he must build an ark. At this point, all Noah knew was that God will judge the earth, and he was supposed to build a big barge. Since it had not rained yet on the earth, it is reasonable to suppose Noah didn't know what God was meant yet.

d. **You shall make it:** And Noah *did* make it. Beyond the Bible, there is rich historical evidence for the reality of Noah's Ark.

i. In 275 B.C. Berosus, a Babylonian historian, wrote: "But of this ship that grounded in Armenia some part still remains in the mountains ... and some get pitch from the ship by scraping it off."

ii. Around A.D. 75 Josephus said the locals collected relics from the ark and showed them off to his very day. He also said all the ancient historians he knew of wrote about the ark.

iii. In A.D. 180 Theophilus of Antioch wrote: "the remains [of the ark] are to this day to be seen ... in the mountains."

iv. An elderly Armenian man in America said that as a boy, he visited the ark with his father and three atheistic scientists in 1856. Their goal was to disprove the ark's existence, but they found it and became so enraged they tried to destroy it, but could not because it was too big and had petrified. In 1918 one of the atheistic scientists (an Englishman) admitted on his deathbed the whole story was true.

iv. In 1876 a distinguished British statesman and author, Viscount James Bryce, climbed Ararat and reported finding a four-foot long piece of hand-tooled timber at an altitude of more than 13,000 feet (4,300 meters).

vi. Six Turkish soldiers claimed to see the ark in 1916.

vii. In the early part of this century, a Russian aviator named Vladimire Rokovitsky claimed the discovery of Noah's ark. He was stationed in southern Russia near the Turkish border and Mount Ararat. As he tested a plane he and his co-pilot flew over Ararat and discovered on the edge of a glacier what he described as a boat the size of a battleship. He said it was partially submerged in a lake, and he could see there was an opening for a door nearly 20 feet (7 meters) square, but the door was missing. Rokovitsky told his commanding officer and an expedition was dispatched to find the ark and photograph it. The report was forwarded to the Czar, who was soon overthrown and the photos and the report perished.

viii. In 1936 a young British archaeologist named Hardwicke Knight hiked across Ararat and discovered interlocking hand-tooled timbers at a height of 14,000 feet (4,600 meters).

ix. During World War II two pilots saw and photographed something they believed was the ark on Mount Ararat.

x. There have been many more recent attempts to find and document the ark, but they have been hindered by politics and surrounded in controversy.

e. **Cover it inside and outside with pitch:** The **pitch** worked to waterproof the wood. God told Noah to cover it with pitch **inside and outside**, which makes it possible that the ark was preserved for a long time. It is possible God still has a purpose for the ark, to use it to remind the world of a past judgment shortly before a future judgment.

i. Peter, in 2 Peter 3:1-7, relates the future judgment to the judgment of the flood saying, unbelievers *willfully*

*forget ... the world that then existed perished being flooded with water.* Perhaps, before Jesus returns, God will make it even more necessary for people to *willfully forget* these things.

ii. Because of this mention of **pitch** (a petroleum product) in what most people think is the Middle East, John D. Rockefeller looked for (and found) oil in that region based on this verse.

4. (17-21) Why the ark must be built and what Noah must do.

“And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark; you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

a. **Everything that is on the earth shall die:** We can only wonder what Noah felt when he heard this remarkable announcement from God. God called Noah to an essential role in the greatest judgment - and greatest salvation - the world had seen.

b. **But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark:** Despite the dramatic judgment coming, God will make a covenant with Noah, and he and his family will be saved. God will also use Noah to save a remnant of each animal so the earth could be populated with people and animals after the flood.

c. **Take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself:** God also commanded Noah to take all the food he could. There must be a lot of food for Noah and all the animals.

5. (22) Noah’s obedience.

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

a. **Thus Noah did:** When given this staggering job to do, Noah did it. We don’t hear of him complaining or rebelling; he simply obeyed.

i. The words, “**so he did**” cover an awful lot of material and years; yet Noah did not shrink from what God told him to do.

b. **According to all that God commanded him, so he did:** The Bible presents Noah as a great hero of God. He was an outstanding example of righteousness (Ezekiel 14:14), a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), and Noah condemned the world by offering salvation in the ark that the whole world rejected (Hebrews 11:7).

i. Noah was a *preacher of righteousness* (2 Peter 2:5), yet in his 120-year ministry it seems that no one was saved.

ii. “The work of building the ark was laborious, costly, tedious, dangerous, and seemingly foolish and ridiculous; especially when all things continued in the same posture and safety for so many scores of years together; whereby Noah, without doubt, was all that while the song of the drunkards, and the sport of the wits of that age. So it is not strange that this is mentioned as an heroic act of faith.” (Poole)

A. Final preparations for the flood.

1. (1) God invites Noah into the ark.

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

a. **Come into the ark:** The idea is that God will be with Noah in the ark, so He called Noah to **come into the ark** with Him.

b. **I have seen that you are righteous:** Noah spent the years before the flood in active obedience. He not only believed God would send the flood; he obeyed what God told him to do in preparation for it.

2. (2-9) Noah gathers all the animals and his family.

"You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

a. **You shall take with you:** Some wonder how the animals came to Noah or how Noah got them. In Genesis 6:20 God said the animals would *come to* Noah by migration. In some animals, God has created a migratory instinct (which can operate in an amazing manner). It is no difficulty for Him to miraculously place an urge to migrate to the ark in each pair of animals He planned to be preserved in the ark.

b. **Two by two they went into the ark to Noah:** God never has a problem getting the animals to do what He wants. Only man is more stupid than the animals. *The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider.* (Isaiah 1:3)