

Weekly Message Study Guide

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Date _____ Speaker _____

The Noahic Covenant - Reverence Life | Week 3 | March 7

Genesis 6:18-21; 8:21-9:17

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

CONTEXT | Covenants are those circles of commitment from which come the best things in life. Through our Lenten series this year, we'll be looking at seven such circles that God invites people into in order to bless us and make our lives a blessing to others. Today we look at the very well known Bible story, Noah's Ark, where we find the Noahic Covenant.

- When was the last time you saw a rainbow? Do you remember your first time? When you see a rainbow what stirs in you? Anything? Nothing? Why?

Discussion warm-up | Which lesson from *Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Noah* most resonates with you? Which comes the easiest and which one do you struggle with the most? Why?

- 1. Stay in shape.** When you're 600 years old, God may ask you to do something big.
- 2. Plan beyond today.** It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 3. Don't be crushed by critics.** Noah had a lot of people who thought he was crazy. Just do the job that needs to be done.
- 4. Listen to science, but Don't idolize "experts."** The Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 5. Travel in two's.** Life's safer and more productive that way.
- 6. Remember: variety matters.** Snails AND cheetahs, giraffes and porcupines made it onto the ark. Whatever color, shape, and gifts you bring, matter to God.
- 7. Don't miss the boat.** When God invites you to go with him, accept it. You don't have forever. And finally,
- 8. Live with hope.** No matter how big and bad the storm, if you are with God, there's a rainbow waiting.

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Review and Focus | Through this series we are learning that God invites us to, “Step into this way of life, this set of understandings with me. I’m asking you to do THIS and I promise to do THIS and as each of us keeps this covenant the result will be blessing all around.” Last week with the Edenic Covenant we learned that God has woven four basic conditions which, if respected and observed, will result in a life for flourishing.

- **Line 1 - COMMUNION:** Human beings are to live in a daily, dependent relationship with their God.
- **Line 2 - COMMUNITY:** Human beings are to live in a transparent, caring relationship with each other.
- **Line 3 - CUSTODY:** Men and women are to be good stewards of the life of the garden.
- **Line 4 - CAUTION.** God says, in effect, there are going to be some things that look good and pleasing to you that are not good for you or which I ask you to stay away from simply because I am GOD.

Disturbing and Important | Read Genesis 6:1-8.

- What does this reveal about the person of God?
- When you read that “God’s heart was deeply troubled” what stirs in your heart and mind?
- What tensions or questions develop in you as you read this passage?

Reset and Restart | Read Genesis 9:1-13.

- How does this resetting, by God lead to a deeper reverence for life?
- How do the “lines” that God establishes for us from last week inform and enhance our understanding of how to reverence life? (See Review and Refocus section above.)

Practice of the Week | Consider God’s Rainbow

What comes to your mind when you see a rainbow? What feelings stir in you? This week make a special point to listen to the Lenten Audio Devotional that relates to today’s message. Doing so might just put a smile on your face and give you a new appreciation for God’s grace filled promise to us. Start by subscribing to our [weekly Lenten audio devotionals](#) by texting to 630.206.3230. Use “TDEVO” to receive them by text directly to your phone, use “EDEVO” to receive them by email.