

Heart of Worship: Worship Preserves the World

Bible verses Genesis 6: 5-22

Brett McBride

Consider

- **Discuss:** Is it possible to have a time of worship with your group without words? How might you do that? Share some ideas and then spend a few minutes practicing them!

Let's Examine

Read Genesis 6: 5-22 *Give time for each person to read it over several times.*

Contemplate some of the wickedness in the world today, the violence as well. Consider what society might have been like for God to be wanting to wipe humanity from the face of the earth. Imagine God's response to his beautiful creation becoming **that** instead of what they were created to be.

- **Discuss:** To really understand the bravery and righteousness of Noah and the state of society around him, and the response of God to the situation, we have to try to get our heads around these realities. Discuss some of your thoughts coming from the paragraph above.

Looking at the Life of Noah, Brett encourages us to look at how his life...

1) Stands Out 2) Stands Up 3) Stays the Course

STANDS OUT: Read vv. 8-9

Using these verses describe the life of Noah.

- **Discuss:** How does Noah's life exemplify this quote from Brett's sermon: *It's better to be a friend of God and rejected by the world – than be a friend of the world and rejected by God. Even if it seems like the whole world is walking one way – it doesn't mean you should follow!*
- **Discuss:** What other Bible Characters or historical people are examples of this for us? Do you know anyone personally who you would look to as an example of this in your life?

STAND UP: Read vv.11-13

- **Discuss:** To understand corruption and violence, define those terms. Brett used this quote as well as other sources. It might help as well: *"[Violence] is cold-blooded and unscrupulous infringement of the personal rights of others, motivated by greed and hate and often making use of physical violence and brutality" – H. Hogg*

- **Discuss:** Now, define the opposite of that. How did Noah STAND UP for the opposite of the prevailing culture, while still being surrounded by it? How can we?

Read: Matthew 24: 12 and 2 Timothy 3:1-3

Jesus describes the love of most growing cold! And Paul describes the love of self, growing hot!

There's an obvious correlation here:

It's not just that our love grows cold – but that our love becomes misplaced!

Our love for others grows cold – while our love of self grows hot! (Brett)

- **Discuss:** What is the correlation here with our love for God? And the effects of that love being misplaced? When our love for and worship of God is properly aligned, how does that help us to STAND UP?

STAY THE COURSE: Read vv. 14-22

Noah had 75-100 years of preparing the boat, while living in the society which was violent and corrupt, whose eyes were turned from God, whose hearts were cold toward God and others, and selfish.

- **Discuss:** Read v.22. and Hebrews 11:7 What do these simple words actually mean considering the context and the project?

Let's Apply

- **Personal Reflection:** How has Noah's life, as a life of dedication, worship, and faithfulness to God, while being surrounded by corruption, wickedness, rampant selfishness, and violence, been an example to you in the three areas of STAND OUT, STAND UP and STAY THE COURSE. After considering these ideas, review Genesis 6:9 and 22. If, at the end of your life, someone was to write two pithy verses like these about your life. What would you like them to say? Create your own sentences.
- **Discuss:** Share your pithy sentences with each other. Pray for one another to allow God to manifest those truths in your life as you submit to him.

Let's Pray

- Spend time praising God for Being God!
- Confess (silently or out loud) any time our heart of worship is not turned toward God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person in your group to be constantly inspired by those who have come before us who have STOOD OUT, STOOD UP & STAYED THE COURSE.
- Continue to pray for the church around the world; that we will all be like Noah in our generation.