

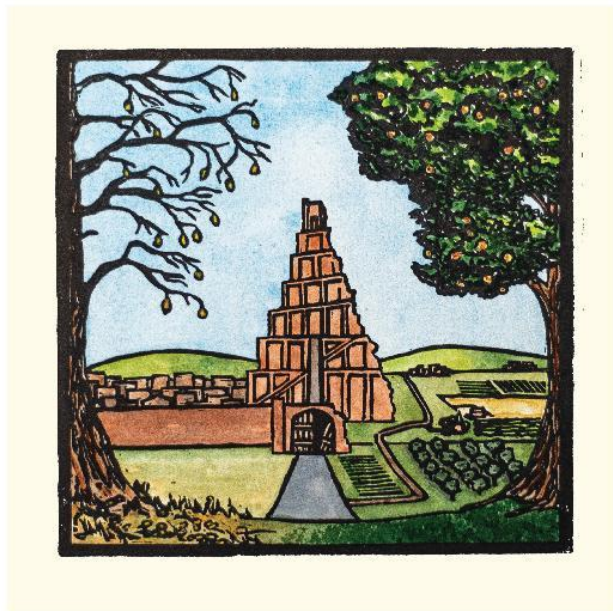


PARTS 3-4
**Flood &
Babel**

GENESIS
GROWTH GUIDE



PART 3: FLOOD
Art by Megan Ott
Medium: Gouache



PART 4: BABEL
Art by Gayle Havercroft
Medium: Blockprint

A note from our Communications Director: Thank you to the artists who have contributed their time and talents to create visuals to go along with our Genesis series. Your work is a beautiful reflection of our creator God. You can see the original art displayed in the hallway between the Foyer and the Education Wing.

Genesis: Trusting God's Grace in a Fallen World

As we enter into the story of the flood and the tower of Babel in Genesis, we continue to see how wicked and rebellious humanity is. Despite this terrible affront to God's character and rule, we also continue to see God's grace displayed as He saves Noah and his family and then furthers His plan to display His glory among the nations when He confuses their languages and scatters the families of the earth. The Lord is the King of the earth. He rules and destroys His enemies. No plans against Him prosper. His plan—to make a people for Himself, to establish His kingdom, and to thus display His glory—begins to take shape through the descendants of Noah, who become the nations of the world.

We continue to pray that our study of Genesis will shape all of us in our love for God, our worship of God, and our view of the world. May we grow together as His followers more and more into the image of Christ!

Special thanks to the artists in our church who have contributed their work for the covers of these Growth Guides! They are Megan Ott and Gayle Havercroft. Your artwork reflects your love for the Creator who made you with these creative skills!

Nathan and the Growth Guide team: Howard Amland, Shae Brown, Chris Connelly, Tom Dudenhofer, Lana Pustovit (publishing), Seth Weber (graphics), and Lynn Yount.

Schedule

Genesis 6:8-22 Noah (Equipping Night Week)	February 2, 2025
Genesis 7:1-8:19 The Flood	February 9, 2025
Genesis 8:20-9:17 God's Covenant with Noah	February 16, 2025
Genesis 9:18-11:9 Noah's Family & Babel	February 23, 2025

Lesson 1: Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6:8-22 - Sermon on February 2

Equipping Night on February 5

(Most groups will go to this instead of meeting as they normally meet)

Central Teaching & Application

God declares the destruction of all flesh on the earth because of their corruption. Noah walks with God and is righteous, and God instructs him to build an ark so that he and his family will be saved. We fear God and trust Him for salvation because He is a holy God who judges wicked people and saves those who have faith in Him.

Launching Question

Genesis 6:11 says the earth was corrupt in God's sight and filled with violence. How do you think the current state of humanity compares with how it was back then?

Genesis 6:8-10, 22

1. The description of Noah in 6:8 ends the "book of Adam" in Genesis. In the middle of a world filled with wickedness stands one man who finds favor in the eyes of the Lord. According to these verses, why did Noah find favor?

Discussion Question

2. What does it mean that Noah "walked with God" and was a righteous and blameless man in his generation?

Genesis 6:11-13

3. What do you see here about the state of humanity at the time of Noah? What things are emphasized through repetition in this passage as well as in 6:5?

4. Because of the sinfulness of humanity, what did God decide to do?

Discussion Question

5. What truths about God do you learn from this passage?

Biblical Understanding of Humanity

We see in Genesis 6 that humans are thoroughly corrupt and wicked. The doctrine sometimes called “total depravity” means that every human being, except the Lord Jesus, is guilty of rebelling against God. Every part of our being is tainted and affected by sin. We do not love God with all of our lives, nor do we worship Him as He deserves to be worshipped. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves. No, we are not all as bad as we could be, but we all are wicked and corrupt in the sight of God. Idolatry and violence are pervasive among all of us before Christ saves us. We all need to be redeemed from our sinfulness and given new hearts that are able to walk with God and live righteous lives!

Genesis 6:14-22

6. What did God command Noah to do?

7. Draw a picture of (or describe) the ark and make notes about what is to be included on the ark and how big it was supposed to be.

Discussion Question

8. What do you learn about God from this section?

Application

9. In what ways do you see remnants of corruption from your old self before Christ saved you still showing up in your life? What do you want to put off or put out of your life because it is not pleasing in God's sight?
10. How do you want to grow in obeying God's word by faith as Noah did? What are a few specific ways you are seeking to obey God and walk with God right now?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for providing Noah and his family with salvation through the command to build the ark. Thank you for having mercy on the human race and all the animals despite the extreme corruption and violence of humanity. Help us to put off remnants of corruption and violence in our lives as we trust in you, Jesus! Thank you for being the one who saves us from the wrath of God.

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 2: The Flood

Genesis 7:1-8:19 - Sermon on February 9

Central Teaching and Application

God keeps His word, blotting out every living thing on the earth by the flood and saving Noah and his family and the animals on the ark. God is just, wrathful, loving and merciful at the same time. Have faith in God, who keeps His word and is the Creator King!

Launching Question

Which animal are you most thankful was included on the ark? What job would you have preferred if you were on the ark with Noah?

Genesis 7:1-10

1. What did God command Noah to do?
2. What did God promise to do?
3. What do you learn about Noah in this passage (see 7:1, 7:5-7)?

Genesis 7:11-24

4. Describe the timeline and progression of the flood. When did it start and how long did it last? Where did all the water come from?
5. What actions do you see Noah and his family and the animals doing in 7:13-16, and what actions does God do?
6. What happens to everything that has the breath of life that is not on the ark?

Discussion Question

7. What do you learn about God from this section?

Genesis 8:1-19

8. What happens with Noah and the ark and the flood in this section? It starts with what God does in 8:1-3. What does God do and then what happens?

Mountains of Ararat

“Ararat,’ known as ancient Urartu in Assyrian records, was an extensive territory and bordered the northern Mesopotamian region. It reached its political zenith in the ninth to sixth centuries B.C. Urartu surrounded Lake Van with boundaries taking in southeast Turkey, southern Russia, and northwest Iran.” (Mathews, K. A. 1996. Genesis 1-11:26. Vol. 1A. *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.) The mountain currently called “Mount Ararat” in Armenia was given that name later and is probably not the mountain that the ark came to rest on, although it is in the same region. What we see here with this reference to the mountains of Ararat and all of the other descriptions in this account is that the flood is a true historical account. The many flood accounts from multiple ancient civilizations further demonstrate this same reality: God flooded the earth.

Scan the QR code to see a map.



9. How does Noah determine that the earth is ready for them to come out of the ark?

10. What does God tell Noah in 8:15-17?

“God remembers”

Genesis 8:1 says God “remembered” Noah. In this context, remember means more than to call to mind. It means that God remembered His covenant with Noah (6:18) and acted to keep His covenant and show His steadfast love and faithfulness. God remembered His covenant with Abraham in Exodus 2:24 and acted to deliver His people from Egypt. In response to how God remembers and keeps His covenant, His covenant people should remember and keep their side of the covenant, loving the Lord with all their hearts.

Discussion Questions

11. What has God done now to remember us (and to rescue us), His new covenant people? What should we do as we remember Him?

12. Considering the command to be fruitful and multiply on the earth, in what ways is this a restart on the beginning of creation that we saw in Genesis 1-2? In what ways is this not a fresh start, and what problems from before the flood continue?

13. How does the biblical account of Noah help you better understand the New Testament references to Noah (see Matthew 24:37-38; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5)?

Application

14. Considering the attributes of God that are displayed in this passage, write a prayer of adoration and praise to God.

15. Noah and his children were not able to rule the earth in righteousness as God had commanded. The corruption and wickedness continued. What is our hope for true and ultimate restoration of the earth and the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity? How will Christ's second coming accomplish what was accomplished at the flood, but perfectly?

16. Noah heard the Lord's words, believed Him, and obeyed. What commands of Scripture are you listening to and obeying right now in your life?

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 3: God's Covenant with Noah

Genesis 8:20-9:17 - Sermon on February 16

Central Teaching and Application

God makes a covenant with Noah and his descendants (humanity), blessing them and commanding them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and promising to never again destroy the earth with a flood. Obey God as you trust Him to keep His promises. Be disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus, thus filling the earth with the image of God.

Launching Question

What are some examples of contracts or covenants that you have entered into during your life?

Genesis 8:20-22

1. What does Noah do when they get off the ark, and what is God's response?

Discussion Questions

2. What is most encouraging to you from God's promises in 8:21-22?
3. Look up the lyrics to the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. What does the second verse proclaim about the continuing of seasons?

Genesis 9:1-7

4. God blesses Noah and gives him a command. What is the command in 9:1 and 9:7?

Where else is this command given? What is the significance of this command?

5. What provision does God give to Noah and his descendants in 9:2-3?

6. What two restrictions does God give them in 9:4-6?

Discussion Questions

7. What is the connection between God blessing humanity (giving them favor) and the command to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth?

8. What is the connection between humans being created in God's image and the command to not murder another human being?

9. Do you think that the consequence of a person who sheds the blood of man (9:5-6) having his blood shed by man is still appropriate and relevant today? Why or why not? Consider passages like Romans 12:14-21 and Romans 13:1-7.

God's Covenant with Noah

A covenant is a binding contract or agreement based on promises. It is the basis of the strongest and deepest relationships. Sometimes there are conditions that both sides must fulfill. Other covenants are more one-sided, promises made by God that He ensures apart from any conditions on the recipients of the promises.

"The Noahic covenant is closer to the royal grant known from the ancient Near East where a deity bestows a benefit or gift upon a king. It has its closest parallels to the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants (Gen 15; 17; 2 Sam 7), which are promissory charters made by God with the individuals and their offspring, characteristically forever. Unlike the Mosaic covenant, in the royal grant form of covenant God alone is under compulsion by oath to uphold his promise to the favored party. Divine charter is a proclamation made by the Lord and is not an agreement. We find this in the Noahic covenant where the Lord obligates himself ("my covenant") to save the Noahic family and preserve the new world, also forever, without specific demands placed upon the patriarch (see 9:8–17)." (Mathews, K. A. 1996. [Genesis 1-11:26](#). Vol. 1A. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)

God gives Noah commands regarding the value of life and the need to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. However, His covenant promise in Genesis 9 is a one-sided commitment by God to never again destroy the earth with a flood. It is not conditional or based on humanity's obedience to God's commands. The covenant with Moses that God makes, which is most fully explained in Deuteronomy, includes requirements that Israel must keep and consequences if they do not keep those conditions. The covenant with Noah has a promise that God guarantees without any conditions that humans must keep.

Genesis 9:8-17

10. God told Noah in 9:8 that He was establishing a covenant with him and his offspring after him and with every living creature. The blessings and commands already given in 8:20-9:7 form the context of this covenant. What is God promising in this covenant He makes with Noah?

11. What is the sign (the visible, outward reminder or symbol) of this covenant?

Discussion Question

12. How does God's promise not to destroy the earth again with a flood fit together with His command to Noah and his descendants to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth?

Biblical Theology of Humanity

We see in this passage that humans are made in the image of God. Therefore, human life is valuable and should be protected. God strongly prohibits murder; He values human life. This is true for a baby who was just conceived and is in her mother's womb. It is true for the terminally ill person who is suffering and may want to be assisted in committing suicide. All human life is uniquely valuable because all humans are created in God's image. Becoming God's sons and daughters and worshippers as His image bearers is the ultimate goal and purpose of humanity.

Application

13. God's purpose for Noah and his family and for all of humanity was that we would be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with His image-bearers. God wants His glory and His rule to be manifest throughout the earth. This is done now, in part, as we continue to have families and have children as the Lord provides. However, it is also done as we follow Jesus and help others to follow Him as His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 3:10-11).

In what ways do you want to be a more faithful disciple of Jesus?

What specific commands do you want to obey?

What promises do you need to trust?

How do you want to help someone else follow Jesus this week?

Prayer

God, thank you for being pleased with Noah's offering to you and for choosing to bless humanity and give us the privilege of being fruitful and multiplying and filling the earth. Help us to represent you and your rule well through our obedience to your Word and our faith in Christ. Thank you for the promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood, which rainbows in the sky show us and remind you of so often. We praise you for your great faithfulness!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 4: Noah's Family and Babel

Genesis 9:18-11:9 - Sermon on February 23

Central Teaching & Application

Noah cursed Ham's offspring and prophesied that he would serve the offspring of Shem (including Israel). All of Israel's enemies came from Ham's line. The nations and languages of the earth all came from Noah's sons when God confused their language and scattered them. We should make disciples of Jesus from all the nations because He has purchased people from every nation and language to worship Him (Matthew 28:18-20, Revelation 5:9-10)!

Launching Question

If you were able to supernaturally know another language, which language would you want to know? Why?

Genesis 9:18-29

1. We see that all of the nations and languages of the earth came from Noah's three sons. This whole section, 9:18-11:9, explains how the nations of Moses' time came to exist. What happened with Noah and his sons at the beginning?
2. What curse and blessing did Noah declare or prophesy?

Discussion Question

3. What significance does this cursing and blessing of Noah's sons have for the people of Israel at the time of Moses?

Genesis 10:1-32

4. What kinds of nations came from the sons of Japheth (10:1-5)?
5. Which nations came from the sons of Ham who later had significant interactions with Israel (10:6-20)?
6. Which names in the line of Shem do you recognize (10:21-31)?

Genesis 11:1-9

7. What do you learn about the sons of Noah in 11:1-4 when they settled in the land of Shinar?

8. What did God say about humanity (11:5-6)?

9. What did God do in 11:7-9?

Discussion Questions

10. How were the sons of Noah rebelling against God's commands from 1:26-31 and 9:1?

11. How did the creation of different languages and the scattering of the people work together for the fulfillment of God's purpose to display His glory in the earth?

Biblical Theology of Humanity

We are still called to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with the image of God. One way we do this is by having families and children, as the Lord provides and allows. Most specifically, though, we fill the earth with the image of God by being disciples of Jesus (growing in the likeness of Christ who is the image of God) who make disciples of all the nations. This is what we aim to do in all of life; in every sphere (work, community, school, sports, the arts, family) we aim to be disciples who make disciples. When humanity works together, we are able to accomplish great good or evil. The church, submitted to Christ our Head, is able to build Christ's kingdom by being disciples who make disciples as we work together in the power of the Spirit!

Application

12. In what way do you want to work on further displaying the glory of God through your life as a disciple of Jesus?

13. What steps are you taking to help others to be disciples of Jesus?

14. How can you participate in making disciples of Jesus among all the languages and nations of the world?

Prayer

Father, thank you for being committed to displaying your glory in all the earth through all the different languages and nations you have created. Thank you, Jesus, for dying to pay the penalty for the sin and rebellion of all the nations, and for purchasing with your blood men and women from every nation and language to worship you! Spirit, thank you for empowering us to proclaim the gospel to the nations and for giving us true unity and life in Christ. May the Lamb who was slain receive the reward of His suffering, in our lives and in all the nations of the world!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

GROUPS

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