



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#28 - The Time of Noah

Genesis 6:1-8

PICTURES NEEDED

28-1 Evil people at the time of Noah

27-3 Lineage chart (from previous lesson)

28-2 Salvation chart

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
What was the difference between Cain's offspring and Seth's offspring?
How does the way parents live their lives affect their children?
- **The Big Question Review:** What is the impact of an upright father?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 112:1-2 The children of the righteous will be blessed.

*Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.
His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

God made man in his image, longing to have a relationship with him. Thinking back to the lesson on the creation of Adam, what does it mean to be made in the image of God? God is a personal God: he has a mind (intellect), he has a will and he has emotions or feelings. Since man was created in the image of God he also has those characteristics. Human beings are unique among all God's creation in that they can have a personal relationship with God, choosing to follow and obey him.

What happened to the relationship between man and God? It was broken in the Fall. Adam and Eve chose to follow their own desires rather than obey and remain rightly related to their creator and were sent out of the Garden of Eden. Cain, because he murdered his brother, was sent away from God's presence.

(picture 27-3) After Cain killed Abel, Adam and Eve had another son Seth. Even though they had other sons and daughters the account in Genesis only relates the lineage of Adam and Eve through Cain and Seth.

What is the difference between the lineages of Cain and Seth? Cain's lineage is associated with evil and rebellion against God while the men in Seth's lineage called on the name of the Lord. Seth's lineage leads to Noah who was the tenth generation from Adam and was a righteous man in a time of great evil.

Because God has emotions the sin of people grieves him. What does it mean to grieve? Grieve means to experience great sorrow over something.

What is sin? Sin is anything that fall short of the good that God desires for his creation and the way he designed it to function.

What is it about sin that grieves God? God grieves over sin because it hurts the people that he created and loves. As God is holy and perfect, sin separates people from him. However, even though he detests sin and there are consequences to it, God is long-suffering.

What does it mean to be long-suffering? To be long-suffering means that God puts up with man's sin for a long time, always desiring for people to repent and turn back to him. Ultimately, however, sin is always judged by God. At the time of Noah, the sin of mankind had gotten so bad that God could no longer tolerate it. People were so given over to evil that God had to put a stop to it.

Genesis 6:1-8

¹When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

⁵The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. ⁶The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

NOTE: Students may have questions about who the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" refer to. Two explanations from the Zondervan NIV Study Bible are:

1. "Sons of God" possibly refers to godly men, and "daughters of men" to sinful women probably from the wicked line of Cain.
2. "Sons of God" refers to royal figures (kings were closely associated with gods in the ancient Near East) who proudly perpetuated and aggravated the corrupt lifestyle of Lamech son of Cain (virtually a royal figure) and established for themselves royal harems.

(Picture 28-1) What grieved God about men? God was grieved by their wickedness and how the inclination of man's heart was to evil all the time.

What was the cause of man's wickedness? The cause of their wickedness was the inclination of their hearts. They rejected God and their thoughts were void of God. They did the things they wanted to do rather than what pleased God.

What is the equation of sin from James 1:14-15? The equation of sin is evil desires plus temptation = sin that destroys.

What did man's wickedness cause God to do? It caused God to determine to rid the earth of them.

What was different about Noah? Noah found favor with God.

Why do you think Noah was different from the people around him? His heart was inclined to God. He had faith in God and wanted to please him. Whether a person chooses to follow God or follow evil will depend on the inclination of the heart.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 says, *⁹The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."*

What does it mean to be deceitful? Synonyms for deceitful are: dishonest, fraudulent, untrustworthy, cunning, lying, devious, faithless.

How is the heart deceitful? It isn't trustworthy or faithful to choose to do what is right and good. It is often misled by feeling instead of following truth. A deceitful heart rejects the God who has made it. When people reject God they pursue other things in place of God,

What does it mean that God rewards a man according to his conduct? Our actions show the inclination of our heart. If our actions are good, then we will find favor with God like Noah did. If our actions are bad then it shows our heart is hard toward God, deceitful and bent towards evil and we will receive just punishment for what our deeds deserve.

What is the cure for a deceitful heart? The heart can't be cured; it needs to be replaced with a new heart. This happens when a person recognizes his need for a new heart, confesses his sin and puts his faith in Jesus to deliver him from both the penalty and power of sin.

How do we maintain a right heart once we believe in Jesus? If we want to remain rightly related to God we need to examine our heart on a daily basis and determine what it is inclined toward. We do that by examining the things we say and do. If our heart is inclined toward evil we need to uncover and confess our sin and turn to Jesus to be made right.

Note: This could be a good time to review the salvation chart from lesson 25. (picture 25-2)

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Why was God grieved he had made people? What did God decide to do? What was different about Noah from the other people of his time? What does the inclination of the heart determine?
- **Thought Questions:** Do you think it was right for God to wipe all the wicked people from the face of the earth? Explain your answer. What would have happened if God hadn't put an end to people and their wickedness? Which is worse to destroy wickedness or to let wickedness destroy others? Why is God long-suffering and allows wickedness to continue for so long?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he cares about all people and doesn't want to see anyone perish. Thank God that he wants what is good and right for all people and sent his Son to make them right. Pray that your heart would be inclined towards God and that you would want to do right because it pleases God and enables you to be an influence for good.
- **The Big Question: What is the problem of the heart?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Jeremiah 17:9-10** The heart is deceitful and needs a cure.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰! the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

Questions: What does it mean to be deceitful? How is the heart deceitful? How will God reward a man? What does that mean?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: At the time of Noah, there were a lot of people who had filled the earth and had become very wicked.

1. The sin of people made God very sad and he was sorry that he had created them.
2. Because the sin of people was so bad, God decided to wipe them from the earth.
3. Noah found favor with God.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Word Search

Have the students find the underlined words in the memory verse in the word search puzzle. Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

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- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Imputed Righteousness

Noah is described in the Bible as being righteous. Righteousness is a quality that God has. What do we mean when we say God is righteous? Because God is righteous he always does what is right and good. There is nothing wrong in God and he doesn't sin.

Was Noah righteous like God? Why not? No, as a human Noah didn't always do what was right and good. He sinned and fell short of what was good and right.

What does it mean that Noah was righteous? *Dikaios*, the Greek word used in the Bible for righteous also means just. In the Old Testament when someone is described as righteous that means they understand their accountability to God and act in accord with or try to the best of their ability to obey God's righteous laws.

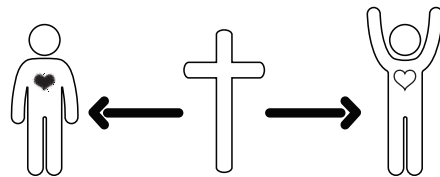
This meaning of righteousness is sometimes used in that same way in the New Testament, but in the New Testament there is also a new type of righteousness. This righteousness is called imputed righteousness.

What does impute mean? Impute means to take a quality that belongs to one person and then apply it to another person associated with the first person.

What, then, is imputed righteousness? Imputed righteousness is the gaining of the righteousness of Christ. It is given to us, not because we act rightly, but because we recognize we are sinners and can't act right. We need to be made right.

What happens when we believe in Jesus? When we put our faith in Jesus and the work he did on the cross, we are seen as righteous by God, not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us. It is the righteousness of Christ given to us because we belong to him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* What does the verse mean?



The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What happens when men pursue evil?

Reading 1: Jeremiah 17:5-10 Those who turn away from God are cursed. Who does God curse? What will he be like? What is the person like who trusts in God? What is the problem of the heart? How will God reward each person? In what way?

Reading 2: Jeremiah 5:20-31 Those who do evil don't experience what is good. Why should people fear God? What happens to people who don't do what is right?

Reading 3: Romans 1:28-32 Evil people don't hold on to knowledge of God. What does it mean to retain knowledge of God? What happens to people who don't do that? What are the evil things people do? Why are those things evil?

Reading 4: Romans 2:5-11 Evil men store up God's wrath. What will God do for those who pursue good? What will God do for those who pursue evil? What is a person like who pursues evil?

Reading 5: Ephesians 4:17-24 Evil people have darkened understanding and are separated from God. Who are the Gentiles? How do they live? Why do they live that way?

Reading 6: Psalm 36 Examining Our Own Society

Instructions: Think about what is going on in our own society that would grieve God. Consider how you can remain righteous even in a wicked society.