

## Bible Study 2

# Noah: Obedient Builder

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### Read Genesis 5:28–9:29.

One of the most familiar Bible stories is about Noah and the ark. The story is not usually considered a mission story; it seems to be all about the judgment of God on a wicked society. But then, isn't that what the mission is all about—God providing a way of salvation in the face of impending judgment and doom, reconciling lost and condemned people before it's too late?

Exactly what was God's *mission* in this story? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Noah's role or assignment in this mission—besides his colossal construction project? What other jobs did God give Noah to do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Peter call Noah? (2 Peter 2:5) \_\_\_\_\_

In this particular role, how successful was Noah? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people were saved from destruction? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did God choose to save them? \_\_\_\_\_

Notice how God uses His man or woman when He begins to do something in our world. When He wanted to raise up a Chosen People, He sent word to a 100-year-old man that it was time for his 90-year-old wife to have a baby. When He was ready to deliver His people from slavery, He commissioned an 80-year-old shepherd to do battle with Pharaoh. When a giant challenged His people to a dual, God sent a boy with a slingshot. When He was ready to send a Savior, He sent Gabriel with a message to a teenage girl. When He wanted the whole world to know Him, He gave you and me the gospel and told us to go and make disciples. And in this story, when God was planning to destroy the whole world and start over again, He gave His blueprints and plans for salvation to a 600-year-old man and his three sons.

Take a close look at Noah's life. What does the word “walk” in Genesis 6:9 mean?

How do you think God communicated with Noah? \_\_\_\_\_

What complications did God's call place on his life? \_\_\_\_\_

Who were Noah's partners in completing his mission? \_\_\_\_\_

Like Noah, what we build is useless if we don't go out into our world and compel lost people to come in before God forever shuts the door.

How do you think Noah's prayer life was affected by his assignment? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think God helped Noah with his task? \_\_\_\_\_

After Noah and his family moved into the ark, how did he know when to close the door, shutting out all his neighbors and his other relatives? (Look out! It's a trick question.) \_\_\_\_\_

**W**hich task was more difficult for Noah: building the enormous floating zoo or preaching righteousness to his neighbors? Both were critically important. If he failed to preach, no one could respond to God's open invitation to enter the ark and be saved. But if he didn't finish the ark on time, no one would have a vehicle of salvation.

In some ways, we are "in the same boat" as Noah. God has given us a dual task. He has commissioned us to build structures, organizations and tools useful for carrying lost people to a relationship with Him through Christ. As surely as He led Noah to build the ark, God leads us to build groups, ministries and events in our churches, homes, neighborhoods and schools that serve as "vehicles" for the gospel. But, like Noah, what we build is useless if we don't go out into our world and compel lost people to come in before God forever shuts the door.

Now, apply to your own life all you can from Noah's *on mission* story:

What does God want you to "build" that can help carry lost people to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you experience God speaking to you? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you expect Him to communicate with you today? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are your partners in completing the mission God has given you? \_\_\_\_\_

Although none of Noah's neighbors believed his message, he was successful in convincing his family. What about *your* family?

Is your family safe in Christ?  Yes  No

What kind of relationship do you have with each family member? Do they know that you walk with God?

Yes  No

Do you pray together with them?  Yes  No

Do they respect your relationship with God enough to accept a message that you deliver to them from God?

Yes  No

Which of your family members are your *on mission* partners in sharing Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Storm's coming. All aboard!