

08 PROMISE & PROTECTION

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 9:1-15

CENTRAL truth

After a long season of building, a long season of rain, and a long season of waiting for the waters to recede, Noah and his family were able to get off the ark. Finally, they were able to begin a new season of life, and God gave them some familiar instruction for life in this remade world. Like God said to the animals, they were supposed to “be fruitful and multiply.” But these life-makers also needed to take special care to not become life-takers. **Life matters to God, so it must matter to us.**

key question

From what you know so far about God and creation, why is murder so offensive to Him?

Genesis teaches us right away that God is our life-giver. He is also the One who shapes our lives. Every day of our lives is written in His book! (See Ps. 139:16.) When a human being takes the life of another, that’s like saying, “I’m God, and I decide when someone’s life ends.” Because we live in God’s world, murder is an act of treason. It’s also in direct opposition to humanity’s God-given job! Under God’s design, people are life-makers. Under sin’s deceit, people can become life-takers.

keep in mind

- Once again, murder is a theme in the day’s text, and this may impact more sensitive students. Continue to encourage them to remember that murder offends God too. They are bearing His image when they care. God does not overlook sin, but He also loves to show mercy to sinners. All of this is made plain through Jesus on the cross. We can look to Him.
- Because of its modern usage by the LGBTQ+ community, the rainbow can invite a lot of questions. Rather than dwelling on how the rainbow is used in today’s culture, focus on God’s original purpose in placing a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His covenant. See this week’s Context note to help guide your discussion. If students have additional questions, invite them to speak one-on-one with you or another leader.

application

As someone made in God’s image, what does it look like for you to value life?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students can begin to develop a biblical understanding of why life matters and begin to shape their lives according to God’s value system.

FOR THE LEADER: Leaders can help students apply principles from Genesis to their own lives. It may seem like this ancient text wouldn’t speak into our lives, but it does!

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