

START HERE • GOD GIVES



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Leader, please make these available to your group.

[La Gloria Christmas Blessing Bags](#) last week to donate!!!! \$20 sponsors a bag filled with useful items and toys given to children in need. We'd like to bless 700 children this year with what might be the only Christmas gift they get! If you sponsor online be sure to visit the lobby on Sundays to fill out your postcard that will go into your bag. We have lots more info at the link!



[Women's Christmas Event](#) will be held on December 10. Tickets are \$25. We have an elegant evening planned with social time from 6-7pm with assorted appetizers and dessert and beverages and a concert with the lovely Anna Golden and gospel presentation from 7-8:30pm. We encourage everyone to get their ticket and bring a friend to this outreach event! Men we do have a need for volunteers so please follow the same link to sign up!





## Week 14 | Just God | Genesis 7:23-25, 8

### JUSTICE ISN'T SOMETHING THAT GOD HAS IT'S SOMETHING THAT GOD IS A.W. TOZER

The justice of God isn't always an easy topic to discuss, but when the issue comes up, I've found that people typically take it as a matter of convenience. By that I mean, the justice of God is upheld when we think of a tyrannical world leader who is responsible for untold suffering or when injustices go unpunished in this life. We expect that perpetrators will get what's coming to them in the next. But that, of course, is a limited view of God's justice. The global flood in the days of Noah presents God's justice as unequivocally, declaring that we are all in the same moral dilemma, that our personal wickedness is known by God, that God cares how we behave and will universally judge sin. And it also conveys the reality that God's justice is purposed for His mercy. With God, mercy always triumphs over justice because God delights in not giving us what we deserve. The greatest demonstration of that is through the cross of Christ His Son. In fact, the ark of Noah's salvation was a foreshadow or a precursor of Jesus, who died to save us all from our sins.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



#### PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to consider how merciful God has been to you and give Him praise and thanks to Him in your time of prayer.



#### REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. What does the global flood teach us about divine moral expectations and divine moral consequences? The world believes less and less in moral responsibility to God, which is leading to a greater moral ambiguity in society. How does the flood of Noah help us address that and equip us to communicate the concept of personal responsibility to God?**

**HE IS THE ROCK, HIS WORK IS PERFECT; FOR ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUSTICE, A GOD OF TRUTH AND WITHOUT INJUSTICE; RIGHTEOUS AND UPRIGHT IS HE.**

**DEUTERONOMY 32:4**

- 2. Noah and his family escaped the destruction of all living things and were preserved by God. According to the teaching, why was that the case? How does faith and God's grace relate to each other? What New Testament Scriptures reinforce receiving God's grace through faith? How has God's grace changed your life?**

## GOD WASN'T GRACIOUS TO NOAH BECAUSE NOAH WAS RIGHTEOUS. GOD GAVE GRACE TO NOAH BECAUSE NOAH CHOSE TO WALK WITH GOD BY FAITH.

3. The rainbow was the sign of the covenant between God and mankind, demonstrating that mercy triumphs over judgment. In fact, it was the plan of God all along to demonstrate even greater mercy to humanity through the cross of Christ.

**How does the ark of Noah symbolize and foreshadow the cross of Christ? Explain how we receive God's mercy through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus.**

4. In witnessing, it's important not only to address what constitutes sin in a person's life but to direct people to the mercy that God desires to extend to them. Christians do that humbly knowing that sin isn't localized outside of us but within our own hearts.

**With that in mind, how does mercy play a part in how you share your faith? Would you consider yourself merciful to others? What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy?"**



### WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

**James 2:13**

Mercy triumphs over judgment.



### REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, pray that God would bring at least one person into your life this week that you can share Jesus with, leading them to the mercy of God.

**Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear about how God arranged that divine appointment and how His mercy impacted someone's heart.**