

Home Groups Questions

October 23, 2011

Journey Through Genesis: Inquiring Minds Want to Know Genesis 6–9

Leaders: The questions below are inspired by Sunday morning's sermon. Please take time to review the questions and use them as a tool for discussion in your Home Group. It may be that we have provided more questions than you will have time to answer. If this is the case, please adjust or adapt the questions to fit your group.

Icebreakers/ Conversation Starters – These are random questions designed to create community and encourage conversation.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much of a curious person are you?
2. If you could replay any moment in Biblical history on a video screen, what would you want to see and why?
3. Who is the tallest person you have ever seen or met? How tall were they?
4. If you knew it would be safe, what exotic animal would you want as a pet?

Turn to Genesis 6–9.

Curious Questions:

- 1) It is not uncommon for people who study scripture to encounter questions about a text. There are times that the Bible references things that the original audience would have understood, but over time have become difficult to interpret. How should believers respond to these difficult questions about the text? Should we:
 - a) Ignore them and hope they will go away
 - b) Thoroughly investigate them for a logical solution
 - c) Only research or investigate texts that may impact our life or faith
 - d) Ask the preacher... If his answer seems reasonable, then adopt it as your own.
 - e) Other
- 2) How does it affect your faith if there are some passages which cannot be interpreted with certainty?
- 3) Below are a list of questions relating to the flood in Genesis 6–9. Which of these questions do you find most interesting or challenging? Why?

i. Who were the “sons of God”? (6:2)

Genesis 6:2 “² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.”

ii. Who were the Nephilim? (6:4)

Genesis 6:4 - “⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”

iii. What did the 120 years refer to? (6:3)

Genesis 6:3 - “Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

iv. What evidence supports the Biblical account of the flood? (6:17)

Genesis 6:17 - “¹⁷ Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.”

v. How long did the flood last? (7:11 & 8:14)

Genesis 7:11 & 8:14 - “¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.....¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.”

vi. How did one man gather all the living things? (6:20)

Genesis 6:20 - “²⁰ Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.”

vii. Where did the water come from to provide a universal flood? (7:19–20)

Genesis 7:19-20 - “¹⁹ The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. ²⁰ The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered..”

What are the takeaways from this ancient story?

a. God’s judgement on sin is real (6:5–6)

Genesis 6:5-6 - “⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.”

1. Why is it necessary for us to be reminded that God's judgement is real? Is this something we are prone to forget? Why or why not?
2. Does God still use natural disasters as a way of judgement? Should we view every tornado, hurricane, or earthquake as God's judgement? Is our drought a sign of God's judgement?
3. How would the nature or character of God be diminished if He were only a God of grace and not also a God of judgement or wrath?

b. God's grace is just as real (6:18)

Genesis 6:18 - "8 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark- you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

1. Which is easier for you to believe, God's judgement is real or God's grace is real? Why?
2. How does our sin have an impact on the way we view God's grace?
3. How can God be both just and gracious at the same time? Doesn't one cancel out the other? Explain.
4. Can you think of a time recently when you have been overwhelmed by God's grace?

c. Noah's last act before the flood was obedience (6:22)

Genesis 6:22- "22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did."

1. As a child, would you describe yourself as always obedient, sometimes obedient, or rarely obedient? Can you give us an example?
2. What keeps us from being radically obedient to God?
3. Has God asked you to do something recently that been difficult to obey?

d. Noah's first act after the flood was worship (8:20)

Genesis 8:20 - "20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar."

1. How does the flood account foreshadow the gospel account of God's judgement and grace? Why should this lead us to worship?

2. In Genesis 8:21, scripture says that Noah's offerings and worship was pleasing to the Lord. What characteristics make worship pleasing to the Lord?

Prayer Time

Calendar:

October 30 – Evening Worship Service (SCHEDULE CHANGE)

November 6 – Home Groups

November 13 – Home Groups

November 20 – Harvest Dinner

November 27 – No Home Groups

December 4 – Home Groups

December 11 – Home Groups

December 18 –