

Starter Question:

When was the last time you tried something for the first time and what was it?

BIG IDEA:

Following Jesus today versus waiting for someday.

SUMMARY:

In the middle of a broken and chaotic world, Noah was a man hand-picked by the grace of God. Noah wasn't perfect but he understood his need for the grace of God. **(Genesis 6:8-9)** Noah and his family watched as everything that was comfortable, convenient, and that they could control, was washed away by a storm. In the midst of the chaos and destruction, God provided salvation for Noah and his family. When the floodwaters receded, they were given the mission of rebuilding the world. **(Genesis 9:1)**

Like Noah, the grace of Jesus changes our reality, our identity, and our eternity. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)** When we receive the grace of Jesus, we become holy and blameless in God's sight. **(Ephesians 1:4)** Remember that you are right with God because of what Jesus has done, not because of what you have done. Noah and his family were given a new vision, new opportunity, and a new horizon waiting for them after the storm was over. God has a new opportunity for us to rebuild this world with the hope of Jesus.

1. SALVATION IN THE STORM

The wooden ark in **(Genesis 7:17-18)** is a picture of the wooden cross of Jesus. We can't control the storm that is raging around us, but we can choose whether or not we are going to get on the ark. We can control if we are going to hold on to the cross and the finished work of Jesus.

Question 1

In Genesis 7:18, says that the ark, "...*gently floating on the surfaces of the water...*" Would we consider ourselves "gently floating" through the coronavirus season as you hold on to the grace of Jesus? How is it reflected in your words and actions?

2. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter your perspective and opinion on when it's time to return to "life as normal," right now is about honoring one another and loving one another.

Question 2

"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." **LUKE 10:27**

How can you best love those in your life who may have a different opinion than yours?

3. WHAT'S NEXT

We all need more than rows at a gathering. We need circles of people where we can engage with one another. **(1 Thessalonians 5:11)** Like the first church in **(Acts 2:42)**, we are going to devote ourselves to engaging the Scriptures, encouraging each other, serving, and prayer.

Question 3

What did this message stir up in your heart and mind, and how are you going to respond?