



## Story Series – Part 1: Noah

**Pastor Brian Coles**

**May 3, 2026**

### WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Again And Again** (*Red Rocks Worship*)
- **Faithful And True** (*New Life Worship*)
- **Psalms 46 (Lord of Hosts)** (*Shane and Shane*)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. Genesis 5: 28-32
2. Genesis 6:5-22
3. Genesis 9:28-29

### OPENING PRAYER

Begin by thanking God and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

### Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

What's one thing in your life right now that requires patient obedience, even when you can't see the results yet?

### Sermon Overview

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the story of Noah and explore God's character, human nature, and the importance of obedience and finishing well in our faith journey.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

### Section 1: God's Character (15-20 minutes)

1. The sermon mentioned that "God's justice does not cancel His mercy. His greatness does not diminish His nearness." How have you experienced both God's justice and His mercy in your own life?
2. God saw that "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5). How does this description of humanity's condition before the flood challenge or confirm your understanding of human nature without God?
3. The passage says "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). What does it mean to find favor with God? How is this different from earning God's approval?
4. God knows and sees everything about us (Hebrews 4:13). For believers, this is good news. How does knowing God sees everything about you affect the way you live? Does it make you want to run toward Him or away from Him?

### Section 2: Obedience & Faith (15-20 minutes)

5. Noah built an ark for 100+ years without ever seeing rain. What are some things God has asked you to do that seemed crazy, embarrassing, or pointless at the time? How did you respond?
6. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does it look like practically to "lean not on your own understanding" when God's instructions don't make sense to you?
7. The sermon pointed out that Noah's obedience saved his entire family. How does your obedience (or disobedience) to God affect the people around you?
8. Noah partnered with God in building the ark, just as we partner with God in His work today. What work is God doing in the world that He's inviting you to participate in right now?

### Section 3: The Gospel Connection (10-15 minutes)

9. The sermon connected Noah's ark to Jesus as our vessel of salvation. How does understanding Noah's story deepen your appreciation for what Jesus has done for you?
10. God gave Noah and his family a "do-over" after the flood. In what areas of your life do you need to receive a fresh start from God? Are there people in your life who need you to give them a do-over?

#### **Section 4: Finishing Well (15-20 minutes)**

11. Noah's life ended with a moral failure that had consequences for generations. Why do you think it's so difficult for people to finish well in their faith journey?
12. The sermon mentioned that "each generation seems to get worse" when sin is not dealt with. What patterns of sin or brokenness have you seen passed down in families (yours or others)? How can these cycles be broken?
13. What might have been driving Noah's desire to get drunk? (Loneliness? Loss of purpose?) What temptations do you face when you feel your purpose is unclear or your greatest work is behind you?
14. The righteousness of one generation leaves blessing to following generations. What legacy of faith do you want to leave for those who come after you?

#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

1. God measures the moral quality of humanity
  - God sees everything and knows the true condition of our hearts. Nothing is hidden from Him.
2. Obedience to God's commands will save your life
  - No matter how awkward, embarrassing, or difficult, following God's instructions brings life and blessing.
3. Every believer must realize the destructive consequences of not ending well
  - How we finish our race matters. Letting our guard down can have lasting consequences for ourselves and future generations.

#### **PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)**

##### Personal Reflection

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to reflect on these questions:

- Is there an area where God is calling me to obey, even though it doesn't make sense?
- What "guard" have I let down that could lead to destructive consequences?
- Am I running toward God or away from God right now?

##### Group Sharing

Invite 2-3 people to share one practical step they will take this week based on today's discussion.

## Action Steps

Choose one or more to commit to this week:

1. **Obedience Challenge:** Identify one specific command from Scripture you've been avoiding and take one step toward obeying it this week.
2. **Guard Your Heart:** What is one area of your life where you've "let your guard down"? Create a specific plan to address it (accountability partner, boundaries, etc.).
3. **Generational Blessing:** Write a letter or have a conversation with someone in the next generation, sharing what God has taught you and praying a blessing over them.
4. **Do-Over Ministry:** Reach out to someone who has failed or fallen and offer them grace, encouragement, and a fresh start.
5. **Daily Awareness:** Each day this week, pause to remember that God sees you completely and loves you fully. Journal about how this awareness changes your day.

## Reflection & Prayer Requests

Personal Reflection (5 minutes of silence):

- What is one area where greed has taken root in my life?
- Where do I need to trust God more as my Provider?
- What is one practical step I can take toward greater contentment and generosity?

## Closing Prayer

- Thank God for seeing us completely and loving us fully
- Ask for courage to obey even when it doesn't make sense
- Pray for strength to finish well in our faith journey
- Ask God to break generational patterns of sin and create generational blessings
- Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where we need a fresh start

## Group Prayer:

Allow time for group members to pray for one another, especially focusing on the specific commitments people shared during the application time.

## For Next Week

Read Genesis 12-22 as we prepare to look at the story of Abraham in our next session.

## Reflection Question to Consider:

What does it mean to trust God when He asks you to leave everything familiar behind?