

TALKINGPOINTS
WALKINGPOINTSA publication of **DISCIPLE U**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
 Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What do I see?*

- ① How is Noah described in contrast to the rest of humanity (Genesis 6:5-9)? List descriptions of the world, God's evaluation of human hearts, and the specific language used about Noah.
- ② What specific instructions does God give Noah regarding the ark and the flood (Genesis 6:13-22)? List the dimensions, materials, purpose of the ark, and Noah's role.
- ③ What actions does Noah take after the flood waters recede (Genesis 8:18-22)? Note the first recorded act Noah performs and God's response to it.

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- ④ What does it mean that Noah was "righteous" and "blameless" in his generation (Genesis 6:9; Hebrews 11:7)? Does this imply sinlessness? How does faith factor into Noah's righteousness?
- ⑤ Why does God choose to save humanity through one family rather than starting over (Genesis 9:8-11)? What does this reveal about God's purposes, faithfulness, and commitment to creation?
- ⑥ What is the significance of the rainbow, God's covenant sign (Genesis 9:12-17)? How has Noah already seen God's faithfulness?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- ⑦ What does Noah's obedience teach us about faithfulness in a morally corrupt culture (Genesis 6:22; Matthew 24:37-39)? In what ways might faithful obedience today look countercultural or costly?
- ⑧ How should God's patience and judgment in the flood shape our understanding of grace and accountability (Genesis 6:3; 2 Peter 3:5-9)? How do you personally reconcile God's mercy and His seriousness about sin?
- ⑨ How can we help each other trust that God remains faithful even in judgment, failure, or catastrophe? Where do you personally struggle to trust God's character?

1 Description of the World

- "The wickedness of man was great in the earth" (v.5).
- "Every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (v.5).
- "The earth was corrupt in God's sight" (v.11).
- "The earth was filled with violence" (v.11).
- "All flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (v.12).

God's Evaluation

- The Lord "regretted that he had made man" (v.6).
- It "grieved him to his heart" (v.6).

Specific Language About Noah

- "found favor (grace) in the eyes of the LORD" (v.8).
- "A righteous man" (v.9).
- "Blameless in his generation" (v.9).
- "Noah walked with God" (v.9).

2 • God will "bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh" (v.17).

- The ark is to preserve life: "to keep them alive with you" (v.19).

Materials: gopher wood; "Make rooms in the ark.;" "Cover it inside and out with pitch".

Dimensions: Length: 300 cubits; Breadth: 50 cubits; Height: 30 cubits (v.15)

A roof (or window) "finished to a cubit above" (v.16).

"Set the door of the ark in its side."

"Make it with lower, second, and third decks" (v.16).

Noah's Role: Enter the ark with his wife, sons, and sons' wives (v.18); Bring two of every living thing (later specified clean/unclean in ch. 7); Store food for all (v.21); "Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him" (v.22).

3 **Noah:** built an altar to the LORD" and offered burnt offerings from clean animals and birds.

God: "smelled the pleasing aroma" (8:21). He resolves never again to curse the ground because of man; nor strike down every living creature.

There is a promise of ongoing creation order: "Seedtime and harvest... shall not cease" (8:22).

The significance: Noah's first act is worship, and God responds with a promise of common grace stability.

4 Scripture consistently teaches universal sin (cf. Gen 8:21; Rom 3:23). "Blameless" often means integrity or wholeness—not perfection. Noah acted "by faith." He "constructed an ark... in reverent fear." He became "an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

Noah's righteousness was by God's grace ("found favor"); was expressed in faith and demonstrated by obedience. This is covenantal and relational righteousness, not sinless perfection.

5 God establishes His covenant:

- "I establish my covenant with you and your offspring... and every living creature" (9:9–10).
- Never again shall all flesh be cut off by a flood (9:11).

What This Reveals:

- Faithfulness: God preserves His creation purposes from Genesis 1.
- Commitment to humanity despite sin.
- Redemptive continuity: He works through lineage (anticipating Abraham and ultimately Christ).
- Covenant mercy, not annihilation and replacement.
- God chooses preservation and promise over abandonment.

6 The rainbow is a covenant sign, signifying God's promise not to destroy all flesh by flood again. It is a reminder "for all future generations." Noah already had seen God's faithfulness in that God preserved him through judgment: God remembered Noah (8:1). God safely brought them out. God accepted his worship. God promised ongoing stability of the earth. The rainbow formalizes what Noah has already experienced: mercy within judgment. abandonment.

7 "Noah did all that God commanded." Jesus said that people were eating and drinking, unaware until judgment came. Noah's (and our) faithful obedience will look strange to them. Obedience doesn't require visible confirmation—Noah built the ark for decades before the flood came. Faith acts on God's word before outcomes are seen.

What might "countercultural faithfulness" look like today?

- Sexual purity in a permissive culture.
- Integrity in business when dishonesty is normalized.
- Public identification with Christ.
- Patient endurance when mocked.
- Costly generosity or sacrificial parenting.
- Being misunderstood, marginalized, or materially disadvantaged.

8 Genesis 6:3 implies a period of restraint (2 Peter 3:9).

Yet the flood demonstrates real accountability. Divine grief does not negate divine justice.

Grace delayed judgment, provides warning and a way of salvation—but persistent rebellion meets judgment.

God's mercy and seriousness about sin are not contradictory; they are complementary expressions of holiness and love.

9 We help one another by: Rehearsing God's past faithfulness, helping each other interpret suffering through the lens of God's promises, by praying honestly (lament + hope), by bearing burdens practically, keeping eternity in view, and reminding each other that judgment is never arbitrary but purposeful.

Briefly share your own struggles in trusting God's character, inviting others to share their own.

Sermon Summary Key Text: Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6

While Noah is best known for being the builder of the ark and the guardian of a pair of all earth's creatures, he is included in God's Hall of Faith for a different reason. It wasn't so much that he built the ark and gathered the animals, it was how he did it (Hebrews 11:7). Noah built the ark and thus prepared an agent of salvation for the world by faith. Against a backdrop of sin and corruption and unbelief, Noah walked with God. God always has a remnant—even if it is a remnant of one—a remnant whose faithfulness He can depend upon (Genesis 6:8). When the world was about to self-destruct, Noah was the person who found favor in God's eyes. Noah was chosen by God and spared from judgment because he was a man of faith.

Genesis 6:5-7 records the pervasiveness of evil and wickedness on the earth in Noah's day. Noah and his family were the only ones out of the entire population of the earth who were considered by God to be righteous; a fellowship of eight (1 Peter 3:20). "Total depravity" means that every part of our life is infected with depravity. There is no part of our lives not touched by the root of wickedness and evil. They were in the full-blown manifestation of what we are moving toward in our day - the denial of absolute truth and morality. The wickedness affected "every intent of the thoughts of his heart." Wickedness permeated every dimension of man's being in Noah's day: his mind, will, and emotions. From Genesis 6:5, we know that this wickedness, this evil was active, not passive.

Genesis 6:11–13 refers to the violence which filled the earth. These acts were the natural result of hearts filled with lust and evil. When mankind has no regard for anything except his own desires, he will stop at nothing to fulfill them. God informed Noah of a coming judgment, and Noah preached this message of judgment every day for 120 years, but he had no converts outside of his own family. Jesus himself commented on the days of Noah in Matthew 24:37-39. Noah's neighbors knew better but dismissed his warnings about a coming judgment. That is exactly the setting that we are living in today. The world's culture laughs at Christians when we talk about a coming judgment coupled with the second coming of Christ. Noah was a picture of what we can expect in our day as judgment draws closer (2 Peter 3:3-9). But just as the ark was the only safe place to be in Noah's day, so Jesus Christ is our ark. He is the only safe refuge to carry us through the judgment to come.

Noah was not godly because of his environment. He was godly because he had been changed by the grace of God (Genesis 6:8). Noah found that favor through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9). You become a child of God by personally responding to His grace. It wasn't Noah's parents who saved him; it was God and His grace. Noah personally responded to the grace of God. Noah's faith was strong and contagious. His sons and their wives were drawn to Noah's God by Noah's faith and the grace his life manifested. Noah's faith was evident to all who knew him (Genesis 6:9). That Hebrew word "righteous" implies more than just moral uprightness—it suggests that he was genuine and sincere! Noah's walk with God was all the more remarkable when we realize that he was told by God to do something that had never been done before. He was told to build an ark. Noah walked with God. He listened to what God said, and he believed that what He said would come to pass.

God made very specific revelations to Noah. In Genesis 6:11-12, God revealed His divine perspective of mankind's wicked spiritual state. God revealed His plan to judge the world through a flood (v. 13). In the subsequent verses, He shared His plan to offer salvation to Noah and his family through the safety of the ark. Noah's faith was "exact" in its obedience (v. 14–16). Had Noah not followed God's instructions exactly, neither he, nor his family, nor the animals would have survived the tumultuous flood that came upon the earth. With both Jesus and Noah, the means of deliverance was carefully planned and prepared. And in both cases, to experience God's promised deliverance from judgment, God's instructions must be carefully followed. We should never doubt God's promises. Likewise, we should never dismiss His warnings. If God says something is going to happen, we should believe Him (Genesis 6:17). Not only was God's judgment exact, so was His plan of salvation (v. 18). Failure to go through that one provided door would result in a failure to enter into God's salvation (Genesis 7:1; Matthew 7:13; John 10:9 & 14:6; Acts 4:12). Noah's faith was seen in his ongoing obedience (Genesis 6:22). To experience the salvation God has provided for our generation we must follow Noah's example and believe God's promises and embrace God's provision. All that God commands, He wants us to do, because He knows what is best for us.

Will you determine to walk with God in this deteriorating culture? Will you take a stand for Him, and point your family, friends and neighbors to Him? Will you urge them to enter into God's salvation through the narrow door—His Son Jesus Christ?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**Pastor Doug said that, ever since Genesis 3, humans have been "totally depraved".
But what does that even mean—and is it true of me? Let's see...**

Monday— Human sinfulness is universal and rooted in Adam's fall; corruption is inherited, not learned.

- Romans 5:12 _____
- Romans 3:23 _____
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 _____

Tuesday— Every aspect of human nature is corrupted by sin. Sin affects the mind, heart, will, and body—not just behavior.

- Jeremiah 17:9 _____
- Romans 3:10–12 _____
- Titus 1:15 _____

Wednesday— The natural human mind is hostile to God. Apart from grace, humans do not merely misunderstand God; they resist and oppose Him.

- Romans 8:7 _____
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 _____
- Ephesians 4:17–18 _____

Thursday— Human will is in bondage to sin. Humans make real choices, but their will is enslaved to sinful desires and cannot choose God apart from divine grace.

- John 8:34 _____
- Romans 6:16–17 _____
- Jeremiah 13:23 _____

Friday— Humans are spiritually dead and unable to save themselves. Sin results in spiritual death, not merely sickness; dead people do not revive themselves.

- Ephesians 2:1 _____
- Colossians 2:13 _____
- John 6:44 _____

Saturday— Salvation is entirely dependent on God's initiative. Only God's grace can overcome human depravity.

- John 1:12–13 _____
- Ezekiel 36:26–27 _____
- Titus 3:5 _____