



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 1—Genesis Part 1

Lesson 4: God Spares Only One Family—Genesis 6

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 6 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?
How is this others' story?

How is this my story?
How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

What do you think it means that God was "grieved"?

What do you think it means that God is "just"?

- God desires a just world. God desires that relationships be whole, as the world was intended to be. God recreates the world through its destruction brought about by a flood to make right relationships or peace with God, self, others and the world.
- God's mission is to restore the world to its intended wholeness.

OUR STORY

What do you think it means that Noah was blameless?

- Noah was righteous and blameless and faithfully walked with God.

What does righteousness mean?

- Righteousness is the call for all of humanity. God calls humans to wholeness, completeness. To be righteous, therefore, is to be made whole.

How would you define "Christian perfection"?

- We are to be perfected in love. We are to be holy people in which one love (for God and humankind) unifies our inner life with our outer life declaring the reign of Christ in all of our life.
- A perfected life is not a life free from error or mistake. A perfect life is a life in which pure love reigns in heart. Keep in mind; the heart is not a location in the body but rather a disposition of the soul.

OTHERS' STORY

What does God's destruction make possible?

- Through God's destruction, restoration was delivered and it was delivered through Noah's obedience. One might say that Noah's obedience to God is what led to the opportunity for humans to once again discover a right relationship with God and with other humans.

What does the rainbow symbolize?

- The rainbow, this beautiful arc of colors that shows itself after a storm when the sun once again reveals itself through the clouds, symbolizes hope.
- This hope is the very reason why we live. We live knowing that one-day all things will be made new (Revelation 21).
- The rainbow is a symbol to remind us that God does not desire to act to destroy life. It is also, however, a reminder of God's peace.

In what ways can we make every effort to live at peace with others?

- Five ways to develop peace:

1. Seek love, not control
2. Seek to show respect of other's opinions
3. Seek forgiveness, not revenge
4. Seek godly joy
5. Seek out time for self-reflection

THE WORLD'S STORY

What is the main message, or messages, from the story of the flood?

- The flood was instituted by God to recreate the world toward God's intended wholeness at the time of original creation.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice missio beyond today.)

Before you go to sleep each night this week spend at least one minute praying for our world and ask God to reveal to you how you might become an active participant in God's mission to restore the world to its intended wholeness. Be prepared to share with the group next week what you believe God is calling you to do to join in God's redemptive work.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Psalm 51:3-4, 11-12, 17

Revelation 21:1-27

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 6, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 6?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 6?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 6 and read them this week, journaling as you go.