



## SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GENESIS 9-10

This week, in our study of Genesis, we will be looking more closely at the story of Noah following the flood. Up to this point, God has decreed and recreated the world for the glory of his name and the protection of his promise in Genesis 3. Noah and his family have been spared by grace and will now step into a recreated world to fulfill the same roles and responsibilities given to man and woman at creation. How will they respond to God's mercy to them? Could Noah be the long-awaited snake crusher?

### 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.*

- Read Genesis 8:20-22. In these verses, Noah makes a burnt offering to the Lord which pleases God. Knowing that man is and *will continue* to be sinful God decides "in his heart" to make a covenant with man & all living to never again flood the earth. Why do you think God lets us in on this internal conversation? How does understanding this internal dialogue help us interpret his coming covenant(s) more deeply?
  - These verses are a shadow of the coming fulfillment of God's promises. Read Romans 5:8. Does seeing a similar posture of heart of God towards man from the OT to NT help you trust his unchanging character? What could a greater understanding of this attribute change in your relationship with God?
- In Genesis 9:1-7, like in the garden with Adam & Eve, God then establishes order within this new creation and commands Noah and his family to "be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it." How Noah & his offspring will live in relation to creation has changed (they may now eat animals and animals are now fearful of man) but the same command to fill the earth remains. Why do you think, both practically and spiritually, this command is given? (*Note: there are multiple answers!*) What do you think it looks like for us today to pursue this command?
- God then establishes his covenant with Noah, his sons, and all living creatures. Promising to never again take all of life through a flood. He places a bow, or rainbow, in the sky as a reminder to all living and to God of his everlasting promise to them. This is the first articulated covenant God makes in Genesis. God does not have to disclose the details of this covenant, why do you think he does? How would knowing these things bless Noah & his descendants?
  - This covenant is often referred to as the covenant of common grace, that God allows life to continue day in and day out despite its corrupted reality. It is a covenant that all of creation enjoys, whether or not they attribute it God's mercy. In what ways are you amazed by God's common grace? Do you ever lose sight or forget to attribute this common grace to God? Why do you think that is? What do you think would change in your relationship with him this week if you dwell on this reality?

- More profoundly, if you have entered a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, you have entered into the New Covenant with God. The Bible is filled with promises for those in this covenant relationship. What difference can it make in your life today that the God of all creation has committed Himself into a permanent covenant relationship with you? Try to think of something specific to the events or circumstances of your life this very day.
- The Noahic covenant is followed by a story about Noah & his sons. Noah has become a vine keeper and, like Adam, is tempted by its fruit. He becomes drunk and is found naked by his son Ham. He is not covered by this son but rather exposed and mocked by him, while his other sons cover him. His son Ham is cursed while his son Shem (and by proxy Japheth), who covered his shame, is blessed. The following chapter (10) is the lineage of these blessings and curses. This story reveals to its readers the reality of 8:21, that every "intention of man's heart is evil from his youth" and the implications of that reality (9:29), death.
  - It can be difficult to see how sin continues to flourish even after such severe mercy and an everlasting promise, however, it does. How does this story offer us wisdom when it comes to understanding the nature of our own hearts?
  - Read Romans 6:1-6 (*notice the imagery of baptism/water/flood/death/new life that look like our stories today*). For those of us who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, we have been buried with him in baptism (flood) and raised with him to walk in the newness of life (recreation). Our flesh has been crucified with him so that we are no longer slaves to sin. How does this knowledge give you hope in your temptations & struggles? Is there a current struggle we can be praying the Lord would help you experience freedom in?

## 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?