

Living in the Days of Noah — Today

Bible Study • Leader Guide

Please provide a copy of this study and a Bible for each participant.

Opening Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, sometimes hardships in life seem to last forever. Please turn me from my self-pity, and open my eyes to Your amazing grace in my life. Amen.

Do you look out the window to the world through TV, internet, or social media and wonder what has happened to the world? Change the channel from a riot and you find a search for a criminal or a natural disaster. There is nowhere to turn that does not seem to reflect a fallen world. God feels the same way at times:

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart (Genesis 6:5–6).

How sobering. We can be assured that the sinfulness of the world grieves God even more than it grieves us. What is a Christian to do when surrounded by a fallen sinful world? How do we fight evil and discover the joy God meant for us?

Walk with God

Some of the very first people mentioned in Scripture walked with God. If you walk with God, you are in fellowship with Him.

Who are those early ones who had a relationship with God?

Genesis 3:8–9

Adam and Eve

Genesis 5:22–24

Enoch, who never died

Genesis 6:9

Noah

How can we walk with God today?

Hosea 11:12

Stay faithful to the Holy One.

Micah 6:8

Do justice and love kindness.

2 Corinthians 6:15–17

Separate yourself from evil.

Walking with God in a turbulent world is not easy. Although we are not to immerse ourselves in the evil-doing of the world, we cannot hide from it either.

What sort of tasks has God asked His people to do in the past?

Genesis 6:11–14

Noah was instructed to build an ark.

Genesis 41:55–56

Joseph minded the Egyptian storehouses and saved the people from famine.

Exodus 3:9–10

Moses was sent to confront Pharaoh to release the Israelites.

What are we instructed to do?

Matthew 16:24–25

Follow Jesus by denying self.

Matthew 28:19–20

Make disciples of all nations through Baptism. Teach and observe Jesus' commands.

Mark 13:10–11

Spread the Gospel. Don't be anxious, because the Holy Spirit will help you.

Heritage of Faith

Enoch was Noah's great-grandfather, but Enoch was taken to heaven before Noah was born. Every generation of men knew Adam up until Noah, because of their typical longevity of 900 years or more. Noah was the first patriarch to not know Adam, since Adam died about the time of Noah's birth, nine generations after creation. Whereas most everyone else lived to be 895 to 969 years old, Noah's own father lived only 777 years, which means all of Noah's forefathers were gone before the events of the flood.

How old was Noah at the time of the flood?

Genesis 7:6

600 years old

Weather the Storm By Rising Above It

Even when we have obeyed God's commands, storms roar into our lives.

How did Noah weather his storm?

Genesis 7:18

When the waters rose, he sailed above them.

That did not mean the journey was easy. This was no cruise ship, although the size of the ark was comparable to a modern day cruise ship. We often think Noah was only aboard the ark for the oft-quoted forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7:12b), but that was only the days of rain.

How many days was Noah in the ark before the rains fell?

Genesis 7:4

Seven

What were the conditions like during the storm?

Genesis 7:19–20

The mighty waters rose high over the mountains. (These were not "still" waters.)

How long did those waters remain?

Genesis 7:24

150 days

How long before Noah could see the tops of mountains?

Genesis 8:3–5

It was another couple of months (seventh month to the tenth month after the 150 days of the waters subsiding).

How much longer did Noah wait before he sent out birds to seek land?

Genesis 8:6–7

Forty more days

Noah sent doves out twice. How many days did he wait between those times?

Genesis 8:10–12

He sent them seven days apart.

Surely it must have been time to land and get off the boat by then! Hold on. The waiting continued.

How much longer did Noah need to wait before there was dry land to disembark from the ark?

Genesis 8:13–14

Remember, Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. It was now year 601 plus a couple of months for him.

Some commentaries calculate that Noah's total time on the ark was 377 days. ("Events of the Flood," *The Teacher's Commentary*, Larry Richards, Victor Books, 1988, p. 42.)

What are some other ways God delivered people from their circumstances?

1 Samuel 17:37

David conquered Goliath.

Jonah 1:15–17

Jonah was cast into the sea, but God sent a big fish to gobble him up and take him to his destination.

Acts 16:26–28

Paul and Silas experienced an earthquake that released them from jail.

Acts 27:39–44

Paul, the other prisoners, and the sailors were all saved from a shipwreck.

Do you remember a time you felt you had been delivered?

Sharing time.

How do you react after such an occasion?

Answers will vary.

What did Noah do after leaving the ark?

Genesis 8:20–21a

Noah built an altar and offered a sacrifice that was pleasing to the Lord.

What are other ways we can worship?

Psalm 96:7–9

Bring your family to God. Praise Him for His glory, and give Him the offering due Him.

Psalm 100:4–5

Enter His gates with praise and thanksgiving. Bless His name.

Matthew 4:10

Worship and serve only God.

What did God promise Noah when his experience with the flood was finished?

Genesis 8:21b–22

Never again will God wipe out the world like that. Also, the regular days and seasons will continue to function as God planned.

What promise does God give us?

John 3:15–18

God promises eternal life to everyone who believes in Christ as their Savior.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for reminding me that no matter the circumstances, You are always there for me. Direct me in Your ways, Lord, for all of my days. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

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