

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Look→Understand→Connect→Apply→Pray

Week of September 20th

FAITH IN ACTION

Hebrews 11:7

MAIN POINT

Noah shows that real faith responds to God's warnings, obeys God's Word, and becomes visible evidence of righteousness in a world headed toward judgment.

KEY SENTENCE:

Faith acts on God's Word even when the command concerns things not yet seen.

1. LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Hebrews 11:7 together.

1. What does Hebrews 11:7 tell us about Noah's faith and how he responded to God's warning?

Leader follow-up:

- What had God warned Noah about? (See Gen. 6:9-22)
- What does it mean that Noah acted on "things not yet seen" (Heb. 11:7)?
- What do you think Noah had to believe about God in order to respond this way?

2. The passage says that Noah acted with "holy fear." What do you think that means?

Leader follow-up:

- How is holy fear different from being terrified of God?
- How might a healthy reverence for God affect the way we respond to His Word?

Leader Note: The sermon describes "holy fear" as thoughtful, reverent responsiveness to God. Noah didn't merely hear God's warning—he took God's Word seriously enough to act on it.

2. UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?

3. Noah had never seen anything like the coming flood, yet he built the ark according to God's instructions (Gen. 6:14-22). What does his obedience teach us about the relationship between faith and action?

Leader follow-up:

- Can someone genuinely trust God without that trust affecting how they live?
- Why might obedience be difficult when we don't fully understand God's plan?
- What is the difference between simply agreeing with God's Word and acting on it?

4. Hebrews 11:7 says that Noah "became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." What does this tell us about where righteousness comes from?

Leader follow-up:

- How is receiving righteousness different from earning righteousness?
- Why is this distinction important to the Christian life?
- How does faith lead to obedience without turning obedience into a way of earning God's acceptance?

Leader Note: Noah's obedience did not earn his righteousness. The passage presents him as an “heir” of righteousness that comes through faith. His obedience was the evidence and expression of his trust in God, not the basis on which he earned God's acceptance.

5. Noah's faith "condemned the world." What do you think that means?

Leader follow-up:

- Was Noah condemning people through hostility or simply by the way he lived?
- How can one person's trust and obedience to God expose the unbelief of others?
- Why might faithful obedience sometimes make Christians uncomfortable in the eyes of the world?

Leader Note: The sermon emphasizes that Noah did not condemn the world through hostility. His trust in God's Word stood in contrast to the unbelief of his generation. His life became visible evidence that God's warning was to be taken seriously.

3. CONNECT — How does it connect to our lives?

6. Noah acted on God's Word even though the things God warned him about had not yet been seen. Where do you find it difficult to trust God when you cannot see how things will turn out?

Leader follow-up:

- What makes uncertainty difficult for you?
- Do you tend to respond to uncertainty with fear, control, avoidance, or trust?
- What would it look like to act on God's Word in that situation?

7. The world around Noah continued with ordinary life while God's judgment was approaching (see Lk. 17:26-27). How can the busyness and normalcy of everyday life make us less attentive to God?

Leader follow-up:

- What kinds of things can distract us from eternal realities?
- How can we live faithfully without becoming disconnected from ordinary responsibilities?
- What helps you keep God's promises and future judgment in view?

Leader Note: In Luke 17:26ff Jesus compared the time before His return to the days of Noah: people continued with ordinary life until judgment came. The point is not to live in constant alarm, but to remain spiritually awake and responsive to God's Word.

8. Noah faithfully followed God even when his obedience would have looked strange to the people around him. Where might following God's Word require you to go against the prevailing values or expectations around you?

Leader follow-up:

- What makes obedience to God difficult when others don't understand it?
- Are there situations where you're tempted to prioritize fitting in over faithfulness?
- How can other believers encourage us when obedience feels costly or unpopular?

4. APPLY — What will we do with this?

9. What is one area where God has clearly spoken through His Word, but you are struggling to respond with obedience?

Leader follow-up:

- What specifically is holding you back?
- What would obedience look like in practical terms?
- Is there a first step you can take this week?

10. Noah spent years faithfully acting on God's Word before he saw the fulfillment of God's promise. What might faithful perseverance look like in your life right now?

Leader follow-up:

- Where are you tempted to give up because you haven't seen the results you hoped for?
- What would it mean to remain faithful even without seeing the outcome?
- Who could encourage or hold you accountable as you persevere?

Leader Note: Noah's faith was not merely an internal belief. It produced sustained action over time. The key sentence of the sermon is helpful here: "Faith acts on God's Word even when the command concerns things not yet seen."

5. PRAY — How should we pray about it?

Share briefly:

- Where do you need greater trust in God's Word?
- Where is God calling you to respond with obedience?
- Where do you need patience to remain faithful even though you cannot yet see the outcome?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to give us faith like Noah—to take His Word seriously, respond with holy fear, obey even when we cannot see the outcome, and trust completely in the salvation He has provided through Christ.

Pray also for other needs, requests, and praises mentioned by group members.