



## Life Group Study Notes

### "We Are Family: Connected"

Ps. James Lowe - August 13, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Which do you like to do most at the ocean: swim, lay in the sun, or play?
- Has anyone ever had to rescue you out of a body of water? If so, what happened?
- At what age did you learn to swim? Are you a poor, moderate, or very good swimmer?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

Genesis 6:1-8 ESV *When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*

- The biblical narrative picks up from the story of Cain and his offspring, and leads to the era of Noah. The progression of sin from Adam to Cain to Noah is terrible, so much so that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
- God's response is not one of uncontrolled anger, but of anguish. God was pained in his heart over the evil condition and evil conduct of his creatures that he had made in his image. They were so far from God's original design that God actually regretted having made humans.
- Nevertheless, there was a man alive at the time who found favor with God. Through this man God would bring about a deliverance from the evil that was so prevalent.

Genesis 6:11-14, 17-18, 22 ESV *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all*

*flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark... For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you..." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.*

- The flood was a demonstration of God's holiness and justice in response to the evil and wickedness that dwells in the human heart and expresses itself in sinful behavior.
- At the same time God's interaction with Noah and his instruction to him to build an ark demonstrates God's mercy and grace to those who turn to God in faith and humility.
- The flood and the ark together point to Jesus on the cross. At the cross God demonstrated both his holiness and justice as well as his mercy and grace.
- The flood and ark also point to the end of the age when the final judgement takes place. At that time everyone who has ever lived will appear before the throne of God, and Jesus, who was crucified for the sins of the world, will himself judge every person. Those who are like the people of Noah's time and did not turn to God in faith, humility, and repentance will be justly punished by being eternally banished from God's presence. They will be destroyed in the eternal lake of fire.
- At the same time, those who did turn to God like Noah will receive glory and honor and immortality.

Paul wrote about the day when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

*Romans 2:6-11 ESV [God] will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.*

- It is critically important that each of us directs our hearts toward God like Noah did. We can do this by embracing Jesus and following him. He is the true ark of God's salvation. Everyone who calls upon him will be delivered from God's wrath. All who trust in him need not fear death, but may in hope look forward to heaven and to the resurrection on earth when Jesus comes back.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What kind of struggles do you have in trying to obey God?
- How can faith in Jesus help you overcome your struggles to obey God?
- How can the Holy Spirit help you overcome? How do you lay ahold of his help?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for the salvation and deliverance he has provided for us in Jesus Christ.
- Ask God for opportunities to talk with others about God's salvation that is in Jesus.
- Ask God to increase his righteous influence in your life through his word and Spirit.