

Fallen

Genesis 3-5

Did You Know?

The Flood of Noah's time is a very important event in human and creation history. Many of the surrounding cultures, and even those not in the same area as Noah, have a Flood account or myth! This is because the flood actually happened, of course! Many scholars debate whether it was a local flood, just in Noah's immediate vicinity, or if it was a planet-wide flood. I would suggest to you that because the purpose of the flood was to get rid of all sinful flesh, it encompassed the whole planet. But the flood also becomes the paradigm for how God treats sin from now on, and even today, through a new creation!

Monday, June 17, 2013

Read: Genesis 6:1-8

Discuss: This is the preliminary reason that God finally comes to a decision concerning how to deal with the rampant wickedness of His creation. He deals with it by first being sorry that he has made them! We find that shocking as we are used to His grace, but this infraction is the last straw, and even God's longsuffering grace runs to an end. God responds by bringing judgment in the flood, but as we will see in Sodom with Lot, He preserves Noah, the righteous man left on the earth, and his family.

Act: What stories might cause you to wonder about God's goodness or grace or His mercy? Like many of the others, these stories often have two sides, for God is still gracious, even in His judgment. How about in your own life? Have you ever found that God was not gracious as He disciplines you to be obedient?

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Read: Genesis 6:9-7:5

Discuss: When God brings His judgment, He still gives Noah explicit instructions for his and his family's wellbeing through the ordeal, since Noah was a righteous man. You could say that God threw Noah a life jacket in showing him how to build the ark. And Noah obeyed, which is what saved his life and his family. God instructs us when He gives us a monumental task!

Act: What is God calling you to do today? What mission has He placed on your life and what passion has He put in your heart? God does not just leave us to figure out how to do the impossible. He gives us tools to do it. He teaches us, sends His Holy Spirit, and empowers us to do what he has called us to do? What are the tools God has given you to do this mission He has for you?

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Read: Genesis 7:11-24

Discuss: Here is the actual account of how the flood happened. God preserved Noah and his family, along with all breathing things on the earth, in the ark. Then God destroyed all that used to be on the planet. The Flood seems to be a re-creation, or at least a re-ordering of creation, starting with uprooting the ingrained sin in the world. Sin did not go away, but the earth would be fresh for a new start!

Act: Even in our own lives, God wants to keep the things we come into contact from destroying our hearts. He wants a pure people set apart for Him. What are some ways that we can avoid the temptations of this world and remain pure before God? What are some methods God uses to purify us in our lives?

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Read: Isaiah 54:1-10

Discuss: This prophecy is about the people of God and His plans for them. In verse nine, there is a reference to the days of Noah. God is speaking of His anger in those days, but these days, God will not move in that way. He chooses instead to forget His anger and attach His lovingkindness to us, even when we sin against Him. His grace is greater than our sin!

Act: God is a good God who wants our very best. When we fall short, we can trust that He is still working for our best. He wants to see us reach our destiny in Him and be what He created us to be. He loves us and is very kind despite our missing His mark of a high standard. How should we respond to God when He loves us this deeply? What are some active ways we can show our gratitude to Him?

Friday, June 21, 2013

Read: Matthew 24:36-44

Discuss: Jesus uses the historical account of Noah to show that the end times will be like the days of Noah. People were going about their lives, ignorant of God's plans, until it was too late. They ignored His words and His promises, and they found out the hard way about His destructive judgment. When Jesus comes back, it will be the typical, run-of-the-mill type day where He was not expected because the vast majority of people have not been looking for Him.

Act: As believers, we long for Jesus' return, and we live in a day that has the same moral decadence and the same problems it did in Noah's day. One wise man in the Scriptures reminding us that there is nothing new under the sun. The days will get worse, and our righteousness will stand out more, so that we might end up like Noah, who was ridiculed and mocked as a foolish person by those around him. We must be prepared for this coming time!

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Read: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Discuss: Peter makes some connections to the flood account of Noah when he talks about water baptism, and also when he talks about the spirits in prison that Jesus went to preach to. There are several different theories on what group Peter is talking about, but this group may be the people who did not listen to the message of God before He sent the flood. Or it might be a group like that group that did not listen to the Word.

Act: When we don't listen to God's warnings, we might endure His judgment. God wants us to live for Him, but He will not sacrifice His high and holy calling on our lives for our comfort. We must be very serious about sin, because there's only so much time before it is too late. Let us live for God's glory, like Noah, and not like the people who did not listen to His warnings!

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Read: Genesis 12:1-9

Discuss: This passage will whet your appetite for Pastor Jonathan's messages about Abraham.

As Abraham is so important to the Bible and to faith, we'll be thinking about his life and how he became the father of faith.

Act: Consider the message from God for this week and how it applies to you! What do you need to remember? What do you need to change?