



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis 1 – 19 Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: Land!

Sermon Title: “Mulligan” (Gen 8:15-22)

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### Connection to Session 7

Session 7 focuses on Noah’s family’s exit from the ark and the restoration that is available for those who trust God. This message will emphasize Noah’s family’s purpose to multiply, fill the earth, and restart man’s relationship with God and His creation.

### Introduction/Opening

One fun aspect of a friendly game of golf is the mulligan rule. For those not familiar with this term, a mulligan is a chance given to a golfer in times of a bad swing with the ball landing in an unusually bad location. The golfer can then take another swing without penalty. In other words, a mulligan is a “do over,” a chance to try it again, a way to get bad on track and start again.<sup>1</sup>

At this point in the text of Genesis, God has just flooded the earth in His judgment of sin. Thankfully, Noah and his family were rescued from the flood, saved by the ark, which Noah built in accordance with God’s instructions. After ten long months of the waters filling the earth, the flood had receded to the point where a vessel could make landfall. The ark set down in the mountains of Ararat in Asia Minor, located in the area of the eastern part of modern-day Turkey.

But what about the concept of the do-over? What did Noah and his family do once they exited the ark? And how does this apply to us today?

### Outline

#### 1. Step Out! (8:15-19)

- a. God commanded Noah and his family to leave the ark.
  - i. But not only did Noah come out, all living creatures did as well!

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<sup>1</sup> Christopher Powers, “Did You Know: Where did the term ‘mulligan’ originate?” from *Golf Digest*, April 01, 2020, <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/did-you-know-where-did-the-term-mulligan-originate>.

- ii. This was all in accordance with the command of God. The first act of obedience after leaving the ark was to bring everything out of the ark.
- b. But what did God want Noah to do once he stepped on land?
  - i. “Be fruitful and multiply the earth” (v. 17).
  - ii. The commands given to Noah were the same commands given to Adam (Gen. 1:22,28).
- c. In the same way, God calls us to step out in obedience to Him.

## **2. Step Up! (8:20)**

- a. Noah responded to God’s work over the past year in a way that was appropriate: he worshiped God.
- b. He set up an altar, took clean animals and birds, and sacrificed them to the Lord.
  - i. Noah had seven pairs of clean animals and birds on the ark (Gen. 7:1-3).
  - ii. God had made provision nearly a year earlier for Noah for this purpose!
- c. Noah’s obedience showed his love for the Lord.
  - i. He followed God’s instructions, both in building the ark and exiting it.
  - ii. He praised God for His grace in saving him, his family, and the world.
    - 1. In the same way, we are to be sacrificial in our hearts through obedience and reverence (Ps. 51:17).

## **3. Walk Faithfully! (8:21-22)**

- a. God’s first reaction was delight in the “pleasing aroma” (v. 21).
- b. He responded with new promises:
  - i. He would never again curse the ground because of man’s sin.
  - ii. He would never destroy every living thing again.
  - iii. Time will continue in a predictable pattern.
    - 1. Harvest to harvest will not cease.
    - 2. Season to season will not cease.

3. Day and night will not cease.
  - c. God has been and is always faithful. Even today.

## Conclusion

God has been faithful, creating life, sustaining life, and pressing forward for one purpose: the redemption of the world for His people to worship Him one day. We're not always faithful like Him, and in fact, we are often unfaithful. **But God is the God of second chances. Of do-overs. Of Mulligans.** He allows us to come to Him, worship Him, and bring others to worship Him. When our hearts are changed, He is glorified. When more worship Jesus, He is glorified. Accept God's invitation for you to take a mulligan: Step out, step up, and walk faithfully for Him.

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