



Key Idea

Genesis 6-9 is in some ways the turning point of the Bible. Up until now it may well look like God just needs to ditch everything, but instead we find a pointer to God's ultimate plan to put things right.



Listen

This study is written to be used together with the sermon preached at Trinity Church which you can find on our church website.

www.trinitybay.church/sermon-archive/



Talk About

1. I think it's safe to assume that all of us have some familiarity with the story of Noah's ark. When you think of the story, what are the things you first think of? Does it remind you of childhood toys or songs? Does it provoke any emotions in you? When you think about it more, do you find the story disturbing or confronting? Share your first reflections with your group.

Two quick things to note as we get into it today. Firstly, we're going to do a bit more reading than normal, but sometimes it's okay to do a bit more reading and a little less discussion. It's good to get a good picture of the sweep of today's narrative. There are some options for shortening the readings too which I'd at least recommend for during the bible study time.

Secondly, with other parts of early Genesis, the flood can no doubt bring up lots of questions and interesting debates. Do remember that it might be helpful to keep a "park it" list. Don't be afraid to discuss questions as they come up, but it may be that you decide a question needs to be "parked" so that it doesn't distract from what's more important. You might get a chance to come back to these questions later, and you're welcome to feed your questions back to Matt as well.

Explore

Read Genesis 6

2. What does God feel in this passage? What has caused him to feel this way? What does he resolve to do?
3. Based on our last few weeks in Genesis, do you think God's response is expected or surprising?

Read Genesis 7 (Or just 7:17-24)

4. What jumps out at you from this reading? What things remind you of earlier parts of Genesis?

Read Genesis 8 (Or just 8:13-22)

5. Again, what jumps out at you? And what reminds you of earlier parts of Genesis?

6. The message of 8:21-22 seems quite hopeful. Has God's plan to fix the world worked?

A Little Bit Extra

Sons of God, daughters of humans

The weird little passage at the start of Genesis 6 is certainly quite mysterious. Exactly what's going on is unclear, although there are a few plausible options.

Most people tend to conclude that the sons of God are some sort of angelic being, and that they roamed the earth before beginning to marry human women. If that's the solution it could be that the Nephilim are the children of these marriages.

Some also suggest that the 'sons of God' are human kings of some sort, but the other option that makes some sense to me is that the 'sons of God' are those in the line of Abel / Seth, while the 'daughters of humans' are those in Cain's line. Remember Genesis 4 and that when Cain was born, Eve said "I have acquired", whereas when Seth was born she said that he was given by God. Could this be a hint that Cain's line in a sense belongs to humans and that Seth's line belongs to God? Maybe.

The problem in Genesis 6 would then be that the line that is calling on the name of God (4:26) is starting to mix with the line that is following the way of Cain and violence.

As for who the Nephilim are, I've really got no idea!!



Read Genesis 9:1-17

7. Again, what reminds you of earlier parts of Genesis? What do you think is the significance of all the reminders of Genesis 1 and 2?

8. A covenant is a commitment or agreement, and has a legal sense about it. What do you notice about the covenant God makes here? What is God obligated to do? What are humans to do? How long will the covenant last?



Read Genesis 9:18-29 (Or just 9:18-24)

9. Things were looking pretty good there for a minute. God had gotten rid of all the sinners, kept alive the righteous and reset everything back to the beginning. But straight away things are turning south. What hasn't worked?

10. Lookup Hebrews 13:20. Note the reference to the everlasting covenant. On what basis will God choose not to destroy all creatures ever again?

