

Noah Listens to God

Genesis 6:9-8:22

PPT Title

Noah Listens to God

Main Point: God loves people and wants to rescue them.

PPT Verse

Key Verse: *The Lord is not slow to keep His promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. He is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, He wants all people to turn away from their sins.* - 2 Peter 3:9



Ask: Who can tell me what this is? *Noah's Ark*

Say: It's interesting that nearly everyone in the world could point to that picture and name it as Noah's Ark. It's so familiar and so well known. Nearly every tribe – even in remote areas- has a story about a worldwide flood. Anthropologists have collected between 250 and 300 such flood stories.

Note to Teacher: Howard F. Vos, *Genesis and Archaeology* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1963), p. 32. Vos, gives an excellent summary of some of the most significant ancient accounts and suggests their relationship to the Genesis account.

Because stories of Noah's Ark have been passed down in many different versions, it is actually rare to find people who know the TRUTH and the real message of the Ark.

If you think you've heard this story 100 times, think again! God's Word is so rich and deep. The more we study the Bible, the more truth we learn from God.

PPT Verse

*This is the account of Noah. Noah was a **righteous** man, **blameless** among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.*
- Genesis 6:9-10 NIV

Ask: What two words in that verse describe Noah? *Righteous & Blameless*. Righteous means to be pure in heart in God's sight.

Say: Notice what else was said about Noah: He walked with God. WOW! In just one sentence, look what has been written about Noah! He was righteous, blameless, and a man who walked with God.

Ask: If people had to describe you in just one sentence, what would they say? If *God* were to describe you in just one sentence, how do you think He would describe you?

Say: Remember that the Bible is God's Word. So if the Bible says that Noah was blameless, righteous, and walked with God, then that is the truth!

What does it mean to walk with God? Think back to the beginning of Genesis when God created Adam and Eve and had sweet fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden. Every day, Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day. Can you just imagine what it would be like to take a walk through a perfect garden with the Creator?

To walk with God doesn't just mean to walk physically beside God, but rather to be aware of His presence every moment in your life. Walking with God means listening to Him.

Noah was obviously listening to God! The Bible says that God promises to bless those who listen to God and walk in His ways (Proverbs 8:32, Psalm 128:1).



It is very important to listen to God! Back in the Garden of Eden, God clearly told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit from every tree - except for one: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God said that if they ate from that one tree, they would surely DIE! (Genesis 2:16-17) Satan, who came to Adam and Eve in the form of a snake, told them that God was lying, and if they ate from that tree, they would be like God (Genesis 3:4). Adam and Eve listened to Satan instead of listening to God. They chose to sin, and everything changed! (Genesis 3:7)

When sin came into the world, things were no longer "good". **Sin always spoils things**, and by Noah's day, the world was in terrible shape!

PPT Verse

Now the earth was **corrupt** in God's sight and was full of **violence**. - Genesis 6:11 NIV

Ask: What two words are used to describe the world? *Corrupt & Violent*

Say: This means that the earth was very sinful in God's eyes. It was full of mean and harmful acts. People were making many bad choices. Is that how God created our world to be, corrupt and full of violence? *No!* In Genesis chapter one, the Bible says that everything God created was GOOD. But here we are in Genesis chapter 6, and already God sees the earth as corrupt and full of violence.

God saw how sinful the earth had become. All of the people on earth were leading very sinful lives. - Genesis 6:12

Say: All the people had chosen to sin. They had ruined the good world God had created.

Ask: What are some ways that we can actually ruin our own lives? [Listen to answers](#)
How would you describe our world today? How do you think God sees our world? [Listen to answers](#)

Say: While God saw the world as corrupt and full of violence, He saw Noah as a righteous and blameless man. Noah listened to God, and because he listened, God told him some BAD NEWS and then some GOOD NEWS:

PPT

**BAD NEWS/
GOOD NEWS**

BAD NEWS: God was going to send punishment to the earth.

So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people. They have filled the earth with their harmful acts. You can be sure that I am going to destroy both them and the earth. - Genesis 6:13

"I am going to bring a flood on the earth. It will destroy all life under the sky. It will destroy every living creature that breathes. Everything on earth will die. Genesis 6:17

GOOD NEWS: God had a rescue plan! God gave Noah EXACT directions.



"So make yourself an ark out of cypress wood. Make rooms in it. Cover it with tar inside and out. Here is how I want you to build it. The ark has to be 450 feet long. It has to be 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it. Leave the sides of the ark open a foot and a half from the top. Put a door in one side of the ark. Make lower, middle, and upper decks. - Genesis 6:14-16

"But I will make my covenant with you. You will enter the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will enter it with you.

"Bring two of every living thing into the ark. Bring male and female of them into it. They will be kept alive with you. Two of every kind of bird will come to you. Two of every kind of animal will come to you. And two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground

will come to you. All of them will be kept alive with you.

"Take every kind of food that you will need. Store it away. It will be food for you and for them." - Genesis 6:18-21

Note to Teacher:

BAD NEWS

God said that He was going to destroy the people and the earth.

A flood would be coming.

All life under the sky would be destroyed

GOOD NEWS

ANYONE who listened to God would be safe!

God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. This ark would keep Noah and his family safe.

God made a covenant with Noah. God promised Noah that his family would be saved. God made a way for people and animals to be protected from the terrible flood that was about to come.



Say: Notice that God said, two of every kind of bird **will come to you**. Two of every kind of animal **will come to you**. And two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground **will come to you**. Listen to this: Genesis 7:8-10 says that pairs of "clean" animals and pairs of animals that were not "clean" **came to Noah**. So did pairs of birds and pairs of all of the creatures that move along the ground. Male and female of all of them **came to Noah** and entered the ark. Everything happened exactly as God had commanded Noah. God ALWAYS keeps His promises! God sent a male and a female of each animal, so there would be a mommy and a daddy of each kind of animal. One day, they would have baby animals.

Isn't it interesting that Noah didn't have to figure out a way to get all those animals on the ark by himself? He didn't have to search for them or trap them or bring them in on a rope. **God** had those animals **come to Noah!** Think about that! When is the last time you saw that many animals willingly come to a person? It is not natural for animals to come, two by two, to a person - much less line up to get on a boat! God did a miracle mighty here!

Say: God gave Noah specific directions to follow while building the ark:

- Make from cypress wood
- Build rooms in it
- Cover it with tar inside and out (This was to waterproof the ark).
- 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet high.
- Needs a roof
- Lower, middle, and upper decks
- Take food on the ark for the people and the animals
- NE door - and through that **ONE** door, all who entered would be saved.



The best part is that Noah listened to God! All throughout the Bible, we see that when disaster is about to happen, God always sends a warning. It took Noah 120 years to build this ark, and all the while, he was preaching righteousness to the people. The problem isn't that God didn't send a warning; the problem is that the people didn't listen.

These people had 120 years to trust and believe in God, but they would not listen! Noah DID listen, and he followed the directions that God gave him.

PPT Verse

Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him. - Genesis 6:22

Say: After Noah had followed all of God's instructions, and after the animals, Noah, and his family were safe in the Ark, GOD SHUT THE DOOR. And SEVEN DAYS later, it began to rain.

Ask: Do you think it was hard for Noah and his family to be in that ark for 7 days before the rain even began? *Yes, they probably wondered if it would ever rain*

Say: Noah LISTENED to God; Noah TRUSTED God. When God said it was going to rain in 7 days, Noah BELIEVED God! This is what it means to have FAITH - to believe and trust what God says. (Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing, or listening.)

And think of this: it had never rained before! It may have seemed strange to Noah that God would tell him that big drops of water were going to fall from the sky. We see rain all the time, but Noah had NEVER seen rain before, and he was 600 years old! But whether Noah had seen rain or not, Noah chose to LISTEN TO GOD and to BELIEVE GOD!

Application: It is very important for us to listen to God as well! It might be that God tells you to do something or to go somewhere. He may tell you to be kind to an unfriendly child at school. He may tell your parents that your family should move to a new city. It's very important that you listen to God and trust Him. Obeying God is the key to God's blessing in your life. Luke 11:28 says, "Blessed are those who hear God's word and obey it."

Ask: What if Noah had not listened to God? *Noah and his family would have been destroyed in the flood. There would have been no more people!*

Say: There would not have been "another chance" for mankind. Because Noah listened and obeyed, the human race could continue.



Then the rain began to fall.

Rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. - Genesis 7:12

For 40 days the flood kept coming on the earth. As the waters rose higher, they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose higher and higher on the earth. And the ark floated on the water.

The waters rose on the earth until all of the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. The waters continued to rise until they covered the mountains by more than 20 feet.

Every living thing that moved on the earth died. The birds, the livestock and the wild animals died. All of the creatures that filled the earth also died. And so did every human being. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in it died. Every living thing on the earth was wiped out. People and animals were destroyed. The creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped out.

Everything was destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark were left.

The waters flooded the earth for 150 days. - Genesis 7:17-24

Say: The waters flooded the earth for 150 days (Genesis 7:24) then went down over a few months. Five months after the flood began, the ark landed on the mountains of Ararat (Genesis 8:4). It took a long time for the waters to recede and for the ground to be dry enough to walk on. It was a little more than a year that Noah and his family spent on the ark. And when it was safe and God told them to leave, they got off the ark. The earth and all its filth had been washed away by the big flood, and Noah and his family came out of the ark into a clean, brand new world with new life all around them!

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark. Bring your wife and your sons and their wives with you.

"Bring out every kind of living thing that is with you. Bring the birds, the animals, and all of the creatures that move along the ground. Then they can multiply on the earth. They can have little ones and increase their numbers."

So Noah came out of the ark. His sons and his wife and his sons' wives were with him. All of the animals came out of the ark. The creatures that move along the ground also came out. So did all of the birds. Everything that moves on the earth came out of the ark. One kind after another came out.

Then Noah built an altar to honor the Lord. He took some of all of the "clean" animals and birds. He sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar.

Their smell was pleasant to the Lord. He said to himself, "I will never put a curse on the ground again because of man. I will not do it even though his heart is always directed toward what is evil. His thoughts are evil from the time he is young. I will never destroy all living things again, as I have just done. - Genesis 8:15-21



Say: God made a promise that He would never again destroy the earth with water. He set a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of His promise (Genesis 9: 12-17). God told Noah and his sons to go out and have many children to fill the earth with people (Genesis 9:1).

JESUS: OUR RESCUE PLAN



In the story of Noah, we see two very evident characteristics of God. God is **just** and God is **merciful**. These two characteristics may seem like opposites, but they are really not at all. They are much like two sides of the *same* coin.

First, God is **just**. Another word for just is fair. Like a good judge, He must punish sin. It would not be fair for a judge to allow someone to break the law and not punish him. In the same way, God must punish sin. But this does not make God happy. Genesis 6:6 tells us that God's heart was filled with pain.

Secondly, God is **merciful**. This means He is compassionate and kind, not wanting to punish. God loves His people very much. Therefore, He had a rescue plan for Noah and his family. And, God allowed Noah to warn those around him for 120 years.

God never changes! He is still perfectly **just** and **merciful** today. He must still punish sin, but He has provided a rescue plan for all who will listen. The Bible says that each of us has sinned and will be punished for our sin (). But, in His mercy, God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to become our substitute. When Jesus died on the cross, He met God's punishment requirement. All who place their trust in Jesus will be saved from eternal punishment, and given eternal life ().

We can see similarities in God's rescue plan for Noah, and His rescue plan for us.

The door: There was only one door on the ark. Anyone who trusted in the ark that God provided would enter through that door and be saved from the flood.

Jesus said, *"I am the Door. Anyone who goes in through Me will be saved from the punishment of sin."* - John 10:9a

New Life: When the waters receded and Noah's family came out of the ark, the sinful world they had left was washed away. They entered into a brand new world with new

life budding all around them.

When Jesus died, was buried, and then rose from the dead, He took away the power of sin and death. Anyone who trusts in Him has a completely NEW LIFE! God has made a way for us to have a clean, brand new life in Him.

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! - 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Light: God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise that He would never flood the earth again. Do you know what a rainbow is made from? Seven colors of LIGHT!

Jesus said, I am the LIGHT of the world (John 8:12). Even in the rainbow, we can remember that God keeps His promises and that Jesus is the LIGHT! Those 7 colors of light are ALWAYS in the same order: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet. God is orderly and deliberate in everything He does! We can always trust Him and depend on Him.

Say: God loves people. He wanted Noah's generation to listen to His Word and be rescued! There came a time, however, when it was too late. We can only imagine that when the rain started falling that the people suddenly wanted to listen, but at that point, it was too late.

Just as God gave the people in Noah's day a lot of time to trust in Him, He has given you many opportunities to trust and believe. It is important to listen to God NOW - TODAY!

PPT Main Point

Main Point: God loves people and wants to rescue them.

Note to Teacher:

But just as the time of grace finally expired in Noah's day, so it will for men today: *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up - II Peter 3:10*

Our Lord taught that the days preceding the flood would be just like those preceding His final appearance to judge the earth:

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:37-39)

These days were not described in terms of debauchery or decadence, but of normality—business as usual. Men in the last days will be doing what they always have. There is nothing wrong with eating and drinking, giving in marriage, or buying and selling. What is wrong is doing so without God, and supposing that we may sin as we please without paying its penalty. The age of grace will end. Let us respond rightly to God's grace.

We are also instructed in the matter of the wrath of God. We learn from the flood that while God's wrath is slow, it is also certain. Judgment must eventually be meted out to those who reject God's grace.

Be very clear that while wrath and judgment are certain, they do not delight the heart of God. Nowhere in this passage is there one scene of suffering and anguish described in detail. Even Noah's eyes were kept from beholding the torment suffered by those who died in the flood. The ark had no portholes, nor picture windows to look out on the destruction God wrought. The only opening was that at the top of the ark to allow light to shine in.

God does not delight in judgment, nor does He needlessly dwell upon it, but it is a certainty for those who resist His grace. Do not deceive yourself, my friend, there is a time when the offer of salvation will be withdrawn.

Then, too, God's judgment is often allowing things to take their own course. The account of the flood seems almost like creation reverted to the conditions of the second day of creation - cf. Genesis 1:6-7

In the book of Colossians we are told that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (Colossians 1:16-17). Men who reject God live as though God did not exist at all. In the Great Tribulation, God is going to give men seven years to discover what living without God is like. God's restraining, controlling hand will be withdrawn, and chaos will reign. God's judgment is often giving men both what they want and what they deserve—the natural consequences of their deeds.

Finally, let us consider the subject of the salvation of God. In the case of Noah, we must observe that God's way of salvation was restrictive. God provided only one way of salvation (an ark) and only one door. Men could not be saved any way they wished, but only God's way. Such is the salvation that God offers men today.

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me' - John 14:6

The salvation of the ark was also instructive. It provides us with a picture of the salvation that was accomplished in Christ. It was for those in Moses' day a type of Christ. The difference between those who were saved and those who perished in the flood was the difference between being in the ark and being outside it.

Those who were saved and those who died all went through the flood. But those who survived were those in the ark that sheltered them from the effects of God's divine displeasure on sin. Those outside the ark, as well as those within, knew the ark existed and were informed that God had warned of a judgment to come. Some chose to ignore these facts, while Noah acted upon them.

So it is today. God has said that there must be a penalty for sin—death. Those who are in Christ by faith have suffered the wrath of God in Christ. On the cross of Calvary, the wrath of God was poured out upon the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ. Those who trust in Him have experienced the salvation of God in Christ. Those who refuse to trust in Him and be in Him by an act of the will must suffer the wrath of God outside of Christ, our ark. Knowing about Christ no more saves a man than knowing about the ark saved men in Noah's day. It is being in the ark, being in Christ, which saves!

God's way of salvation was not a glamorous one. I believe that many would have been on board the Queen Mary if Noah had built it, but not on the ark. There was little appeal to the eye on that ark, but it was sufficient for the task of saving men in a flood.

Many refuse to be saved if it cannot be achieved in some glorious way, one that is appealing and acceptable. I would not want to spend a year cooped up with noisy, smelly animals any more than you, but that was God's way.

Our Lord Jesus, when He came to offer salvation to men, did not come as One Who had great personal magnetism or appeal. As Isaiah spoke of Him 700 years before His coming, *He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him - Isaiah 53:2*

Many would come to salvation if it appealed to them in the flesh. God's salvation is not of this kind.

Sometimes Christians fail at this same point. They think that God's way is a glorious one all the way. All miracles and magnificence. No suffering, no pain, no agony, no heartache. I must tell you that God's way is not always as glorious as we might wish, but it alone is the way

~~of deliverance and peace and joy.~~

And this salvation, which God provided, was one that was entered into by faith in God's revealed Word. Noah probably never had seen rain, nor heard the clap of thunder. But God said that there was to be a flood and that he was to build an ark. Noah believed God and acted on his faith.

Noah's faith was no academic faith—a mere faith in principle, but an active faith—a faith in practice. He spent 120 years building that ark, committing himself to the God he knew. Our faith, too, must be active.

Noah, we are told, was a preacher. I do not believe that he often spoke from behind a pulpit, but from behind a plank and a hammer. Noah's lifestyle condemned the men of his day and warned of the judgment to come. Noah's whole life was shaped by his certainty that judgment was coming.

We who are Christians know that our Lord will again return to judge the world. I wonder how much it has affected our daily lives? Can your neighbors and mine tell that we are living in the light of a coming day of judgment and of salvation? I sincerely hope so.

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