

Bible Discussion 4: Judgment and Grace

Text: Genesis 6: 11-21

Purpose: To understand God as a right judge, so we can appropriately enjoy the grace of God.

1. **Opening Question:** *When you were younger can you remember a time you got in trouble? How did you feel?*

Read and Discuss vs. 11-13

The earth was full of wickedness and evil. God was grieved and His heart was filled with pain because His creation had turned so far from Him. Human sin is God's greatest sorrow. God has given plenty of time and plenty of opportunity for people to turn back to Him, but they have gone even farther from Him. In an effort to not allow Satan and sin to defeat His creation God is going to judge and destroy wickedness and sin.

2. **Is it right for God to judge sin on the earth? How do you respond to a God who sees evil, injustice and wickedness, is grieved and carry's (or will carry) out justice? (Trustworthy, Righteous, Thankful, Loving, etc.)**
3. **Does it really make a difference how people live their lives? How we live our lives?**

Read and Discuss vs. 14-17

God tells Noah to build an "ark". The word "ark" means "palace" or "chest". The ark wasn't just a boat, but a safe place for Noah, his family and living creatures to live with God. 120 years (Gen. 6:3) would pass until God sends a flood that destroys the earth. Noah remains faithful during this time and builds an ark and proclaims God to the people in hopes they would turn from wickedness (2 Pet. 2:5).

4. **When was the last time you obeyed God and it was risky? You were uncertain it would work out?**
5. **If you were Noah, what would be the most difficult thing about obeying God in building an ark?**
 - a. Being ridiculed by everyone. Fear of being wrong.
 - b. Being alone. The only one who heard God.
 - c. Not knowing when the rain would come or if it would come at all.

Read and Discuss vs. 18-21

God makes a covenant with Noah, very similar to the agreement He made with Adam and Eve in the garden when He gave them creation and commands. Noah eventually breaks this covenant with God (Gen.9). This will be a pattern throughout the Old Testament. God makes a covenant and then the people break it. God is relentless with His love and sends Jesus as a perfect covenant who will not break the agreement.

6. **How do you respond to a God who continually pursues His people and creation even though He is not obligated to do so?**