



The story of Noah has been told for thousands of years, and it has sparked many theological conversations and more than a few debates.

Is it fact? Is it fiction? Is it relevant for the modern world?

What does this ancient tale have to say to us in this modern age? Join us for a special series that will explore the story of Noah. You just might be surprised at the things that surface from the depths of this tale.

## **January 9, 2022: Fact or Fiction**

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 6 – 10:1; 1 Peter 3:18-22

What do you really know about the story of Noah and the flood? Are you sure about that? Could you pass a test? In this message, you will be tested - literally.

We will also explore the fact and fiction that often surround this story. Ultimately, we will hear about a greater truth behind the story of the Great Flood that impacts our lives today.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. When you think of the story of Noah and the flood, what things come to mind?
2. How did you do on the quiz given during the sermon?
3. After that quiz, Brian talked about not only the importance of reading the Bible with humility. What does he mean by that? Why is it important?
4. What do you think about the idea of seeking truth in scripture instead of becoming too focused on facts? What does that mean?
5. What is a “larger truth” that can be pulled from the story of Noah and the flood?
6. In what way(s) is the story of Noah and the flood connected to the New Testament?

## January 16, 2022: The Man at the Center of the Storm

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 5, Genesis 3:17-18, Genesis 6:9, Genesis 8:21, Genesis 9:21

We hear his name a lot, but who is Noah? Who was he and what do we learn about our own lives of faith by coming to know and understand him?

What you learn in this message may surprise you and change your image of who Noah was, possibly in ways you won't like. But in the end, the man who was at the center of the storm so long ago has much to teach us about the kind of faith we are called to have today.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Biblical genealogies can teach us a lot about our faith ancestors. Take a look at the one in Genesis 5. What things stand out to you? What does Noah's name mean?
2. While many of us are familiar with the covenant God made with Noah after the flood, there are some words that we often leave out. What are they? (Genesis 8:21) Why are those words important? Why do you think they are often left out when that story is told?
3. What do you think about the fact that the evil that led to the flood remains after it has subsided?
4. While the ground from the flood is still soggy, Noah refused to offer his son the same grace that God offered him. How are we like Noah in that sense?
5. At the heart of Noah's story is a determined faith, one that is willing to answer God's call in spite of the sacrifice it may take and the ridicule it might bring. Have you ever raised an eyebrow about someone else's expression of faith? Have you ever had someone ridicule your faith?
6. In what ways have you heard that still small voice telling you to respond to something in life in a way that you know is right, but the booming voice of our culture makes it hard for you to follow God's call? How do you move past that?

## January 23, 2022: And the Rains Came...

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 6:5-6, Genesis 6:11-13

Why did God send the flood? How did God feel about the decision? Was it effective? In this sermon, we will examine one of the Bible's most destructive events and what it can teach us about our lives of faith. One thing is certain, this story is not the feel-good story that we often tell our children...

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In his message, Brian discusses God's response at seeing the corruption that has taken hold of humankind. There are two primary emotions that God experiences. The first is regret. What do you think it means that God was sorry to have created humans?
2. The second response is grief. God's heart is broken about what has happened and what will happen. What does that say about God?
3. What was the primary cause of the corruption and evil that led to the flood? What does that say to you about the way God views violence in our world today?
4. Why do you think we are so quick to sanitize this story about the death of untold numbers of people at the hand of God while not doing the same with other stories of death and destruction in scripture?
5. When reading scripture, we often identify ourselves with the hero. Why do you think we do that?

## January 30, 2022: An Eternal Reminder

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 8:21-22, Genesis 9:12-16, 1 Peter 3:18-22

In this final message of the series, we look at what happened after the flood waters receded. While we might remember the rainbow in the sky, there is much more to the end of this story than that - and as we have learned throughout this series, there may even be more behind that rainbow than we thought.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Sometimes scripture is hard to understand and accept. Our temptation in those instances is to soften the word to make it more palatable. How can you keep from doing that?
2. What promise does God make to Noah after the flood? Why do you think God made this promise? Did God have a change of heart/mind? If so (or if not) how does that shape your image of how God “works”?
3. Did the flood work? Was evil washed away?
4. Despite the evil that remains in us, God still chooses to love humans and care for them anyway. What does that say to you about God?
5. Even though God is willing to love us as we are (evil included), God does not want us to remain in that state. What does God begin to do in this story to set us on the right path?
6. How does the story of the flood serve as a pre-cursor to baptism?
7. Brian says that while God has the rainbow as a reminder, we have the table. What does he mean by that?