

MORE TO THE STORY

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

June 22-28, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea:

From the story of Noah we learn about righteousness, walking and growing in step with God, and the glory of God's covenant of grace in the midst of sin.

Scripture and Study:

KEY TEXT: Genesis 6:5-9 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

In Genesis 6 we learn of a time when the wickedness of the human race was so universal that God was ready to wipe out not only all humans but also "all the animals and birds and creatures that move along the ground." But Noah found favor (NIV) / grace (KJV) in the eyes of the Lord.

God took notice of Noah because he was a righteous man whose intention was to walk with God. Genesis 6:9 says that God took notice of Noah because he was "blameless among the people of his time," Noah wasn't perfect -- there is a modifying phrase here, it says "among the people of his time." When compared to everyone else, Noah stood out for his wholesomeness and integrity. The same verse says that "he walked faithfully with God." (NIV) The KJV, consistent with the Hebrew text, leaves out the word "faithfully." The Hebrew word is "halak". "Halak" means not just walking, but being in step with someone. But beyond that, it indicates a desire to grow in that relationship. Like a child trying to stay in step with a parent. Or, like an apprentice seeking to be like a mentor. If Noah was growing in relationship with God, then he wasn't yet perfect in it. That's where God's grace comes in.

One good person was enough for God to change his thoughts of destroying the world. But God didn't just save Noah, after Noah had faithfully obeyed God's directions to build an ark (a floating zoo) God entered a covenant with all of creation. It is the first mention of a covenant in the Bible. Never again will God destroy all life by the waters of a flood. And God gave the rainbow as a sign of this covenant of peace.

This "baptism of the earth" was a foreshadowing of a New Covenant that God would offer through his only begotten son - Jesus. Rather than destroy the earth, God allows his own son to be "destroyed" (killed) to make a way for us to be restored and saved from the destruction of sin. The life of one sinless person, Jesus, is enough to cover all the sins of the world.

Discussion Questions:

- Noah was righteous, but he wasn't "perfect." When you become frustrated with the evil around you, do you recognize your own imperfection? Noah wasn't a self-righteous person - he was a righteous person.
- Is it your heart's intention to grow into staying "in step" with Jesus? It isn't our perfection but our intention that God looks for. One teacher put it this way; "It's not how close or far you are from God -- it's whether when God looks at you God sees your face or your back."
- Have you taken time to praise God today for the grace offered through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

Apply It:

- Are you more likely to see God as angry with sin or grieved by sin? When you are frustrated by the wickedness around you are you likely to grieve or condemn? God seeks to forgive, not condemn. Read John 3:17 and 2 Peter 3:9. Take a moment to pray for someone whose behavior frustrates you. Feel the grief that sin is wrecking around them and pray for God to bless them.
- Ask yourself in what areas you are becoming more like Jesus (getting in step with Jesus)? Thank God for your growth in "Halak."
- Praise God for his New Covenant in the body and blood of Jesus. Recall a song that lifts up Jesus. Read it or sing it.