



RUNNING WITH THE GIANTS

Noah

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Discussion Notes

The Crossing Church

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OPENING

This week we are continuing a series called “Running with the Giants.” The idea for this series comes from the Book of Hebrews where the author gives a long list of people who were giants in the faith. The race of life is a constant challenge, but we don’t have to run it alone. Now we are looking at the lives of biblical giants who ran with endurance and faith, and used their stories to build our own. This summer, we will be running with giants and discovering inspiration for our own journeys. We have these giants of the Bible who have gone before us, sharing their life lessons and helping to keep us from making the same mistakes.

SCRIPTURE¹

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses to the life of faith, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Genesis 6:5-8 Now the Lord observed the extent of the people’s wickedness, and he saw that all their thoughts were consistently and totally evil. So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them. It broke his heart. And the Lord said, “I will completely wipe out this human race that I have created...I am sorry I ever made them.” But Noah found favor with the Lord.

Hebrews 11:7 (NLT) It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before.

Genesis 6:22 (NLT) So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

Genesis 7:1 Finally, the day came when the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the boat with all your family.”

Luke 17:26-27 When the Son of Man returns, the world will be like the people were in Noah’s day. In those days before the flood, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came to destroy them all.

OBSERVATION

This week our giant is Noah, a man in a million, who loved God and proved it by his obedience. He was 500 years old when God called upon him to do something totally unbelievable – to build a boat in the middle of the desert because it was going to rain really, really hard. God was pretty done with the people He had created – He had made the world with great purpose and unity and harmony and everything was going well until Adam and Eve. Then everything began to go bad very quickly. But there was one man who would obey Him even when the request made no sense at all. God reflected grace, love and mercy to an ordinary man and gave him and his family second chance.

Question: When has God called upon you to trust Him when nothing about what He said made sense? What did you do?

Question: What do you think God expected would happen when He created man with free choice? What does it mean if God can make mistakes?

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated



APPLICATION

There are lots of lessons that Noah teaches us on our spiritual journeys, but the most significant involves following God when we are in limbo. It may be that we are between jobs; or graduation is looming and then what? or a relationship has ended; or we are in a season of wondering what is next. We become frustrated when we don't know what is coming because we have lost control. What are we to do?

Question: Under what circumstances has your life been in limbo? What did you do about it?

1) We must believe (trust) God. He gave Noah specific instructions as to the dimensions of the ark and the loading up of two animals of every species and Noah did all of that even though it seemed ludicrous. Simply put, he obeyed God. Jesus tells us that to love God is to obey Him.

Question: When measured by your obedience to Him, how much do you love God?

Question: Why did Noah believe God when the million people around him didn't? What was unique about Noah? What did he know that the others didn't?

Many people are serious about following God until they discover that it comes at a greater cost than they anticipated. We learn that He wants us to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. He wants us to not worry about tomorrow, but that is difficult when we are out of work and bills are coming due. Then He asks us to give more and that doesn't make much sense to humans.

Question: Under such circumstances, how would you react to God's request to give more? When have you regretted not obeying Him? When have you broken God's heart?

Believing God means we must wait upon Him. Noah built the ark over 75 years and things got boring pretty quickly. Waiting is difficult because we are used to wanting things or conclusions right now! We want the perfect mate, the new job, or the promotion sooner than later, don't we? But He asks us for childlike faith that trusts Him no matter what, and the kind of faith that tells us to hang in there in seasons of waiting. That's the kind of faith that God honored in Noah.

2) We must ignore detractors. Following God sometimes means we look crazy to other people. If we are wanting to move from the milk of the Word to the meat of the Word, we must be prepared to be criticized and misunderstood and even considered crazy by those around us – even our families. Going into the mission field, or giving up family income to raise Godly children may seem ludicrous to others, but that may actually be obedience to God.

Question: When have others ridiculed you for your faith? What did they say? How did you handle it?

3) We must maximize opportunities. God gives each of us special opportunities to follow Him on significant spiritual journeys, but those opportunities don't last forever. One day will be our last and the open door to the ark will be closed. The people of Noah's day had 120 years to prepare to enter, but they wasted the opportunity. Sometimes doors close more quickly than we think they will and we regret that loss of a chance to be obedient.

Question: What opportunities, what open doors, has God brought into your life right now that you have yet to walk through? When will you decide to be obedient? What chances have you missed?

Question: What will motivate you to follow Jesus at a deeper level than you are now?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we love You and want to demonstrate this love through obedience to You and Your Word. Help us to obey even when what You are asking sounds ridiculous and beyond our ability. Reveal to us with clarity, O Lord, the paths you are placing before us. In Jesus' name. Amen.