

ORIGIN STORY

AND STARTED OVER WITH ONE FAMILY

Discussion Guide | Genesis 8:1–9:17

BIG IDEA

God took a broken world and started over, so imagine what He can do with your life. The gospel offers more than another chance: through Jesus, God makes us new.

GETTING STARTED

Begin with prayer, then invite everyone to answer: **Where in life are you most tempted to wish for a “start over” button?**

SERMON IN ONE MINUTE

- God remembered Noah and faithfully began restoring creation, but the restoration happened gradually rather than instantly.
- Noah had to leave the familiar safety of the ark and trust God in an unknown future.
- God established a covenant not because humanity had become good, but because God is gracious, patient, and faithful.
- The Flood gave the world a fresh start, but Jesus gives people a new heart and makes them a new creation.

LEADER TIP

Do not rush to solve every struggle shared in the group. Listen well, make room for honesty, and help people notice where God may already be bringing slow, steady restoration.

1

WATCH GOD HEAL A BROKEN WORLD

God remembers, acts faithfully, and restores at the right pace.

Read together: Genesis 8:1–14

Key Truth: There can be a real difference between God remembering us and our seeing the full restoration we are waiting for. Sometimes His greatest miracles unfold slowly enough that we almost miss them.

1. What does the phrase “God remembered Noah” reveal about God’s character and His promises?
2. Why is gradual restoration often harder for us than an immediate answer?
3. The dove returned with a fresh olive leaf—small evidence that creation was healing. What “olive leaf” of hope have you seen recently?
4. How can we remain faithful when the storm has eased but we are still waiting for the next chapter?
5. How can this group support someone who is in the middle of a slow healing process?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Where might God be inviting you to “look again” and recognize progress, healing, or hope that you have overlooked?

2**STEP INTO AN UNKNOWN FUTURE**

Faith trusts a known God when the future is unfamiliar.

Read together: Genesis 8:15–22 and 9:1–3

Key Truth: Sometimes God saves us in one season and later calls us out of the very thing He used to preserve us. Obedience may mean entering the ark, waiting in it, or—when God says so—coming out of it.

1. Why might leaving the ark have been more complicated for Noah’s family than simply feeling relieved?
2. What is the difference between trusting an unknown future and trusting the God who leads us into it?
3. Can a healthy boundary, routine, or season of withdrawal eventually become something God asks us to move beyond? What wisdom is needed?
4. Which invitation feels most relevant right now: reengage, move toward joy, serve from your healing, or trust God in a wider place?
5. What is one concrete step of obedience you sense God asking you to take?

DISCUSS

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” What do you know about God that gives you courage for what you do not know about tomorrow?

3**EXPERIENCE GOD’S GRACE**

God knows the human heart completely and still moves toward us in covenant love.

Read together: Genesis 8:20–22 and 9:8–17

Key Truth: The Flood judged human wickedness, but it did not cure human nature. God’s covenant rests on His grace and faithfulness—not on humanity’s improvement.

1. Why is it significant that Noah’s first recorded action after leaving the ark was worship?
2. What tension do you notice between the condition of the human heart and God’s decision to bless and establish His covenant?
3. What does the rainbow reveal about God’s compassion for fearful people who need something visible to remember His promise?
4. How does grace differ from pretending that sin, weakness, or pain is not real?
5. How have you experienced God loving you as you are while also transforming who you are becoming?

4

RECEIVE MORE THAN A FRESH START

Jesus does not simply wipe the screen clean; He changes the heart.

Also read: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26–27

Gospel Connection: The Flood gave humanity a fresh start, but the same human heart remained. At the cross, God judged sin so that through Jesus He could forgive us, transform us, and make us new creations.

1. What is the difference between getting another chance and receiving a new heart?
2. Where are you tempted to focus only on changing circumstances or behavior instead of allowing Jesus to transform your heart?
3. How does the truth that Jesus knows the real you—and still moves toward you—change the way you respond to Him?
4. Has Jesus changed you? What evidence of His transforming grace can you see?
5. What part of your life needs to be surrendered to Jesus today?

5

IMAGINE WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH YOU

God works through ordinary people who trust Him and surrender their lives.

Noah's family was ordinary and imperfect, yet God used them to begin a new chapter. Consider what God could do through:

- One faithful, decades-long marriage
 - One parent who discipled their children
 - One generous Christian
 - One missional small group
 - One fully surrendered life
1. Which example above stirs your imagination most, and why?
 2. What gifts, relationships, opportunities, or experiences has God already placed in your hands?
 3. How might this group participate together in God's work of healing, hope, and new creation?
 4. What could change in your home, workplace, church, or neighborhood through one faithful act of obedience?

THIS WEEK

- **Notice:** Write down one "olive leaf"—a small sign that God is restoring something.
- **Trust:** Name one fear about the future and answer it with a truth you know about God.
- **Obey:** Take one step God has been asking you to take.
- **Worship:** Thank God before the outcome is complete.
- **Share:** Tell someone how Jesus has made you new.

MY NEXT STEP

This week, with God's help, I will:

PRAYER

- Thank God for remembering His people and keeping His promises.
- Ask for patience to trust God's pace in areas that are still healing.
- Pray for courage to step out when God calls you into an unknown future.
- Confess where you need more than improved circumstances—you need a changed heart.
- Surrender your life, family, group, and influence to God's purposes.

CLOSING PRAYER

Faithful God, thank You for remembering us, restoring what is broken, and meeting us with grace. Help us trust Your timing, obey Your voice, and step into the future with confidence in who You are. Jesus, do more than give us another chance—change our hearts and make us new. Use our ordinary lives to bring Your hope and Kingdom wherever You send us. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PEOPLE I AM PRAYING FOR

A TRUTH I WANT TO REMEMBER

For personal reflection or group discussion • Chapel Rock Christian Church