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## Group Guide

# Promises of Prayer

*January 12, 2025*

**Main Passage: Genesis 6:9-22; 9:12-17**

## Theological Theme

In a world living in rebellion against God, Noah stood out because of his faithfulness to God. God used a flood to destroy the world but used Noah and his family to keep His promise.

## Introduction

- ❓ How do you feel when you experience a broken promise from someone or something?
- ❓ How likely are you to keep the promises you make to others? Why is this the case?

## 1. Corruption (Genesis 6:9-13)

Where sin abounds, corruption and wickedness follow. That was the situation in Noah's day. God, who is just and holy, acted to stop humanity's rebellion. God's interaction with Noah reminds us sin and wickedness carry consequences but God is also gracious to sinners, which included Noah. Instead of eliminating the whole human race, God preserved a remnant.

- ❓ How do you see evidence of God's grace today even though sin still abounds in our world?
- ❓ How do accounts of God's faithfulness to His people in hardship encourage you to endure in prayer and faithfulness to Him?
- ❓ Application: How have you benefitted from the fact that God remains patient and long-suffering with people, even when we are unfaithful to Him?

## 2. New Beginning (Genesis 6:14-22)

In these verses, God focused on Noah and gave him some unusual instructions. Instead of questioning why he should build a boat in a desert, Noah did all the Lord commanded Him. That's the kind of obedience we should strive to display in our own lives. Following God by faith and with uncertainty is better than following the world with clarity.

- ❓ What are some things all Christ followers are called to that don't make sense to the world? What makes it hard to be faithful in these areas?
- ❓ How have you been encouraged toward faithfulness by brothers and sisters in the church? How is prayer for one another instrumental in this?
- ❓ Application: Where is God calling you to obey now? How do you need to respond?

### 3. Promise of God (Genesis 9:12-17)

These verses follow the events of the flood. Once the flood was over, it was time for rebuilding. God gave instructions on how that was to happen, and He blessed Noah for his obedience. God also established a covenant with mankind and promised to never flood the earth again. The Lord knew Noah and subsequent generations would need a reminder of His covenant, so He placed the rainbow in the sky as a sign. In God's grace, this sign would remind and encourage Noah and those who followed God later that God was faithful in the past and would be in the future.

- ❓ What are some types of shaky ground that people stand on today? How are Christians also tempted to place their hope in these things?
- ❓ How does God's ongoing faithfulness give us reason to repeatedly come to Him in prayer?
- ❓ Application: Where is God calling you to be bold in standing out for Him? What steps can you take toward that?

### Conclusion

- ❓ How will you be obedient in an area you have been questioning God's instructions instead of obeying them?
- ❓ How can we encourage one another toward faith in God's promises?
- ❓ Who are the lost and searching around you who need a new beginning? How can you share the hope of Christ through the story of Noah?