



SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GENESIS 6-8

This week, in our study of Genesis, we will be looking more closely at the story of Noah and the flood found in Genesis chapters 6-8. This story, also prevalent in our culture, is often trivialized, minimized, or misunderstood. However, in these chapters, we can see a display of God's justice, wrath, patience, providence, provision, and preservation. While you may be familiar with the story found in these chapters, ask God to help you learn from them in new or more profound ways as a group.

GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

It is not likely that you will have time to read through all of the chapters as a group this week. Encourage members to read these chapters before group and to come prepared to discuss their impact.

- **What does this text say about God?**
 - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- **What does this text say about people?**
 - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- **What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?**
 - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- In Genesis 6-8, we see a picture of God's wrath poured out on those who have "corrupted" the earth and "filled it with violence." From the previous chapters, we know that this is due to the indwelling sin that does not remain small, with only us, and that seeks to devour God's image-bearers. How have you historically responded to this story and its picture of God's wrath? Why do you think people are uncomfortable with this attribute of God?
- Last week we traced the genealogy of Noah from Adam. Knowing that sin is passed down from generation to generation would mean Noah is not perfectly righteous or blameless. He is, by nature, a sinner. Why then do you think God spared Noah (Genesis 6:8-10)?
 - Look back at verse 8. What do you think it means that Noah "found favor in the eyes of the Lord"?
 - With Noah and Genesis 6:8 in mind, read Ephesians 2:1-10.
 - It can be easy to forget that we have been saved or spared by grace alone. We are tempted to believe that God loves us because he saw something in us now (however small) or some potential in us. However, read Deuteronomy 7:6-8 for the truth.
 - What can this kind of thinking/wrong belief about the grace and love of God produce in us? In the recent past, how have you been tempted to believe that you have earned or have to earn God's favor? (Keep in mind, this could be in big or small ways.)
- Looking at verses 9-10, what do you think grace produced in Noah? (Hint: see 6:22, 7:5, 7:9, 7:16, 8:18)
 - We can often reverse the order of these verses leading to the belief that obedience earns grace rather than grace producing obedience. With that said, however, when we lack obedience in areas of our life, we can often trace it back to unbelief in the meritless grace and love of God. This can keep us bound to white knuckle obedience rather than freedom in Christ as we surrender our lives to him.
 - Is there an area of sin or struggle that you find it difficult to trust that God's grace is sufficient?
 - Is there an area of sin or struggle that you find it tempting to "manage," "fix," "cover," "hide," etc.?
 - Is there an area of sin or struggle that you have lost a sense of healing or hope in?

- In the story of the flood, God protects & preserves his promise made in Genesis 3 of a snake crusher from the line of Adam & Eve by sparing the lives of Noah and his family. How does knowing that God will be faithful to his promises, whatever the cost, give you hope in your current sin struggles and circumstances? Can you think of a perfect example of his faithfulness to his promises despite the cost? (Yes, this will be a straightforward answer...;))
- If Noah is a shadow of the one come, Jesus. How does this story change in light of the gospel? Let's answer some questions:
 - Who IS actually righteous and perfectly blameless? **(Jesus)**
 - Who actually **DESERVES** to be on the ark? **(Jesus)**
 - Who deserves to perish as a consequence of their sin? **(You and I)**
 - Instead, who is hidden and sealed inside the ark? **(You and I)**
 - Who hides and seals us inside the ark? **(God)**
 - Who dies the death we deserved taking the punishment due our sin? **(Jesus)**
 - Who, preserved in the ark, is brought into "new life" after the flood (God's judgment)? **(You and I)**
 - Did we do anything to deserve or accomplish this preservation? **(No.)**
 - What did we experience? **(Grace)**
 - What should be our response? **(Faith-fueled humble obedience & gratitude)**

MISSION

Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ! Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:

- Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
- How can the group pray for the group member? How can the group pray for the person they are walking with?
- What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.

Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
 - Consider putting together a care package for them! Supply a list of items people can bring. Have kids draw cards/notes. Etc!
- The weather is beginning to change, work together as a group to plan a block party where your group can meet and bless the neighborhood that you meet in each week.
- Continue to pray for the war in Ukraine.

PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- Spend time as a group praying for Ukraine and Russia and the conflict there. Pray for the churches in both countries. Check out this [Instagram post](#) for helpful prayer points.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?
- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? Slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, co-workers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?