

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date 1 September 2024

TITLE:	Noah—world in a mess
THEME:	Humans have messed up God’s world —God might ask you to help Him out
AIM:	YPs should understand that God calls us to be courageous and obey Him.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT.

There has always been debate about the nature of Noah’s story. Was it global or localised to the “known world”. Flood stories are in every major culture and faith, suggesting an origin in history somewhere. Avoid getting drawn into debate about the size of the boat, were all animals on board etc. How did they feed them etc. all that is irrelevant. What we need to focus on is the key teaching points of the story. God is sovereign, humans messed up His creation, God chose Noah to be part of His rescue plan. God chooses us too to be part of His rescue plan. Will we respond with obedience or mock God like many did?

WARM UP (take your pick or do all or none)

What is your favourite animal ? Why?

Guess the animal (Quiz on PPT)

Tell of a time when you disobeyed your parents and the consequences were disastrous.
(leaders might need to take the lead)

MAIN TEACHING

READ Genesis 6:1-8. (see notes in resources section) Can divide group up to discuss questions and feed back

1. Why was God ‘grieved’ that He had made humans? (v5)
2. The text doesn’t give us clues about what made man wicked except for human hearts filled with evil all the time. What do you think that means? What might life have been like?
3. Is the world better or worse today?
4. How might we grieve God?
5. In v 3 why can’t God’s Spirit put up with mankind? (sin creates a barrier)

Key teaching: This is not Psychopathic evil/ serial killer stuff. This is about rejection of God as God, going our own way. Try to get YPs to see that world today is not that much different except for technology. God is grieved when we reject Him not because He thinks we MUST obey Him but because He loves His creations and desires to be in relationship with us. It saddens Him when we are not.

We were intended to be immortal but sin (v3) caused death and a limit to human existence.

READ 6:9-22

6. Why was Noah chosen to build the Ark?
7. Why are God's instructions so specific? Get the YPs to list out all the instructions. Can they get them all? (**highlighters and sheet with the verses on will be available**)

Key Teaching : It is possible to live a righteous life (walking with God) in a messed up world. We don't have to join in! God notices when we do. It will not save us from a storm (God needs to do that like He did with Noah).

Think of all the activities we can do using water. (list some) In most of them we are trying to use or control water. What happens if we fail to control water. If Noah got the design wrong what would happen? Because God is sovereign He knows what is best.

8. If you were asked to build a boat in the middle of the land, miles from water, what would you say/think? Do you think Noah was any different?

9. How **did** Noah respond? Why did he respond this way? (18)

Key teaching: Noah trusted God and was promised a future. If he obeyed he would be part of God's big plan to restore the world. God might ask us to do some crazy things, thing we might look at and say "What is God up to?" We must learn to trust God's promises (John 3:16 Proverbs 3:5-6 +any others that spring to mind). **Maybe have a story to tell about obedience to God from your own faith journey.**

When we choose to follow God, we will be asked to serve Him and be His arms and legs on Earth. This might mean doing things we were not expecting to or planning to be part of our life.

TAKEAWAY

Humans have rejected God, and this saddens Him. However He does not want this to continue forever. He has put in place a rescue plan (like He did for Noah). He is calling you, (like He did for Noah), to have faith and trust Him. This will involve doing things for Him that will help restore the world. We can trust the promises of God, as Noah did.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

NB. If anyone asks about Genesis 6:1-2 or verse 4 . Here is a simple explanation commonly used.

"Sons of God" referred to descendants of Seth Adam's third son. "Daughters of Man" refers to descendants of Cain the murderer. A reuniting of the separate groups divided after Cain was exiled after killing his brother. (mixing of sinners and righteous) Some suggest Sons of God could be angels, a common idea in ancient mythology. This would have been against God's created order and therefore sinful. Maybe some of the fallen angels (demons).

Nephillim (Hebrew means 'fallen ones') sinners in God's eyes but heroes in human eyes.

POSSIBLE REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY FOR THE END

What does it mean to walk with the Lord? How will your life be different from other friends who don't know Jesus? How hard is it to live for Jesus at school /home?