

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – April 2, 2017

“When God Flooded the Entire World”

Genesis 5-8

GETTING TO KNOW ME

Who is the oldest person you have personally known? What was your relation/connection to them?
Did they come close to living as long as the individuals from Genesis 5?

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read Genesis 6:4. How do you interpret this passage and why do you think it was a necessary insertion into the flood narrative?
2. Read Genesis 6:5-21. Why did God send the flood? How do you answer critics that this is not something a *God of love* would do? How does judgment fit with God's love? Can God be loving in judgment? How?
3. What is an *Open Theist*? Discuss. Open Theists use verses like Genesis 6:6 as proof that God does not know the future. Can God respond with sadness to events in space and time while still maintaining complete sovereignty over His creation?
4. Read Genesis 7:17-23. Liberal Bible scholar Peter Enns says the following, “The geological record, at least as interpreted by mainstream scientists, discounts any notion of a *worldwide* flood that killed every single creature on earth.” Does the author of Genesis intend to convey that the flood was local or global? What does the text indicate? Be specific.
5. Quickly skim through Genesis 6-8. How many human words are recorded?
 - a. Discuss how this narrative is structured. Why do you think this is the case?
 - b. Discuss what God says about the flood. Why is this in the Bible?
6. Hebrews 11 commends Noah for his faith in God. What evidence do you see in Genesis 6-8 that Noah was indeed a great man of faith? What can we learn from his example?
7. Read Genesis 8:6-12. Why did Noah choose a raven and a dove when he had a plethora of birds at his disposal?

“Family Focus” Community Group questions for 4/2/17

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FAMILY FOCUS

Parents, we are pleased to include a family-oriented section to the Community Group questions. Our goal is to assist you in taking what you have learned through the sermon and discussed in your group and “bring it home” to your family.

1. Genesis 6:9 says that “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God” (NIV). How can Christians today walk faithfully with God? Read Psalm 101:2; 119:1; Micah 6:8; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 11:1-2, 6-7 and come up with some practical steps to follow.

2. Sometimes it is helpful and interesting to see how a Biblical figure/story is used elsewhere in Scripture. Here are some other places where the story of Noah is mentioned (read the paragraph/context):
 - Isaiah 54:9
 - Ezekiel 14:14, 20
 - Matthew 24:37-38 and Luke 17:26-27 (“parallel” passages)
 - Hebrews 11:7
 - 1 Peter 3:20
 - 2 Peter 2:5