

THE RAINBOW OF GOD'S PROMISE

God established a covenant with Noah by his grace.



THE STORY: GENESIS 7:11-24

MONDAY

Noah responded in faith though he could not fully see or understand God's plan.

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In the book of Hebrews we read that Noah became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith (11:7) and is considered one of the heroes of the faith. This is because Noah believed what God said. The people around Noah didn't believe what God was saying when Noah preached to them. Can you imagine how odd Noah must have appeared to those who didn't believe God? He was building an ark on dry land and it had never rained before! In those days, the earth received water by streams from below. Faith is not

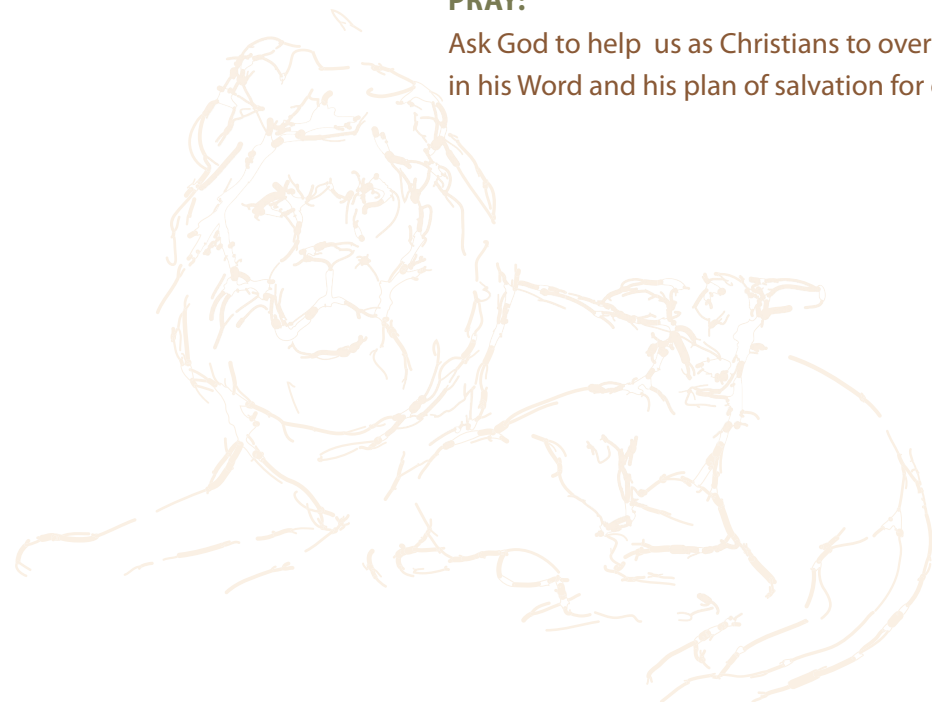
seeing, but believing even when we can't see. Jesus said to Thomas who doubted, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29, ESV).

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some things we cannot see, but that we believe? *(Our whole Christian life is based on believing what we do not see. Jesus went back to be with the Father in heaven so our belief in him is based on faith in what God has said in his holy Word, not in what we see.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help us as Christians to overcome our unbelief and give us faith to trust in his Word and his plan of salvation for our lives.





God remembered Noah and brought an end to the flood.

God remembered Noah and brought an end to the flood. God is faithful to fulfill all his promises. When God said to Noah, "But I will establish my covenant with you" (6:18), Noah could take God's promise to the bank. Similarly, God kept his word to destroy all flesh (6:2). When the judgment of God was complete, God remembered Noah. How precious the word "remember" is! From our perspective looking back from this side of the cross, we know that our names could have been written there in place of Noah's: God remembered (place your own name in the place of Noah). The reason why we can place our name there is because when God remembered Noah, he remembered Jesus—Noah's Savior and our Savior.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do we know that God looked forward to Jesus in remembering Noah? *(Even though Noah was a righteous man compared to the wickedness of his day, he was not without sin. Noah needed a Savior. God could spare Noah only because Jesus was coming to take away Noah's sin.)*

PRAY:

The prayer of every person should be "Remember me, oh God." This simple prayer, prayed in faith, was all that was needed to save the thief on the cross and is all that is needed to save us if we, like Noah, believe.



Where is Jesus?

The rainbow is a sign of another of God's covenants with his people. It reminds us of God's promise that he will not again destroy the earth by flood. This covenant was made in response to Noah's sacrifice of some of the animals after they came out from the ark. God's heart was affected by this sacrifice because it surely reminded him of his plan to sacrifice his son, Jesus. Noah and his family's salvation from the flood is meant to point us to God's plan to ultimately save his people. Jesus's covenant is a better covenant than all those that God made before he came.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When we see a rainbow in the sky of what should it remind us? *(It should remind us of God's promise never to destroy the earth by flood and that God saves us from judgment through Jesus. God's covenant with Noah's was established so that one day Jesus could establish a better, everlasting covenant with us.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for his salvation for Noah and for us.



THE STORY: GENESIS 9:1-17

THURSDAY

God made a covenant with Noah and, through Noah, with all men.

God made a covenant with Noah and, through Noah, with all men. God, again by his own initiative, made a covenant or promise with Noah and with all his descendants: never again will God destroy the world by a flood. The rainbow is the sign of this promise which came in response to Noah offering up a sacrifice (Genesis 8:20-21).

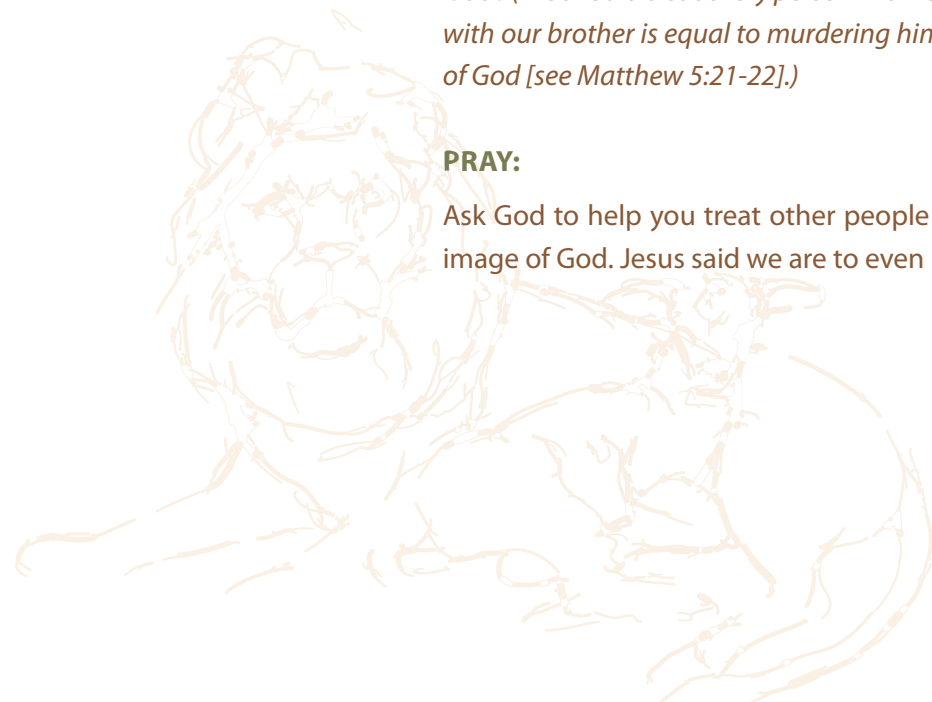
TALK ABOUT IT:

What reason did God give for the command to not kill (shed the blood of) another man? *(God reminded Noah that man is made in the image of God, which sets us apart from the animals. To destroy a person is to destroy the image of God in that person. This is clear testimony that the image of God in man remained after the fall.)*

How should we treat one another knowing that each person is made in the image of God? *(We should treat every person with respect. This is why Jesus said that being angry with our brother is equal to murdering him in our hearts and comes against the image of God [see Matthew 5:21-22].)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you treat other people with respect, knowing that they carry the image of God. Jesus said we are to even love our enemies.





On the road to Emmaus.

Revelation 6:16 describes a day at the end of the world when the kings of the earth will call out to the mountains, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” No king on the earth can stand against the King of heaven, Christ. In this messianic psalm, the psalmist is speaking of Christ when he describes one who will rule over the kings of the earth. The psalmist warns the kings of the earth to kiss the Son lest he be angry. Jesus is the Son of God who sits on the throne and he blesses all those who take refuge in him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is called the King of kings in scripture (*Jesus is called the King of kings and Lord of lords in 1 Timothy 6:15 and Revelation 17:14. In Revelation 19:16 Jesus is said to have the titles “King of kings” and “Lord of lords” written on his robe.*)

What does it mean to take refuge in Jesus? (*Refuge is a place of safety from danger. We can take refuge in Christ and be safe from the wrath of God, which is the greatest danger. This is possible because Jesus died on the cross and took the penalty for our sins. When we seek refuge in Jesus, we are free from the wrath of God, which was poured out on Christ instead of us.*)

PRAY:

In a prosperous country like the one we live in, it is often difficult for us to see that we are in any danger. We can love the world we live in and not realize that if we love it more than God we are in grave danger of experiencing God’s frightening wrath. Pray that God will help you to recognize your need to be saved from the dangers of your sinful state.

