

07 THE GREAT RESET

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 8:10-22

CENTRAL truth

Noah and his family had been waiting and waiting and waiting for the flood waters to finally recede so they could step on dry land. Once they did, two things were clear: Noah and his family had been spared from God's wrath, and God was making the world anew. Noah's response was to worship. Noah and the ark is a rich picture of the gospel and how **God brings life from death**.

key question

What kind of parallels do you see between this narrative and Genesis 1? (Pay special attention to 8:17 and 1:22.)

Genesis 1 tells the story of how God made the world, and in 1:22 we learn that He gave a special commissioning to creatures. As the animals unloaded from the ark, God used this same wording to describe His plan for them. In Genesis 1, sin was not yet present, so God set a boundary around the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But here in Genesis 8, it's as if God set a boundary around his own display of wrath. He would never again pour it out on the earth in this way. God's Son would endure this wrath Himself so that we could have life.

keep in mind

- People frequently debate whether the flood was truly a worldwide flood, a local flood, or perhaps just a metaphor. Rather than indulge in debate, point to what God's Word says. Stress that there's nothing wrong with asking questions, but they may not always get answers. If it helps, you can begin a conversation about genre. Some things in the Bible are intended to be read literally (like historical narrative), while other kinds of writing, like poetry, should be read figuratively. It's wise to investigate the genre of the text we're reading.
- God's wrath and the overwhelming destruction of the flood might be overwhelming to some students. Support them by pointing over and over again to a few important concepts: the horror of sin, the goodness of God to address sin, God's promise of a Redeemer, and God's faithfulness to rescue His people.

application

How can we trust that God is working, even if we need to wait longer than we want to?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: What a gift it will be if students can see the gospel come alive in this narrative and seek to press its truths into their lives! When they are waiting, they can know God is in control. When they are harmed by sin, they can know God hates sin. When they realize their own sin, they can know God provided an ark through Jesus.

FOR THE LEADER: Train students to look for the gospel in the Old Testament by carefully leading them through the flood narrative. Encourage students that the gospel is good news for their lives.

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