

Noah: A Man of Faith and Obedience

Lesson for Sunday, February 4, 2024

Introduction:

- ⇒ Give the class time to reconstruct the story of Noah to the best of their memory.
- ⇒ Discuss: What are the main lessons you remember when you think about Noah and his part of Scripture?
- ⇒ For many, Noah is relegated to the preschool and children Sunday School classes. But there is much for Christians of all ages to learn and apply!

Bible Study:

1. The Historical Reality of Noah
 - a. To many (especially outside the faith), the account of Noah and the Ark is considered a story but not actual history. But the Bible doesn't treat Noah as a fable, but rather actual history.
 - b. We are first introduced to Noah in a genealogy Genesis 5:28-32. From the very first mention, Noah is presented as a real man who lived in a real time in actual history.
 - c. We must also consider the rest of Scripture. (Don't read these verses yet!)
 - i. Noah is included in Jesus's genealogy in Luke 3:36.
 - ii. Jesus referred to Noah in Luke 17:26 & Matthew 24:37-39.
 - iii. Peter mentions Noah twice in 1 Peter 3:19-22 & 2 Peter 2:5-10.
 - d. If we doubt the actual history of Noah, we have to doubt Luke, Peter and Jesus!
 - e. Discuss: Why is this an important point for us to consider? *Noah was a human being just like we are human beings. This should give us perspective as well as hope! There is much we can learn and apply in our own lives from the real example set by Noah.*
2. The World Noah Inhabited
 - a. Have the class look up the following verses and list the characteristics of his times on the board.
 - i. Genesis 6:11 – corrupt and filled with violence
 - ii. Matthew 24:37-39 – Jesus's point was that the people of Noah's day didn't give any attention to spiritual things. They were secularists.
 - iii. 2 Peter 2:5-10 – Peter is referring to Noah's world and the world of Lot. Note how the Amplified Bible renders this verse: *"Those who indulge in the corrupt passions of the sin nature, and despise authority. Presumptuous and reckless, self-willed and arrogant creatures, despising the majesty of the Lord, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties."*
 - b. Question: Does any of this sound familiar? Does any of this sound like it is describing the world in 2024? The parallels are scary!
3. The Qualities Noah Inhabited
 - a. Genesis 6:9

- i. Noah was **perfect**.
 1. The word means complete, wholesome, sound in one's integrity.
 2. Noah was not perfect as in sinless. But Noah's testimony was strong.
 - ii. Noah was **just**.
 1. The word means righteous in one's character, conduct and cause.
 2. Noah stood out and apart from the world around him.
 3. We would say that he was a holy person – set apart for God and for His purposes.
 - iii. Noah **walked with God**. When the whole world was walking away from God and the things of God, Noah was walking with God.
- b. Genesis 6:22
- i. Noah was **obedient**.
 - ii. In verses 14-21 God dictates the instructions for building the ark.
 - iii. Verse 22 is beautiful in its simplicity: *Thus did Noah*.
- c. Genesis 9:1
- i. Noah was **blessed**.
 - ii. The obedient life is a blessed life.
 - iii. God doesn't promise that all our days will be easy, but when we trust the Lord and follow Him, He will bless us.
4. The Hero of the Story
- a. Noah is not the hero of the story. "Noah & the Ark" is not actually about Noah.
 - b. The center of every Biblical account is always the Lord. What does this account remind us about God? *Have the class make some suggestions first...*
 - i. God judges sin.
 - ii. God saves those who trust in Him.
 - iii. God takes care of His children.

Lessons from Noah:

- ⇒ It is possible to be a righteous follower of God in the most unrighteous of cultural settings. The sinfulness of the world is not an excuse for the Christian to sin.
- ⇒ When we stand up for God we will stand out from the world.
- ⇒ We don't have to know everything to obey God.
 - Noah hadn't seen rain but he built the ark. Noah couldn't imagine what God was about to do with a world-wide flood. But he obeyed the instructions he had.
- ⇒ God notices the faithfulness of His children (see Genesis 7:1).
 - Sometimes we feel isolated in this world. Sometimes we feel like we are drowning in the tide of sinfulness in this world. God sees. God knows.