



Discussion Guide

Section #7: NOAH: A MAN OF FAITH

Group Questions:

1. How did Noah show his faith in God?
2. How specific were the instructions God gave?
3. Describe the size of the ark.

Read to the Group: Since the video just covers highlights from some of the many hundreds of stories in the Bible, you did not see mentioned that Noah and his three sons took 120 years to build the ark. All of this time, Noah kept telling everyone that God was going to judge unrepentant sinners by causing a world-wide flood.

One hundred and twenty years is a long time to keep trusting God and building a huge boat while everyone around you is mocking your efforts; but it paid off since they were trusting the one true God. God gave very specific instructions on how to build the ark. Noah followed the directions exactly because he trusted God. When the boat was finished it would be the size of a large ocean freighter.

Leader Information: (Use this following topic only if your class members are already familiar with the Bible.) Bring up the fact that until the flood it had never rained before. This meant that Noah had to have a really great trust in the Lord to build this huge boat. Use Genesis 2:4-6:

“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.”



Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“And the years passed” (Many evil people)... through... “I too will see it, and honor my covenant” (Rainbow and then close-up of Noah and his family)
3 minutes, 52 seconds



(Use this next information if the idea of a Chinese flood account is brought into the discussion or if you feel it is right for your group.) Chinese culture has a flood story as do many other cultures. Even the symbol for boat in Chinese is a boat with eight mouths (people) in it! Can that be just a coincidence?



If many cultures have this kind of story, it would be logical to conclude that there really was a flood. Much archeological evidence also supports the idea of a flood (fossils and even well preserved remains of now extinct animals found buried in mud and shellfish fossils found on the tops of the highest mountains in the world).

When comparing the Chinese account with the Biblical account, look at the differences in the details. Also look at what the Bible's account teaches us in terms of our relationship with God.

Read to the Group: Remember the story of Cain and Abel? Let us compare the behavior of Cain and Noah.

Group Question:

1. What were the differences in consequences between Cain's life choices and what you saw in Noah's life choices?

Leader Information: Cain rejected God's leadership and he received judgement. Noah was saved because of his faith. Noah was not good enough to be saved, but in his life he demonstrated faith in God so God chose to honor him for his faith. The story says he walked with God. Noah and his family were saved from the judgement given to the world because he agreed with and trusted in God.

Group Question:

1. Do you see any similarities between the people of Noah's day and now?

Leader Information: (The group should answer this question rather than you. Otherwise you may come across as condemning. If needed, just try to lead them to these observations.) When you look at the biblical account, you see selfishness, envy, misuse of sex, violence, cruelty, hate, pleasing self, gossiping, deceiving others and unfair and cruel business practices. There simply was no interest in knowing or pleasing God.

Group Question:

1. How do you see that God also wanted to save the other people?

Read to the Group: Through Noah, God warned the people and gave them many opportunities to turn back to Him. But they chose to go their own way. Finally the day came when it was too late. By faith, Noah and his family entered the ark through the one door. God Himself closed

the door to the ark to keep Noah and his family safe. Then the rain came from above and the underground water supplies broke through, combining to create the flood. Judgement had come.

Group Questions:

1. Why do you think that God told Noah to build only one door on a boat 450 feet long?
2. If God was illustrating a point to Noah (and everyone since that time who hears this story) what might the point be?

Leader Information: Discuss that from the beginning until now God has always offered just one way of escape from judgement. Some in your group will probably have difficulty comprehending this point. Two central lies of Satan which have deceived millions throughout the ages are these. Satan says that there are many gods and that even if you believe in only one God, there are many different ways to approach Him. Some people would like to add God & Jesus to the list of gods they worship and cannot understand how there can be just one way to God. Avoid fighting with them on this point, but remind them to consider what they have learned so far about the nature of God.

Read to the Group: We have seen the power of God. Does He not have the right to design and demand one way of access to himself? Let us continue on with watching the video and at the end, we can discuss again this idea of only “one way.”

Leader Information, Scripture:

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9).

Leader Information: You may also need to handle the idea of the Trinity here, especially when you begin to mention God's Son, Jesus, who sounds like a second God. Only bring this up if they ask questions about there being two gods, God and Jesus.

God gave us a physical demonstration of who He is and showed us His love toward us by sending Jesus to walk with us. God gave us Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit so that we could have His daily guidance and strength living in us.

To introduce the Holy Spirit to a basic gathering, use simple terms drawn from their own environment. Remember Jesus used wind to explain the Holy Spirit, how you could feel but not see it. Remind them that as frail human beings on earth, we can never fully understand everything about God, but these illustrations might at least give us an idea.

You could simply say, “Look at an egg. It has three parts: shell, white and yolk. Each has a different job or purpose, and is totally different, but each is still truly egg.” An apple will also work for an illustration in the same way as does the egg.

For educated groups you might decide to use this “light” illustration, including the scientific terms.

The Bible says “God is light” (1 John 1:5), and yet Jesus says “I am the light of the World” (John 8:12). But, notice that light has three parts:

- a. Actinic, the ultra violet light that is neither seen nor felt, like God who we neither feel nor see.
- b. Calorific, the warmth of light that is felt but not seen is like the Holy Spirit who we do not see but can feel His presence.
- c. Luminescent, which is seen. It lights up the darkness for us as Jesus who is the light of the world and was seen in the body of man.

Group Question:

1. Do you think that the fact that God shut the door has any importance?

Read to the Group: At first you think God shut the door just as a way to keep the unbelievers from entering the ark. But remember, God called out to people through Noah's preaching for 120 years trying to save them from the flood. God wanted people to believe the message and be rescued. But He wanted them to believe first, not to see the rain coming and then run to the ark. He knew if that happened they would be trusting a boat they could see, not trusting God.



The true illustration here is this. God shutting the door represents the safe keeping of those who trust in God. Trusting God is not something that is done just to get yourself out of trouble, neither is it some kind of perfect life-style. Noah trusted God and went into the ark which began a new way of life for him. Noah was safe in the ark, because God shut the door, but Noah entered the ark because he trusted God and wanted to follow Him.

Leader Information, Scripture:

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5).

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one” (John 10:27-30).

Read to the Group: The next time you see a rainbow, maybe you will remember the promise God made to Noah.

Group Questions:

1. How do you think you might look differently at the rainbow?
2. What kind of comfort might you find in the covenant God made with Noah?

Leader Information: Their personal response could include: It shows that God has a plan for the future. It also shows that God has an interest in preserving mankind, saving us from our rebellion against Him.

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7).

Transition: Now that mankind has a chance to start over and have as their forefather the man of faith Noah, will they do better? Do you think that at last now they will remember that God honors faith and judges rebellion? Let us find out now (*or* next time when we meet).