



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 7: Land!

Suggested Week of Use: January 14, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 8:10-22

News Story Summary

On New Year's Eve, thousands braved the crowds and the weather for more than twelve hours to ring in 2024 by watching the ball drop in New York City's Times Square. One TikTok photojournalist, Michal Blank, went to experience the event and to record first-hand information from those in attendance. She talked to several people who endured the elements and the hard conditions just so they could be near the area where the ball would drop.

One man explained that people were not allowed to bring in alcohol, food, blankets, chairs, or any kind of bag. He had arrived at 5 a.m. to claim his space and was ready to stand in that spot for nineteen hours. Spectators had to wait in specific areas; and, if they left, they lost their spot. The man Michal interviewed was bundled in several layers of clothing which he would remove or replace as the day progressed. Many said they wore feminine hygiene pads or diapers so they could relieve themselves without risking their spot.

Later in the day, Michal reported that some food was available. Sandwiches were \$20, and drinks were \$5. One social media responder said, "I went 10 years ago and it's a real once in a lifetime experience. . . . once you do it you never want to do it again."

For more about this story, search "New York Times Square Ball Drop Wait No Blankets."

Engage

To supplement Engage, allow adults to share how they rang in the new year. Ask: *What is the hardest part of waiting for something?* Share the news story of the people waiting in Times Square on New Year's Eve. Emphasize how many hours some people waited and the conditions they endured. Ask: *How might waiting in New York on New Year's Eve compare to waiting on God to do something in your life?* Remind the group that Noah and his family waited in the ark for a long time, even after the rain stopped. Share that this session reveals how that wait turned out for them.

Challenge

To supplement Challenge, ask: *What makes having patience hard when you're waiting for something?* Recall the story of the people in Times Square and what they endured. Point out again the reaction of the responder on social media. Proceed with the questions included at the end of the Challenge section.