



FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date: 8/20/23

Series: Genesis: 5-11

Text: Genesis 7:1-24

BIG IDEA: The promises of God are sure; the provision of God is complete!

ICEBREAKER: Share about a time growing up when you were eagerly awaiting something.

CONTEXT: The earth and all living flesh is corrupt. Wickedness is rampant and violence fills the earth. God must deal with sin, and He has chosen to destroy all living flesh by flooding the earth with water. Yet, God provides refuge and salvation for a man named Noah, along with his family. Noah is a righteous man who walked with God. Here in Chapter 7, we're going to see God fulfilling His promise to flood the earth.

PASSAGE: Have volunteers read Genesis 7:1-24.

DISCUSSION:

1. As you read the first five verses, what stands out to you?
2. Why would God tell Noah to take seven pairs of "clean animals"?
3. What are we to make of the details given in verses 11-12?
4. Here again we see the ark a picture of salvation. How does the flood and the ark show us a picture of the Gospel?
5. What is the significance of verse 16 when we read that "the Lord shut him in"?
6. According to verses 18-24, how substantial and powerful was the flood?
7. How are we to react when we read something like we've just read in Chapter 7?

APPLICATION:

8. How does this passage impact the way you view God?
9. What do you sense the Lord is calling you to do in light of today's passage?

K4 CONNECTION:

God is faithful to His word, whether that's bringing about judgment for sin or providing salvation. We can trust in God's promises, especially in His promise to save everyone who places their faith in Jesus. We also know that Jesus is coming again, and just like everyone who was not in the ark experienced suffering and death, so will everyone who is not in Christ. As believers, we should live with a sense of urgency to go and tell others about the grace and mercy that can be found in Jesus Christ!

CARE AND PRAY:

- Pray for people in your life who are not following Jesus.
- Share any prayer requests.

COMMENTARY

[v.1-5] Having made the ark according to God's direction, Noah is now told to embark. He is instructed to take on board seven pairs of all clean animals and a pair of the animals that are not clean. On the distinction between clean and unclean creatures, see Lev. 11:1–47 and Deut. 14:4–20. Since after the flood some clean animals will be offered as sacrifices (see Gen. 8:20) and some will be eaten as food (see 9:3), to ensure their survival it was necessary to have more than one pair of each kind in the ark.

[v.5-16] is narrative that relates the complete and total obedience of Noah and the animals to God's command to enter the ark and the onset of the flood. The fullness of description, the use of epic apposition, and repeated mentions of the date give this scene weight and solemnity. The day when the old creation died is described with a gravity befitting the occasion. The threefold refrain "as God (the Lord) had commanded him" emphasizes the other central fact: Noah's fidelity to God led to his salvation.

Gordon J. Wenham, Genesis 1–15, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 177.

[v.11-12] A peculiar feature of the flood narrative is the number of detailed chronological notices (cf. 8:4–5, 13–14). By pinpointing the exact date of the flood within Noah's life, the text underlines that it was a real event. All the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened (7:11). Powerful imagery is used here to capture the intensity of the flood. From below and above, water poured out to cover the land. Rain fell continuously for forty days and forty nights (v. 12).

[v.13-16] The entry into the ark is here described again (cf. vv 7–9), but with extra details giving the whole occasion "a festive tone" as befits an act which marks one of the turning points in human history. Noah's great act of obedience not merely saved himself, but made possible the new world order, whose safety would be guaranteed by covenant. These verses thus portray the founders of the new humanity and new animal kingdom processing in a double column into the ark. As each group embarks, its name is called and recorded for posterity.

Gordon J. Wenham, Genesis 1–15, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 181.

The safety of those in the ark depended on both human and divine action. The LORD shut him in. The use of the personal name "Yahweh" ("LORD"; see note on 2:4) underscores God's special relationship with Noah.

[v.17-24] The devastating results of the flood are described, fulfilling the judgment that God had previously pronounced. The waters prevailed on the earth for 150 days (v. 24). The figure of 150 days, which includes the 40 days of rain mentioned in v. 12, is repeated in 8:3. In both places it denotes the five-month period that falls between the detailed chronological notices given in 7:11 (marking the very start of the flood on the 17th day of the second month) and 8:4 (when the ark

comes to a place of rest on the 17th day of the seventh month). It will be a further seven months before the land is sufficiently dry for those in the ark to disembark safely (see 8:13–14).

Commentary taken from the ESV Study Bible Genesis 7:1-24

The waters triumphant. Here the drama reaches its climax with the destruction of creation by the waters. Alliteration and repetition combine to describe a scene of watery chaos from which all life has disappeared beneath the waves. The absence of any personal names, apart from a parenthetical mention of Noah in v 23, enhances the atmosphere of desolation. The effects of the rising waters are portrayed by focusing on different aspects in turn. The ark floats (17–18), then the high mountains are covered (19–20), and all living creatures die (21–23). A brief cut to the ark again in 23b reminds the viewer that there is still a glimmer of hope, but the sequence closes with a final shot of the waters triumphing over the earth (24).

Gordon J. Wenham, Genesis 1–15, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 182.

WHERE'S THE GOSPEL

Prior to the flood, Noah walked with the Lord, trusting in Him at all cost. Divine grace kept Noah close to the Lord, so he walked with God and lived a life of wisdom (6:9). Noah is thus one of the great examples of what it means to live by faith (Heb. 11:7). Noah executed the mission of building the ark with integrity (cf. Matt. 24:37–42).

The story of the flood is a sober reminder that God's final judgment will echo the events surrounding Noah. This time, however, the earth will not be cleansed by water but will be purified as by fire (2 Pet. 3:6–7; cf. Matt. 24:37–42). Peter employs the analogy of the water of the flood to represent salvation from any further judgment (1 Pet. 3:21–22). God showed His favor to Noah by calling him to be His instrument of salvation. In full obedience to the Lord (Gen. 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16), Noah constructed an ark and led his family and the clean and unclean animals into it. He received the promise of preservation through covenant (6:18), waited patiently for the flood to be over, and upon leaving the ark he sacrificed an offering of thanksgiving (8:20).

Commentary taken from the ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible