



Session 3

Title: God's sigh of relief: Family of Noah

A generation of God's delight turning into a godless(ness) wicked generation caused God to regret his very creation. We may wonder, because it appears that God who is so gracious (Isaiah 30:18 & Joel 2:13), how could he destroy his creation? However, one individual and his family's continued allegiance to God made way for a loving and covenant keeping God to start all over again and rebuild his prized creation. Do we please God as a family and have his favor upon us? Can our family be one such conduit for God to display his heart, his work? Let us find out how, by journeying with Noah's family.

Summary of the Video:

In Genesis 4: 16 it clearly says that Cain "went out from the Lord's presence". This is significant, because after this, we can see in the next 3 chapters, a different generation of godless families. There is no mention of families who were worshipping God. The human family from being God's delight, became the cause of God's pain. Genesis chapter 6 (ESV) captures for us God's heart being deeply grieved as he saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of their hearts was evil continually. God decided to destroy everything he had created (Genesis 6:7). This shows the agony and grief of God towards his creation.

Amidst this pain and regret, Noah is being introduced as a sole relief. Noah was one man who was tuned to obey God. In Genesis 6:8 it says, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord". When there is so much grieve around us today, God is still looking at us, like Noah's family to bring relief in the midst of the pain he sees all around. There are so many who have gone in their own wicked ways, neglecting, rejecting God, and becoming easy prey to the enemy. In the face of such a reality, we as the families of the church can be a relief to His pain, as He looks down to this pain ridden world.

It is worth taking a moment to ponder and ask this question – Is God grieving or rejoicing to see my family?

Let us learn 3 Things from Noah, that made him a sole relief and for which we can exclaim – WoW Noah!

W – He Walked faithfully with God (Genesis 6:9). He was righteous and blameless before God. He had a different walk - in the ways of God, contrary to the people of his time. God wants our homes to be a place where He can walk with us. God longs to walk with us daily as he did with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Are we walking with God and bringing him relief or is he grieved with us as a family?

O – He **Obedied** God. Noah did everything just as God commanded him (Genesis 6:22). In a time when people had not seen rain, Noah built an ark. We can say that Noah walked by faith and not by sight, because he just believed all that God revealed to him was good and right and so, he just followed God's instructions. To do everything according to God's will, we must be able to listen to God on a consistent basis. God reveals his plans to his people. When people of God begin to obey God, we have no idea of how much God can accomplish through our obedient lives. Scripture says that the Lord confides in those who fear him and reveals his covenant to them (Psalm 25:14).

W – He **Worshipped** God (Genesis 8:20). The first thing Noah did was to build an altar to the Lord, and he offered a sacrifice as soon as he came out of the ark. God was pleased with the offering and established a covenant, never to destroy the creation again. In today's context many times worshipping the Lord may be reduced to singing and playing of instruments. Worship is a two-way process. Worship is experiencing his presence, Him being pleased with us in the meditations of hearts and reflected in our lifestyle as a family.

Gain Insight & Apply:

With the backdrop of the fall of the human family, their seamless communion with God was disrupted and the consequences which followed were a generation which became godless having no fear of God. God in his love gave us his Son Jesus Christ to redeem mankind and now is using yielded lives to build brokenness and to redeem his cherished creation back to himself.

Let us go through the below questions and deliberate where we stand as a family in the W.O.W factor we learnt from the family of Noah. So that we can also be a conduit of God's restoration and rebuilding work today.

Walk with God: Christ restored back our lost communion with God as our Father and Maker, which has given us the privilege to fellowship with God on a daily basis. However, there are some common hindrances to our walk with God for example, lack of discipline, old habits, familiarity, lack of knowledge of God, discouragement etc., Let us deliberate on the below questions to see how we can have a closer walk with God.

1. Walking with the Lord is not automatic, it requires a continuous intentional effort to keep the Lord in the center of our lives. What could be some factors you think which are hindering your walk with God? Discuss as a family.
2. How can you help each other strengthen your walk with the Lord? Discuss as a family.
3. Bible says that Noah was righteous and blameless before God in his generation. What do you think are the challenges of choosing to obey the Lord, when the popular choice around you is not in line with God's heart?

Obeying God: Scripture says, “Obedience is better than sacrifice...” and God delights in his children obeying his voice (1 Samuel 15:22). We learnt from Noah’s life that he chose to obey the Lord in everything, in the midst of people who were rebellious and living in sin. There are several things that hinder us from obeying God, for example: Fear, Reasoning, Self-righteousness, unbelief, lack of the knowledge of God’s will etc., Let us deliberate on the below questions.

1. Read 1 Samuel 13, to understand some of the mistakes Saul made in his obedience to God. What are some of the factors you think that keeps you from obeying the Lord as a family and how can you overcome those hindrances? Discuss as a family.
2. Bible says this about Noah, that he obeyed God in everything. In order to do things according to the will of God we need to hear from the Lord consistently. What are some of the ways we can build a lifestyle that can help us hear from the Lord? Discuss.

Worshipping God: John 4: 23-24 says,” The Lord seeks for such who will worship him in spirit and truth....”. All through the scriptures we have worship and praise rendered to God by his children and his creation. However, scripture also tells us of people who from time to time worshipped Him only from their lips, but their hearts were far away from Him. We learnt that worship that pleases God is a “lifestyle of worship” and not worship just reduced to singing and good music. Let us deliberate on the below questions to learn how we can be a worshipping family that pleases our God.

1. As a family, does your worship please the Lord?
2. One of the attributes of a lifestyle of worship is a meaningful relationship with people around us. Does your relationship with each other as a couple, your children, and others around you bring honor to the Lord? Reflect as a family. Share any challenges you may be facing in this area and see how you can work on those.
3. The first thing that Noah did as they came out of the ark was to bring an offering to the Lord. The Bible says that this came as a pleasing aroma to the Lord and He decided never to curse the ground again. Is offering a worship to the Lord by giving him priority in all you do, a practice in your family? How can you imbibe this attribute in your family?
4. How can we build a lifestyle of worship that pleases the Lord? Read Romans 12: 1-2, Joshua 24, John 4: 1-26. Discuss as a family.

I WILL:

Joshua as a leader and servant of God, said in Joshua 24: 15 - “...choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”. Our God in his divine wisdom has given us the will to make a choice. So, you too can make a choice to serve the Lord and worship him in spirit and truth. Write down as many “I WILL” statements you can, to put into action your desire to be that conduit of God’s work in and through you as a family. Let us not forget that we have been given the precious gift of the Holy Spirit to walk this journey and help us.

I Will

Prayer:

Father we recognize, when we compare our families with Noah's family, we have fallen short of what we ought to do. Holy Spirit of God, we believe you are bringing these families alive to our hearts, so that we may start walking with you, obeying you and truly worshipping you as a family. Help us O Lord through your Spirit. Amen!

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