

INTERACTIVE TEACHING/LEARNING GUIDE
Week 3

SESSION TITLE: "Flood: When God Sees Sin"

FOCAL PASSAGE: (Genesis 6:5-9:17)

Central Teaching/Learning Aim: To help the learner discover the wrath and grace of God and to help him/her live a life of cautious optimism before a loving, forgiving God.

I. Creating Interest in the Series (Hook)

A. Display and ask the following question:

"How would you describe God?"

List His attributes as members share them.

Ask – Do you ever think that God expresses emotion?

Have members look up the following passages to identify God's emotion:

- (Hebrews 11:5) God was pleased with Enoch.
- (Exodus 32:10) The Lord was angry with the Israelites.
- (Psalm 103:13) The Lord has the compassion of a father on those who fear Him.
- (Exodus 20:5) God is a jealous God.
- (Genesis 6:6-7) God was sorry He made man and grieved in His heart.

State – Today we are going to discuss God's range of emotion from disgust, anger, and judgment to grace and man's response to Him.

B. Optional Method – Display pictures or video of the tsunami.

Next share the following information:

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) – Until two weeks ago, Smith Thammasaroj was a prophet without honor. As chief of Thailand's meteorological department in 1998, he was accused of scare-mongering when he warned that the country's southwest coast could face a deadly tsunami.

He retired under a shadow, dismissed as a crackpot, accused of causing panic and jeopardizing a critical tourist industry that grew up around the tropical resort island of Phuket.

Today, Smith is being lionized for his foresight after the devastating Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed more than 150,000 people around the region, including 3,500 in Thailand, where 3,600 more are listed as missing.

Less than a week after the tragedy, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra appointed Smith as a vice minister and put him in charge of the newly established National Disaster Warning Office, which will work with seismologists to establish a tsunami early warning system.

Now when Smith speaks, people listen. And he has a new message: The United States must take some of the blame for the grievous number of casualties.

Smith has been equally critical of his own country's meteorologists. He said earlier that staff at the Meteorological Department working on Dec. 26 knew what was coming but failed to act because they were ignored earlier.

"They knew exactly what was going to happen, but they...were afraid to make a decision, because they believed if they made a wrong forecast they would get blamed," Smith said.

State – How amazing that the nation's chief meteorologist warned of the coming tsunami and nobody heeded his warning. The people looked at him like a crackpot. This was the case with Noah. He preached and warned the people for 120 years, only to be scoffed at, and ignored.

Read the passages from Hook A.

State – Today we are going to discuss God's range of emotion from disgust, anger, and judgment to grace and man's response to Him.

C. Optional Method – Movie Clip "Bruce Almighty"

Start: 28:15

Stop: 30:30

Synopsis: God tells Bruce that He knows everything about him. He points to a file cabinet and says everything in Bruce's life is contained in it.

Ask – Would you want to see the file God has on you?

State – In today's passage God sees the sin of the people and distributes judgment. He also demonstrates grace and hope through Noah.

State – Today we are going to discuss God's range of emotion from disgust, anger, and judgment to grace and man's response to Him.

II. Book

A. Utilize the discussion guide to examine the Scripture passages.

III. Look

- A. **Distribute** the handout "Living Like Noah" and guide members to complete it.

IV. Took

- A. **Share** the following illustration:

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) – A tsunami survivor rescued after 15 days adrift in the Indian Ocean recounted Tuesday how he lived on coconuts that floated by, tearing them open with his teeth. Indonesia, meanwhile, said it hoped to ease the bottleneck of aid flights by opening a second airport north of Sumatra island.

The 21-year-old survivor, Ari Afrizal, was picked up Sunday by a container ship after being swept out to sea by the tsunami from a beachfront construction site in Aceh. He is the third Indonesian to be rescued and brought to Malaysia.

"My throat was burning. The sun was hot. I had cuts all over my body. The salt water was stinging. I couldn't even find my voice to call out to other survivors. Eventually they all drifted away and I was all alone," he said in an interview with The Associated Press from his hospital bed.

"I prayed and prayed. I told God I don't want to die. ...I worried about my elderly parents and asked for a chance to take care of them. As if my prayers were answered, a broken (boat) floated toward me a few days later."

By Jocelyn Gecker

State – Ari is a picture of Noah and the flood. Many lives have been lost and countries devastated yet there is hope. Noah symbolizes God's grace and hope. God has provided a way of escape for us even in death.

- B. **Optional Method** – **Share** the following illustration:

OVIEDO, Fla. (AP) – A Presbyterian minister collapsed and died in mid-sentence of s sermon after saying "And when I go to heaven..." his colleague said Monday.

The Rev. Jack Arnold, 69, was nearing the end of his sermon Sunday at Covenant Presbyterian Church in this Orlando suburb when he grabbed the podium before falling to the floor, said the Rev. Michael S. Beates, associate pastor at Covenant Presbyterian.

Before collapsing, Arnold quoted the 18th century Bible scholar, John Wesley, who said, "Until my work on this earth is done, I am immortal. But when my work for Christ is done ... I go to be with Jesus," Beates said in a telephone interview.

Several members of the congregation with medical backgrounds tried to revive the minister and paramedics were called, but Arnold appeared to die instantly, Beates said.

Arnold had been the senior minister at the church until the late 1990's when he began traveling to Africa and the Middle East to teach pastors. The cause of death was believed to be cardiac arrest. He had bypass surgery five years earlier.

Beates also recounted Arnold's death in an e-mail he sent to members of the Central Florida Presbytery.

"We were stunned," Beates said. "It was traumatic, but how wonderful it was he died in his own church among the people he loved the most."

State – Because God is a God of grace and salvation Rev. Arnold is in a better place. Like Noah, Christian's will be spared from spiritual death. Let's live this week a life of cautious optimism. Living cautiously in the fear of the Lord and optimistically because of the hope we have in Christ.

DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Teacher's Copy)

1. God said after the creation that it was good (Gen. 1:24, 32). What went wrong? (Gen. 6:5)
(God saw the wickedness of man and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart were evil.)
2. What is the meaning and significance of describing mankind as "corrupt" 3 times in (vs. 11-12)?
(Mankind was corrupt because they had destroyed God's creation.)
3. God gave clear directions to Noah in very specific language (6:13-21). How does the written Word of God give you clear direction for living?
4. How is Noah's response to God an excellent example of obedience? (6:22; 7:5)
5. Noah trusted God and followed His command, when have you trusted God regardless of the pressure around you?
6. Is there any decision in your life that you need to give to God to follow Him in complete obedience?
7. Noah waited until the land was dry, he demonstrated tremendous patience. How are you on waiting on God?
8. Outline God's blessing of Noah.
 - a. **(9:1) Established a new earthly order**
 - b. **(9:2-3) Provided provision for food from animals and plants**
 - c. **(4-6) Prohibited eating animals with lifeblood in them and killing other humans**
9. Outline God's promises in (Gen. 9).
 - a. **(8-11) No more universal judgment by flood**
 - b. **(12-17) The sign of this promise is the rainbow**

DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Student's Copy)

1. God said after the creation that it was good (Gen. 1:24, 32). What went wrong? (Gen. 6:5)

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8. Outline God's blessing of Noah.
 - a. (9:1)
 - b. (9:2-3)
 - c. (4-6)

9. Outline God's promises in (Gen. 9).
 - a. (8-11)
 - b. (12-17)

LIVING LIKE NOAH



Work through the following characteristics of Noah and determine to adopt his example in your own life.

OBEDIENCE –

How obedient are you in each area of your life?

Where do you need to improve?

PERSEVERANCE –

Where have you given up on God's will in your life because you did not see results fast enough?

How can you renew your commitment to perseverance?

RISK-TAKING –

Where do you need to step out on faith?

RIGHTEOUSNESS –

What do you need to confess to begin anew in righteousness?

EVANGELISM –

Noah worked for years trying to get people to repent. Is there anyone you have given up on?

What do you need to do to stay focused on them once again?

THE Word For The Week

"Babel: Why We're Divided"

(Genesis 11:1-9)

Monday – Read Genesis 10:5, 20, 31 and Genesis 11:1

- Why do you think Genesis 11:1 says that there was one language before Babel, since Genesis 10:5, 20, and 31 indicate there were many languages prior to the flood?
- What do you think the world would be like today if we all spoke the same language?

Tuesday – Read Genesis 11:2-3 and Matthew 7:24-27

- Why do you think it is significant that the people chose to use bricks and tar instead of stone?
- What is the difference between man's building process and God's building process?
- What do Genesis 11:3 and Matthew 7:24-28 have in common?
- Think of some of the ways that we sometimes try to build with the wrong materials or on an unstable foundation?

Wednesday – Read Genesis 11:4

- What did the people think would happen if they built the tower?
- What was the sin that the people committed?
- In what ways do we struggle with this same sin?
- How are some Christian communities like the people described in this verse?

Thursday – Read Genesis 11:5-7 and Genesis 18:21

- Since God is omniscient, what do you think, "the Lord came down to see the city..." means?
- Why was the Lord concerned about what the people were doing?
- Why do you think God allows us to continue down the wrong path for so long before stopping us?
- How is God's love revealed in the creation of different languages?

Friday – Read Genesis 11:8-9, Genesis 1:28, and Genesis 9:1

- How did the Lord stop the building?
- Why do you think he chose this method?
- What are some of the possible dangers of globalization?
- What are the similarities between the Internet and the Tower of Babel?
- When you see a rainbow today, how does it make you feel? How should it make you feel and why?

Ancient/Future - A Journey through Genesis

"Flood: When God sees sin"

Genesis 6:5-9:17

(Exegetical . . . What it meant Israel back THEN)

Note: By chapter 6 of Genesis sin had filled the earth like a universal infection of evil. Humans had "destroyed" (corrupted) the creation with all kinds of evil and wrongdoing. God, who hated sin, looked down and grieving, determined to judge the inhabitants of the land.

Remember that the serpent had denied God's promise of judgment (3:4). And Israel must never doubt that their Lord would judge their sin. That is how He dealt with sin in Noah's day. That is how He would deal with Israel's sins of doubt, unbelief, and disobedience. Moses' warning was unambiguous.

Noah was the sole exception to the corruption that had spread across the land. He was righteous and blameless. He "walked" with the Lord. And to Noah and his family God demonstrated grace (favor). Noah was the remnant.

**THE LORD'S RESPONSE TO THE SIN OF MANKIND,
SIN THAT HAD CORRUPTED THE LAND (CREATION), WAS**

**1) TO WIPE OUT EVERY LIVING CREATURE, EXCEPT FOR
THE RIGHTEOUS AND BLAMELESS NOAH WHOM HE DELIVERED BY MEANS
OF THE ARK WHICH FLOATED ABOVE THE FLOOD WATERS OF JUDGMENT,
ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY AND ENOUGH ANIMALS OF EACH KIND TO
REPOPULATE THE LAND, AND**

**2) TO COVENANT WITH NOAH AND ALL LIVING CREATURES NEVER AGAIN
TO JUDGE THE WORLD BY FLOOD.**

- I. The reasons the Lord determined to wipe out mankind, but to favor Noah, were because mankind had "destroyed" creation, but Noah was righteous and blameless, having a relationship of obedience before the Lord, (6:5-12).
 - A. The sole exception to the Lord's word of judgment [that He would destroy (wipe out) mankind and all the animals and birds that He had created], since He was sorry He had made them, in that He was grieved in His heart because wickedness had multiplied on the earth and mankind's intent was only and always evil, was Noah who found favor (grace) with the Lord, (6:5-8).
 - B. The righteous [before man] and blameless [before God] character of Noah who "walked with God" (suggesting a relationship of obedience and blessing) contrasted to the corruption and violence that God saw had filled the land, (6:9-12).

Note: The word "corrupt" meant "to destroy" and was used three times in 11-12. Mankind had "destroyed" God's creation. That was why He would "wipe them out." But Noah was the remnant who would escape God's judgment; being righteous and blameless, maintaining a relationship with God.

- II. God's words of warning, instruction, explanation, and promise, given to prepare Noah to escape the coming judgment, were fully obeyed, (6:13-22).
 - A. God's warning to Noah of His intent to destroy (same as "corrupt" in 11-12) mankind revealed His reason for judgment: mankind had filled the land with violence (outrage, wrong), (6:13).

- B. God's instructions to Noah concerning the building of an ark (a "chest" in which to escape) specified the details of its construction, (6:14-16).
- C. God's explanation to Noah regarding the reason for his building the ark was that He was bringing a flood upon the land to destroy all flesh so that everything that breathed would perish [creation reversed], (6:17).
- D. God's promise to Noah was that He would establish a covenant with him (and with his sons and their families), (6:18).
- E. God's instructions to Noah concerning the animals and provisions he was to bring aboard the ark provided for the survival of all the species of animal and the survival of Noah's family, (6:19-21).
- F. Noah's response to God's words was full obedience, (6:22).

Note: The pattern of God's provision [He spoke, His command was carried out, the result was blessing (9:1)] echoed the story of creation (Genesis 1:28) and anticipated the construction of the tabernacle (Exodus 39:43). Moses' point for Israel was clear. God had a plan and when they followed that plan fully because of their faith in Him, they could expect deliverance and blessing. They would be a remnant of righteous and blameless people in an evil (fallen) world and they would find favor (grace) in the eyes of the Lord.

- III. The result of the flood, from which the Lord preserved Noah and his family because he alone on the earth was righteous, was that every bird, animal, and human being not on the ark was destroyed, leaving only the obedient Noah, his family, and his animals alive, (7:1-24).

- A. Noah's consistent (cp. 6:22) response to the Lord's command to come into the ark before the rain was to come and destroy all living things was obedience, (7:1-6).
- B. The result of the 40 days of flooding that covered all the mountains under the sky was that all except Noah and his family and the animals that were on board, as God had commanded, were destroyed from the land, (7:7-24).

Note: The point of chapter 7 was to demonstrate that the Lord did judge the sinful inhabitants of the land, as He had promised. Moses also gave Israel a vivid picture of His care for the obedient (see 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16) remnant. The Lord invited Noah to come into the ark, noted his righteousness, warned him of coming judgment, shut the door, and delivered Noah.

- IV. The Lord's response to Noah's sweet smelling sacrifice, after He had remembered Noah and caused the waters to recede, and commanded Noah to exit the ark, was to promise never again to destroy every living thing as He had by the flood, (8:1-22).

- A. The result of God's remembering Noah and all that were with him in the ark was that He caused the flooding to stop and the waters to decrease so that the ark rested (see 2:15) on the mountains of Ararat, (8:1-5).
- B. Noah's waiting and testing of the water's level eventually resulted in his discovering that the land had dried from the flooding, (8:6-14).
- C. Noah's response to God's command that he bring out from the ark with him all his family and all the animals so that they might be fruitful and multiply (see 1:22, 28) was obedience and worship, (8:15-20).

Note: Moses portrayed a renewed creation here. It was clearly a fresh start. The earth had reverted to chaos (cp. 1:2), but with the waters receding a renewed

("washed") earth emerged. Noah was starting well by building an altar and offering burnt offerings.

D. The Lord's response to Noah's sweet smelling sacrifice [acceptable to the Lord] was to promise never again to destroy by a flood every living thing as He had, (8:21-22).

Note: The oracle of verse 22 promised that, unlike the situation during the year long flood, the land would experience the four seasons on a yearly basis without interruption.

- V. God's blessing of Noah, which included both provision for life and the protection of life, established a new earthly order that would preserve the promise of blessing, (9:1-7).
- A. God's blessing of Noah, as He had blessed Adam (1:28), established a new [renewed] earthly order [of being fruitful and multiplying] that would preserve the promise of blessing, (9:1).
 - B. God's blessing included provision for life by providing both animals and plants for food, (9:2-3).
 - C. God's blessing included a prohibition against devaluing life by prohibiting the eating of animals with the lifeblood still in them and the shedding of human blood, (9:4-6).
 - D. God's blessing of Noah, as He had blessed Adam (1:28), established a new [renewed] earthly order to preserve the promise of blessing, (9:7).
- VI. God's covenant with Noah and with all living creatures, including both the promise of no more universal judgment by flood and the sign in the cloud of the rainbow, was meant to encourage Noah after the destruction of the flood, (9:8-17).
- A. God's covenant with Noah and all living creatures included the promise of no more universal judgment by flood, (9:8-11).
 - B. God's covenant with Noah and all living creatures included the sign of the rainbow, (9:12-17).
- Note: The effect of God's covenant, as promised in 6:18, would have been to comfort the flood/judgment wearied/worried(?) Noah.

(Theological . . . What it means to believers ALWAYS)

**GOD'S GRACIOUS DELIVERANCE OF A RIGHTEOUS REMNANT
PRESERVES THE PROMISE OF HIS BLESSING UPON HIS PEOPLE.**

**[When sin disrupts creation, God will judge,
but not without demonstrating grace to the faithful.]**

- I. The character of God demands that He judge sin, (6:5-7, 11-13).
- II. The righteous/blameless believer finds favor (grace) before God, (6:8-10).
- III. The righteous/blameless believer escapes judgment through obedience, (6:14-22).
- IV. The obedience of one preserves a remnant from God's judgment of all the wicked, (7:1-24).
- V. The delivered remnant, by waiting and worship, receives God's promise of protection, (8:1-22).
- VI. The believing remnant must both produce and protect life in the renewed creation, (9:1-7).

VII. God's promise never to destroy the earth by flood should encourage the remnant to faithfulness, (9:8-17).

(Pedagogical . . . What it means to us NOW)
To escape God's certain judgment of sinners . . .
BEGIN/DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.
(Compare with Proverbs 10:25)

- I. God will, without any doubt judge sinners, (6:5-7, 11-13).
- II. Only the righteous/blameless will find favor (grace), (6:8-9; Proverbs 10:25).
 - A. God provides a means of escape for the obedient, (6:14-22).
 - B. Just as the obedience of Noah saved a remnant, so the obedience of Jesus saves those who trust in Him, (7:1-24; Romans 5:19).
 - C. The believing remnant waits for final deliverance and worships, (8:1-22).
 - D. The believing remnant hopes in God to bless His people, (9:1-17).
- III. **BEGIN/DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, (6:8-9).**
 - A. Become righteous/blameless by trusting Jesus for salvation, (Romans 3:21-24).
 - B. Walk with God in obedience to deliver others to salvation, (Matthew 5:16).