

Bible Character Study

Noah | Genesis 6-9

Hebrews 11:7 (NLT) *“It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.”*

Trials Show Us God’s Faithfulness

We have often said in parenting classes how important it is to say what you mean and mean what you say. This is an example that we get directly from God. He is faithful. When God said He was going to send a flood to wipe out the entire world, Noah believed Him because God always means what He says. The trials that came allowed Noah to see the faithfulness of God. Have you seen God’s faithfulness through the trials in your life? Have you experienced that God’s ways are always best—even when they are completely opposed to the culture?

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT) *“Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.”*

Psalms 119:90 (NLT) *“Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.”*

Jeremiah 7:23 (NLT) *“This is what I told them: ‘Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well.’”*

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) *“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”*

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) *“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NLT) *“God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.”*

Trials Teach Us to Be Diligent

What does it mean to be diligent? Merriam Webster’s dictionary defines diligent as “characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort.” Sometimes trials seem to last forever, and the idea of giving up sounds tempting, but trials are designed to teach us to endure, to stay faithful, and to be diligent to the end. When Noah was asked to build the ark, I wonder if he knew he’d spend the next 100 years building a boat while being the laughingstock of the entire area. Yet, Noah was certainly “characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort.” How about you? Are you serving the Lord diligently through the difficulties in your life?

Matthew 5:11-12 (NLT) *“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”*

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) *“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”*

Colossians 4:17 (NLT) *“And say to Archippus, ‘Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you.’”*

Colossians 3:23 (NLT) *“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”*

Philippians 3:14 (NLT) *“I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”*

Romans 12:2 (NLT) *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

Deuteronomy 6:17 (NLT) *“You must diligently obey the commands of the Lord your God—all the laws and decrees he has given you.”*

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT) *“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”*

Trials Teach Us Patience

Our kids grew up hearing a song about patience often... It goes like this: "Have patience! Have patience! Don't be in such a hurry! When you get impatient, you only start to worry..." Oh, how true that is. Throughout 2020, we have likely all needed a big dose of patience as we have been faced with a pandemic that has seemed to go on and on. I'm sure that Noah and his family felt that same intensity too as they waited 40 days and 40 nights for the rain to stop... and then at least another 120 for the waters to recede... before they could even begin the overwhelming task of starting over in a new world. It would have been easy to start going crazy on that ark, surrounded by stinky animals and unable to leave the confines of the boat. But they remained patient through the trials. How about you?

1 Peter 3:20 (NLT) "... those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood..."

Psalms 37:7 (NLT) "Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes."

Isaiah 40:31 (NLT) "But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint..."

Romans 12:12 (NLT) "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying."

Romans 8:25 (NLT) "But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently."

James 5:7-8 (NLT) "Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. ⁸You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near."

Revelation 2:3 (NLT) "You have patiently suffered for me without quitting."

Notes:

Reflection and Response from This Week's Lesson:

What's my take-away and how will I practice trusting God more through my custom-designed trials?
