



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

"The starry heaven above us" and "the moral law within us," are the two primary facts that the great philosopher Immanuel Kant said drove him to express his view that there is a God. In Genesis we have already encountered the wonder and awe of the cosmos, but now, in the story of Noah, we see a man who heard something from God which did something within him. In fact it was the reason he was willing to do a very outlandish thing. Build a giant float-worthy boat in the shape of a chest or coffin box (the Hebrew can mean either).

We are told that the people around in Noah's society were so wicked that they would never have listened to God, even if he had clued them in. From **Hebrews 11:7** it sounds like Noah tried to warn them. But it also tells us why he did it. His reason? - "Holy fear," or reverence. He simply did what anybody would do, if you were certain there is a God, and sure he'd delivered to you a lifesaving message for your family and all the people you encounter.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt that you've heard from God? Have you ever sensed his presence? From what source do you believe you heard or sensed what you did?
2. Divide up the narrative into 5 or 6 sections (depending on how many are there) and read together through the Noah story – Genesis 6:9-9:17.
 - a. Why does it say God called on Noah? What does righteousness mean in Genesis?
 - b. Over the whole narrative, how many times does God describe what he's going to do? How many times does he tell Noah what he wants him to do? Why do you think God repeats himself? [Help: in the Hebrew language repetition is intensification.]
 - c. We are not actually told if the flood covered the whole earth, or the whole known or inhabited earth. What are the key issues to consider and what's your take? What's the point of the narrative beyond that?
 - d. **When God makes the covenant with Noah, what is he starting over? What is new?**
 - e. What do you think the "lifeblood" statement by God is about [9:4-6]? Do these words foreshadow any of God's promises?
 - f. When you see a rainbow, what does your mind go to? Why?
3. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 & 2 Peter 1:16-21 together.** What do teaching are the word "God-breathed" [2 Tim. 3:16] and "completely reliable" [2 Peter 1:19] teaching us? What's the big idea these passages about the Bible?
4. Do you need prayer for your belief, practice of, or encounter with the Bible? Decide to be in it daily for the next 4 weeks and ask your group to pray for you in doing so. If there are others willing to make the same commitment, tell them you will support them – help each other grow in your hearing from God through the Bible.

MOVING FORWARD

Is the Bible a "light to your path" [Ps. 119:105] or just an old book that is good, but not very relevant? What if it's God's intended means to speak to you about your life daily like he did with Noah before there was a Bible? Don't miss the blessing of a life that is filled with the perspective, guidance, and presence of your Creator. Like Noah, you've got a really big reason to be all-in.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6