

The Days of Noah

Study Group Handout

Opening Question

"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." - Matthew 24:37

What can this ancient account teach us about the world we're living in today?

1. WICKEDNESS AND LAWLESSNESS

Key Verse: *"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." - Genesis 6:5*

Additional Scriptures:

- Genesis 6:11-12 | Matthew 24:12 | 2 Timothy 3:1-5

The Issue: Sin had corrupted humanity at the deepest level—not just actions, but thoughts and motivations. Jesus warned that similar moral corruption would characterize the time before His return.

Discussion Questions:

1. What examples of "increasing wickedness" do we see in our world today?
2. How do we guard our hearts against moral compromise?
3. How can we live as "salt and light" without being contaminated by culture?

Personal Application: What area of your life might be subtly influenced by the world's values rather than God's Word?

2. IGNORING GOD'S WARNINGS

Key Verse: *"For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away." - Matthew 24:38-39*

Additional Scriptures:

- 2 Peter 2:5 | Hebrews 11:7 | Luke 17:26-27

The Issue: People weren't doing evil things—they were absorbed in everyday life, living as if God didn't matter. Noah preached for 120 years, but they ignored his warnings until it was too late.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think people ignored Noah's warnings for 120 years?
2. In what ways do people today live "business as usual" despite biblical warnings?
3. Are there areas where you've become spiritually complacent?

Personal Application: If Jesus was returning next month, what would you change about your daily priorities?

3. SUDDEN JUDGMENT

Key Verse: *"...and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." - Matthew 24:39*

Additional Scriptures:

- Genesis 7:11-12, 21-23 | 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 | 2 Peter 3:10

The Issue: The flood came suddenly—not because God failed to warn, but because people squandered 120 years of opportunity to repent. Jesus' return will be similarly unexpected for the unprepared.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it practically mean to be "ready" for Christ's return?
2. How do we balance urgency about spiritual matters without living in fear?
3. What "signs of the times" suggest we may be living in the last days?

Personal Application: If Christ returned today, what unfinished spiritual business would you regret?

4. A MESSAGE OF COMING JUDGMENT

Key Verse: *"God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment." - 2 Peter 2:5 (NLT)*

Additional Scriptures:

- Hebrews 9:27 | Romans 2:5-6 | Acts 17:31

The Issue: The flood was divine judgment—real, righteous, universal, and certain. Just as that judgment was literal, so will future judgment be literal. All humanity will face judgment.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we reconcile God's love with His judgment?
2. Does the reality of coming judgment motivate you to holy living and evangelism?
3. How do we communicate judgment to others without sounding like fear-mongers?

Personal Application: What areas of your life would you be uncomfortable explaining to God face-to-face?

5. A PROMISE OF RESCUE FOR THE FAITHFUL

Key Verse: *"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD... Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God."* - Genesis 6:8-9

Additional Scriptures:

- Genesis 7:1 | Hebrews 11:7 | 1 Thessalonians 5:9 | John 10:9

The Issue: God provided a way of escape through the ark. Just as there was only one ark, there is only one way to salvation—Jesus Christ.

The Ark as a Symbol of Christ:

- **One Door** - Jesus said, "I am the gate" (John 10:9)
- **God's Design** - Salvation is entirely God's plan
- **Pitch (Covering)** - The Hebrew word means "atonement"—covering for sin
- **God Shut the Door** - Our salvation is secured by God Himself (Genesis 7:16)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the ark foreshadow Christ and His salvation?
2. Noah's family was saved together—how does this encourage us to pray for our families?
3. What "ark" is God calling you to build by faith—what obedient action requires trusting God?

Personal Application: How should your rescue from judgment motivate you to help others find refuge in Christ?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

God is both perfectly just and incredibly merciful. He must judge sin—His holiness demands it. But He lovingly provides a way of escape through Jesus.

Just as Noah had to enter the ark, each person must personally respond to God's offer of salvation:

1. **Recognize** your sin and need for a Savior (Romans 3:23)
2. **Believe** that Jesus died for your sins and rose again (Romans 10:9)
3. **Receive** Him as your Lord and Savior (John 1:12)
4. **Repent** and turn from your old way of life (Acts 3:19)

The door is still open—but one day, as in Noah's time, God will shut the door.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one action step from each category:

Spiritual Watchfulness: ☐ Set aside daily time to pray about Christ's return ☐ Read through Matthew 24 and note parallels to today's world ☐ Fast from one worldly distraction that's consuming your attention

Holy Living: ☐ Identify and confess one area of compromise in your life ☐ Remove one influence that's pulling you away from God ☐ Commit to daily Bible reading and prayer

Evangelistic Urgency: ☐ Write down 3 people who need to hear the gospel ☐ Share your testimony with at least one person this week ☐ Invite someone to church or your study group

Family Leadership: ☐ Have a spiritual conversation with your family about readiness ☐ Start a family devotion time ☐ Pray with your spouse/children about their relationship with God

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come... So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." - **Matthew 24:42, 44**

FURTHER STUDY

Read This Week:

- Genesis 6-9 (The complete Noah account)
- Matthew 24:36-44 (Jesus' teaching on His return)
- 2 Peter 3:1-13 (The Day of the Lord)

Reflect:

- How is God calling you to be a "Noah" in your generation?
 - What specific step of obedience is He asking you to take?
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NOTES & REFLECTIONS

[Space for personal notes]

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith." - Hebrews 11:7