

08

GENESIS 9:1-15

PROMISE & PROTECTION



THIS WEEK'S focus

If you've ever waited for a new season of a show to come out so that you can finally learn what happens, you have a small taste of what Noah and his family must have felt in today's Scripture. After a long season of ark-building, a long season of rain, and a long season of waiting for the waters to recede, Noah and his family were finally able to leave the ark. They were finally able to begin a new season of life in this remade world. God gave them some instructions that we've heard before: "be fruitful and multiply." But these life-makers also needed to take special care to not become life-takers. Life matters to God, so it must matter to us.



CENTRAL truth

Life matters to God, so it needs to matter to us.



EXPLORE

scripture

GENESIS 9:1-15

GENESIS 9:1-4

1 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. **2** The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are

placed under your authority. **3** Every creature that lives and moves will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given you everything. **4** However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it.

GENESIS 9:5-7

5 And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person’s life. **6** Whoever sheds human blood, by

humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image. **7** But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it.”

GENESIS 9:8-15

8 Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, **9** “Understand that I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, **10** and with every living creature that is with you — birds, livestock, and all wildlife of the earth that are with you — all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark. **11** I establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.” **12** And God

said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: **13** have placed my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14** Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, **15** I will remember my covenant between me and you and all the living creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature.”



08

GENESIS 9:1-15
CONVERSATION

questions

▶ READ GENESIS 9:1-4.

.01 How are God's instructions here similar to the instructions He gave to Adam and Eve? How are these instructions different? (Look back at Gen. 1:28-30 and 2:16-17.)

.02 As we keep reading the book of Genesis, how do you expect the presence of sin to impact the story going forward?

.03 What are some ways you see "fear and terror" in the interactions between humans and animals today?



THEOLOGY

The first mention of blood in the Bible is Abel's, which God said "cried out" to Him from the ground. From the first pages of Scripture, God is training people to think carefully about shedding blood. Throughout His Word, God teaches that sin cannot be forgiven without the shedding of blood (see Heb. 9:22). This reveals the deadly seriousness of sin! But animal blood wasn't sufficient to cover the sins of humanity (see Heb. 10:4)—something more significant was needed. By the time we read about Jesus in the New Testament, things become more clear: all of this talk of blood was pointing to God the Son. Through His death on the cross and the shedding of His blood, sinners could truly be saved.

READ GENESIS 9:5-7.

.04 Look back at Genesis 4:1-16. What did this narrative teach about the value of life?

.05 What does God say the penalty is for shedding the blood of another (vv. 5-6)? Why do you think God gave this instruction as a foundational principle for the remade world?

.06 From what you know so far about God and creation, why is murder so offensive to Him?

READ GENESIS 9:8-15.

.07 How would this covenant have been a message of hope in Noah's day? How is it a message of hope for us now?

.08 What does the flood narrative teach us about God's character? What does it teach us about His values?



CONTEXT

The first time God painted the sky with a rainbow, it was a promise from God that He would never again address sin by destroying the world with a flood. God's ultimate solution for sin was not water that would kill, but water that would give life (see John 4:14). Jesus invites anyone who is thirsty to come and drink living water that only He offers. Whenever we see the rainbow, we can consider it an invitation to look to the only One who can satisfy our thirsty souls.

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goexplorethebible.com/students.



08

GENESIS 9:1-15

NOW

what?



CENTRAL **truth**

Life matters to God, so it needs to matter to us.

.09 What kind of impact does sin have on the world today? Why should this not be a surprise to us?

.10 How should Genesis 9 inform how we view and value life?

.11 As someone made in God's image, what does it look like for you to value life?

.12 How can God's covenant with Noah encourage us? How can we use it to encourage others?

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE GENESIS 9:13

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

GENESIS 9:1-4

DWELL

When God blesses someone, He's placing His favor upon them. Here, it's as if God is saying to Noah and his sons, "You are loved, and you are invited into My plan for this new world." Part of the blessing is the business God entrusts to them! They are to be fruitful and multiply. They are also to be in authority over the animals—which are now part of God's provision for their hunger—but they must use this authority with care.



Compare God's blessing of Noah and his family with God's blessing of Adam. What do you notice?



How do you think this passage points to Jesus?

MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out Genesis 9:13 on a piece of paper. Then, "take a picture" of it with your mind and try to say the verse to yourself a few times without looking.

PRAY

Thank God the Father for blessing us in the best way possible: by sending Jesus! Praise Him that you are loved and that you are invited into His plan through His Son.

day 2

GENESIS

9:5-7

DWELL

God's boundary for how Noah and his sons would exercise their God-given authority over the animals (that is, not eating meat with its blood) is one way God was training them to honor life. Humanity is God's crown of creation, created in His image. We must honor one another by exercising good stewardship over all of His creation! When we don't, God takes this extremely seriously.



What does it say about humanity that God said this right at the beginning of the "new" world?



How can this passage inform how you view and treat others?

MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 9:13 on a piece of paper or note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to say it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

PRAY

Ask God to help you better see the value of life—yours as well as the lives of everyone you know.

day 3

GENESIS

9:8-11

DWELL

A covenant is a formal partnership between God and His people, and this is an important theme in the Bible. Here, God is promising to be faithful in a specific way: He would never again flood the earth. Of course, that doesn't mean that sin was suddenly no longer a big deal. Sin must be punished, but God would never punish it again in this way. One day, He would make a way for sin to be punished but for people to have life.



What does it say about God that He makes covenants with His people?



How does this covenant make you thankful for Jesus?

MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words to Genesis 9:13, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but when something is weird, it helps us remember!

PRAY

Praise God for always keeping His promises! Ask Him to increase your faith in His faithfulness.

day 4

GENESIS

9:12-17

DWELL

God didn't just make the promise once with His words then never mention it again. He painted His promise in the sky so that whenever His people looked at it, we would have an opportunity to remember His faithfulness. Whenever you see the sign of the rainbow in the sky, you can know that God put it there on purpose. It bends up to Him, pointing you to remember how He keeps His promises.



What kinds of things do you think the original hearers of this narrative thought about when they saw a rainbow?



How does this peek at God's character invite you to pray to Him more honestly?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of Genesis 9:13 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Thank God for how He has filled the world with reminders of who He is. Ask Him to help you pay closer attention.

day 5

GENESIS

9:18-28

DWELL

Noah's narrative ends with a somewhat unsavory scene involving drunkenness and nakedness. Both Noah and his son Ham engaged in embarrassing behavior, while Shem and Japheth sought to restore their father's dignity. This scene brings us right back to reality. Yes, God was making the world new, and yes, He would always keep His promise—but humanity continued to fall short. The world needed a true Rescuer.



We might be tempted to look at Noah as a perfect man, but how does this narrative help us look at him more realistically?



How does Noah's life help you look at others more realistically?

MEMORIZE

Tell a friend or family member that your memory verse this week is Genesis 9:13, and explain what it means. Then, invite that person to randomly quiz you at some point today to see if you can remember the verse.

PRAY

Share any of your undignified, embarrassing stories with God. Praise Him that even when you fall short, He has sent Jesus to cover you.