

GENESIS

THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 6: An Adult Conversation About a Story for Children
July 15 & 16, 2017 | Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

A Children's Story: Genesis 6:11-18

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening 18 inches all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you...

Stuff we could talk about:

- The historical reality of Noah
- The size and capacity of the ark
- The details that we think are true that aren't actually in the story
- The ancient religious and cultural "flood" stories

Why do people struggle with this story?

Because we all struggle with the concept of judgment.

What we do know about the story:

Noah was obedient – *And Noah did all that (everything just as) the Lord commanded him (Genesis 6:22 and 7:5)*

Godly obedience is often uncomfortable, scary and uncharted

Godly obedience refuses the safety of a personal rudder

Godly obedience attracts attention (that you may not want)

Godly obedience attracts others seeking salvation

Godly obedience builds trust that sustains you when it "pours"

Next Steps

In a few weeks, you will have an opportunity to go public (at Lake Padden!) and declare your faith in Jesus through baptism. Take the faith step! See details in your program.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What was your favorite childhood fairytale? Why?
- 2) From memory, tell the story of Noah and the Ark. What details were added or left out? Where were there any surprises along the way?
- 3) How do you reconcile the judgment of God with the love of God? What did God justify in “hitting the reset button” of humanity?
- 4) Which of the life lessons about Noah’s journey spoke to you? Why?
- 5) Is God asking you to do something that you’ve been hesitant to act on? Are you willing to trust him and act in faith right now?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and in the coming week?