

Breakout Part 1 - Noah (Genesis 6-9)

Many people who call themselves Christians are better described a *spectators* rather than followers of Christ. God calls us to be ALL IN in our pursuit of Jesus, not just in a little or as it is convenient for us. Considering how we spend our time and our money is a good barometer of where our hearts are. Noah provides an excellent example of being ALL IN in his pursuit of God.

1. Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord: There was nothing special about Noah that set him apart from the rest of the world. However, he was found righteous before God in the midst of a totally depraved generation because he responded to God in immediate, complete obedience.
2. Noah was a vehicle for salvation for others: The grace that the Lord showed him was not for him alone. He allowed others who were willing to heed God's warning to join him on the ark. Although his neighbors rejected this opportunity, his children and their families followed him.
3. Noah couldn't go on with life as usual: Responding to God's call in complete obedience required a radical reorientation of his life. He had to spend the next 100 YEARS building a huge boat on land with no water in sight.
4. Noah was grateful: The first thing that Noah did after leaving the ark was offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord--not because the Lord required or directed him to, but because his heart naturally responded to God's grace with thanksgiving.

Like Noah, we have received the grace of God and should be responding to His call on our life with immediate, complete obedience. We, like Noah, have been given the clear mission to make known the true and better vehicle of salvation (Jesus) to those around us--our families, our neighbors, and the nations. This requires a radical reorientation of our priorities. We may **say** we believe the gospel and the importance of spreading it, but if that is really true it should be reflected in our giving, how we use our time, and our involvement

in the church. Our gratefulness to Jesus's salvation of our souls for eternity should also exceed Noah's thankfulness to God for extending his physical life.

Questions to Consider:

1. How much do you value the gospel? Have you truly broken out of the self-centered life and pursuit of the American dream? What does the way that you spend your time and money indicate? What would it look like if you valued the gospel more?

2. Do you have a sense of urgency about the gospel that has changed your priorities in life? Is this reflected in regular involvement work to further the Kingdom of God? Are you merely a spectator of Christ (attending church only) or are you a follower of Christ, pursuing Jesus and the Kingdom of God in every area of your life? What does that look like at work, at school, in your home, with a community group, and/or through intentional mission efforts at home and abroad?