Get in the Boat

How Noah’s Ark Reveals God’s Grace

Scripture: Genesis 6–9; Hebrews 11:7

When we think about Noah, most of us probably picture the same things: a huge boat, pairs of animals, rain, and a rainbow.

But Noah's story is so much more than a children's story about animals.

It is a story about sin, judgment, obedience, faith, and grace.

And when I slow down and really look at it, I realize there is a message here that reaches far beyond Noah.

It reaches right into my own life.

Genesis 6:5 tells us:

“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.”

And then verse 6 says something that should make us stop:

“And it grieved him at his heart.”

Sin grieves God.

We sometimes talk about sin as though it is simply a list of things we're not supposed to do. But sin isn't just about breaking rules. Sin damages our relationship with the God who created us and loves us.

It breaks things.

It destroys things.

It separates us from God.

And yet, right in the middle of all that darkness, we find one of the most beautiful words in Scripture:

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”
—Genesis 6:8

But.

The world was wicked.

But Noah found grace.

Judgment was coming.

But God provided a way of escape.

Humanity had turned away from God.

But God had not stopped offering grace.

That little word reminds me that God can make a way even when everything around us looks hopeless.

Faith When We Can't See

God told Noah to build an ark because a flood was coming.

The problem?

Noah had never seen anything like it.

Hebrews 11:7 says:

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark.”

Noah believed God about something he couldn't see.

Think about that.

Noah didn't have weather reports.

He didn't have radar.

He couldn't look at the sky and say, *Yep, looks like the flood is coming*.

He simply had God's word.

And he obeyed.

Sometimes I think that's what makes faith so difficult.

We want to see before we believe.

We want the answers before we obey.

We want God to show us the ending before we take the first step.

But that's not always how God works.

Sometimes He simply says,

“Trust Me.”

Noah didn't know what was coming, but he knew who had warned him.

So he built.

Day after day.

Board after board.

He kept going even when he couldn't see the evidence of what God had promised.

And maybe that's where some of us are today.

God has told us to take a step, but we don't see what comes next.

God has told us to let something go, but we're afraid of what will happen if we do.

God has told us to wait, but waiting feels impossible.

God has told us to trust Him, but we want proof.

Noah reminds us that faith isn't always seeing the answer. Sometimes faith is obeying before the answer appears.

The Ark Was God's Provision

God didn't tell Noah to figure out how to save himself.

God provided the ark.

Noah's job was to trust God's provision and get inside.

And when I look at the ark, I can't help but see a picture of Jesus.

The ark was a place of refuge from judgment.

Jesus is our refuge from sin.

The ark provided safety when the waters came.

Jesus provides salvation when we could never save ourselves.

Noah couldn't stop the flood.

He couldn't control the rain.

He couldn't make the waters disappear.

He could only trust God enough to get into the ark.

Sometimes that's what we have to do too.

We can't control everything happening around us.

We can't stop every storm.

We can't fix every situation.

We can't make every person understand us.

We can't always change our circumstances.

But we can choose where we run when the storm comes.

We can run to Jesus.

When the Door Closed

Genesis 7:16 says:

“And the Lord shut him in.”

God shut the door of the ark.

There is something both comforting and sobering about that sentence.

It is comforting because Noah wasn't responsible for keeping the door secure.

God was.

But it is sobering because once the door closed, the opportunity was over.

For years Noah had been building.

For years he had been obeying.

For years the people around him had the opportunity to listen.

But eventually, the rain came.

This reminds me that God's patience should never be confused with indifference.

God is patient.

God is merciful.

God gives us opportunities to repent and turn toward Him.

But our time on this earth is not unlimited.

There is an urgency to grace.

Today, the invitation is still here.

Today, Jesus is still calling.

Today, forgiveness is still available.

So don't keep putting off what God is asking you to do.

Don't assume there will always be another tomorrow.

When God gives you an opportunity to step into His grace, don't stand outside the door.

When You're Inside the Storm

Imagine being Noah once the door was closed.

The rain begins.

The water rises.

The ark begins to move.

And suddenly, Noah is surrounded by nothing but water.

He can't see where he's going.

He doesn't know how long the journey will last.

He doesn't know what the world will look like when it is over.

But he knows God told him to get into the ark.

And now he has to trust God with the rest.

Isn't that sometimes what our storms feel like?

We pray.

We obey.

We do what God tells us to do.

And then the storm still comes.

Sometimes we think, *But Lord, I did what You asked. Why am I still hurting?*

Noah's obedience didn't keep him from the storm.

It gave him a place of safety in the storm.

That's an important difference.

Following Jesus doesn't mean we will never experience pain.

It doesn't mean we won't lose people.

It doesn't mean we won't face uncertainty.

It doesn't mean everything will always go according to our plans.

But it does mean that when the storm comes, we don't have to face it alone.

Jesus is with us in the boat.

The Waters Eventually Receded

Genesis 8:4 says:

“And the ark rested… upon the mountains of Ararat.”

The ark eventually rested.

The rain stopped.

The waters receded.

And Noah eventually stepped onto dry ground.

The storm had an ending.

I think sometimes we need that reminder.

When we're in the middle of something painful, it can feel like it will never end.

We can't imagine life being different.

We can't imagine feeling peace again.

We can't imagine the situation changing.

But Noah's story reminds us that the storm wasn't the end of his story.

God was still writing.

And He is still writing ours.

We may not know when the waters will recede.

We may not know what the other side will look like.

But we can trust the God who carried Noah through the flood.

Maybe your ark looks different than Noah's.

Maybe your storm is grief.

Maybe it's fear.

Maybe it's a broken relationship.

Maybe it's uncertainty about the future.

Maybe you're simply exhausted from trying to hold everything together.

Whatever the storm looks like, the invitation is the same:

Get in the boat.

Stop trying to save yourself.

Stop trying to control everything.

Stop trying to figure out every detail.

Trust the One who knows where the boat is going.

Grace Is the Point

When I look at Noah's story, I don't want to focus only on the judgment.

I want to remember the grace.

God saw the wickedness of the world, but He still made a way.

God knew what was coming, and He gave Noah a warning.

God provided the ark.

God shut the door.

God carried Noah through the flood.

And God eventually brought him to dry ground.

That sounds a lot like the way God works in our lives.

He warns us.

He calls us.

He provides a way.

He asks us to trust Him.

He carries us through.

And eventually, He brings us somewhere we couldn't have reached on our own.

The ark was both a warning and an invitation.

And so is the Gospel.

Judgment is real, but so is grace.

Sin is real, but so is forgiveness.

Storms are real, but so is God's presence.

Fear is real, but so is faith.

And Jesus is still our refuge.

So if you're standing outside the boat today, step inside.

If you're already in the boat and the storm is raging, stay there.

Don't jump out because the waters are frightening.

Don't assume God has abandoned you because you can't see where you're going.

And don't mistake God's silence for His absence.

The God who told Noah to get in the ark was the same God who carried him through the flood.

He hasn't changed.

And He will carry you, too.

Reflection Questions

Take some time to sit quietly with these questions.

1. What does Noah's story teach me about the seriousness of sin and the greatness of God's grace?
2. What is God asking me to trust Him with right now?
3. Am I willing to obey God even when I cannot see the outcome?
4. What storm am I currently facing? Have I allowed Jesus to be my refuge in it?
5. Am I trying to control something that I need to surrender to God?
6. Where have I been waiting for God to explain everything instead of simply trusting Him?

7. What does “getting in the boat” look like in my life right now?
8. What promise of God do I need to hold onto while I wait for the waters to recede?

Take This With You

I may not know where the storm is taking me, but I know who is carrying me through it.

Closing Prayer

Father,

Thank You for the story of Noah and the reminder that You are a God of both justice and grace.

Forgive me for the times I have treated sin casually or tried to justify things You have asked me to surrender.

Teach me to have faith like Noah—to trust You even when I cannot see what is coming.

When the storm comes, help me remember that You are still with me.

When I am afraid, be my refuge.

When I am tired, give me strength.

When I want answers, teach me to trust.

When I want to control everything, remind me that You are already in control.

Thank You for providing salvation through Jesus. Thank You that I don't have to save myself.

Help me stay in the boat when the waters rise.

Help me trust You when I cannot see where You are taking me.

And when I finally reach dry ground, help me never forget the God who carried me through the storm.

I trust You, Lord.

In Jesus' name, Amen.