

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 6:9—8:22

Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. Genesis 7:23b

1. Read Genesis 6:9—8:22. What is the condition of the world as this passage opens, and what does God resolve to do in response to it? (6:11–13; see also 6:5–7)
2. What words are used to describe Noah? (6:9) Why do you think God saves Noah? Do you think his upright life earns him a spot on the ark? (Read Romans 3:10; 9:15–16; Hebrews 11:6–7.)
3. Hebrews 11:7 commends Noah for his faith. List some of the ways you see his faith in action.
4. What were God's instructions for the building of the ark and for who should be on board the ark? What do we learn about God from all these details?
5. In Genesis 8:1 we read that "God remembered Noah." Pick two of the following passages and describe some characteristics of God's "remembering" that encourage you: Genesis 19:29; 30:22; Exodus 2:24–25; Psalm 136:1–2, 23; Luke 1:46–48, 54–55.
6. According to 1 Peter 3:20b–21, what are the floodwaters a picture of? What does baptism represent? (Romans 6:3–5)
7. The Flood is also a picture of what future event? (2 Peter 3:5–7, 10) What does this mean for the way we live now? (2 Peter 3:11–14)

8. How do you think Noah and his family felt about getting off the ark? What does Noah do once he is back on dry ground? (Genesis 8:20)

9. What promise does the Lord then make to himself? (Genesis 8:21)

10. What is the state of man's heart? (8:21) What is God going to do about the real problem of evil in our hearts? (Ezekiel 36:24–26; Hebrews 10:22–23)

11. What did the ark provide for Noah and his family? How is Jesus like the ark? Share an example from your own life.