

HIS STORY

God Judges Wickedness

Sin spread wide and sin spread deep. By the time we get to Genesis 6, we may be wondering what God thinks about this situation and what He will do about it.

Every thought was nothing but evil, we read. Imagine that kind of a world—a place where in every thought and deed people were in essence shouting at God: “I don’t trust You! I don’t believe You! I defy You!” Such is the essence of sin—a faithless defiance of God the Creator.

God’s reaction was one of sorrow and grief. Consider the weight of the statement in verse 6. The Lord was grieved. He felt anguish in His heart. That word “grieved” in Hebrew means “toil, languish, agony, to be injured in feeling.”

God could have destroyed the world and all its inhabitants, but instead He chose to purge creation of its great wickedness. Yet, He would save one family. He chose not to give up on all humanity, not to turn His back and start over completely. Even though He knew Noah and his descendants would again disappoint Him, defy Him, and walk in faithlessness, God decided to preserve this remnant. Why? Because like a father who will not stop loving his children no matter how often they disobey, God bound His heart to His people.

God Provides a Way of Escape

We’ve seen that God was grieved by the sin of the world, and in His holy judgment, He decided to wipe everything off the face of the earth and start again. But here is where the story takes a turn. God demonstrated His commitment to humanity by choosing to preserve a righteous man’s family.

Take a look at verse 8 and then verse 18. Noah alone found favor in God’s eyes, right? But then notice how it says that God would establish His covenant not with Noah alone but also with those who belong to him. Watch the progression: Noah received God’s favor, was declared righteous, and then his family benefited from his righteousness. The same truth is reiterated in Genesis 7:1: “Noah found favor. Noah was the only righteous one, yet Noah’s family was saved.

- **Where are some other instances recorded in Scripture where God was grieved. How did He respond? What are some things that might grieve God today? In what ways does He still show patience to His people today?**

Essential Doctrines

God’s Glory: *The glory of God is His manifest work, the way He represents His perfect character through His activity. It also refers to His excellent reputation and is given as one of the reasons we are to praise His name.*

Leader Note: *Because some content from the Personal Study Guide will not be available on the One Sheet, make sure to adapt the session based on how you use the material with your group.*

YOUR STORY

- ▶ **The Bible tells us that God grieved before His judgment took place. What does this tell us about His character and how He views sin in our lives?**
- ▶ **Why is it important for us to recognize that God's grace must precede our obedience?**
- ▶ **What lessons can we learn from Noah's example of faithfulness?**
- ▶ **Noah is described in the New Testament as a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5). In what ways does our mission to call people to repentance and faith resemble Noah's example?**

YOUR MISSION

Head

This session helps us to begin to see how and why it is important for God's grace and love to coexist with His judgment and righteous anger. Both of these characteristics are necessary, and together they reveal something deep to us about God's character.

- ▶ **Why is it important to stress both the grace and judgment of God when dealing with sin?**
- ▶ **What would happen if you had one without the other?**

Heart

Not only should our hearts be grieved over the fact that sin almost led, justifiably, to the entire destruction of the human race, but they should also be grieved over the fact that the God who judges sin also grieves because of sin's presence in our hearts. This was true not only back then, but even now. God is still grieved at the sight of the rebelliousness within us.

- ▶ **When was the last time you felt heartbroken over the sin in a friend's life? In your own life?**
- ▶ **How does the truth that God is grieved by our sin influence the way you deal with personal sin and temptation?**

Hands

In a similar way that Noah was obedient to God, we too should follow in his footsteps. And as God commissioned Noah and his family, we too are commissioned with the task of preaching the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus. The flood didn't stop the sin-infected hearts of men from spreading—it was never meant to. Only the cross is capable of that type of healing, and that is the message we have been called to share.

- ▶ **What are some positive characteristics of Noah that we can emulate as we seek to live on mission for God?**
- ▶ **How has this session challenged you to be more faithful in sharing the gospel with others?**