

Don't Miss the Boat Summer Worship Series

2nd August 2020 – Noah's Ark

Key verse: “But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark”. Genesis 8:1a (GNT).

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our worship service this morning, the second in our “Don't miss the Boat” summer series. We are hoping in this series to bring to life stories from the Bible that involve BOATS – this week we are going to look at one of the most famous stories from the Bible – the story of Noah and the Ark. We will come to that later.....

Last week, we considered what made a good story and there were lots of suggestions. At the beginning of our worship this morning, I want us to think about “What are stories for”. Any suggestions???

Have a think for a minute or two

I think stories are useful in many ways and there are lots of stories and accounts in the Bible.

2 Timothy 3 vs 16 says

“All Scripture is given by God. And all Scripture is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching the right way to live.” (ESV)

Bible stories can help us to understand more about God and his character. More about how he loves and cares for us, and help us to understand how we can live in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Prayer (based on Isaiah 3 vs 10)

Let us pray:

Father, thank You for Your Word which is life and health to my soul. I trust that You are working behind the scenes for my good. I will hide Your Word in my heart, knowing that it will be well with me because You are good and faithful. Thank you for your word which helps me to understand more about you and your love for me. Help me to hear your word now and respond in the way in which you direct. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

So, what can we learn from the account of Noah in Genesis – let's start to consider the story:

Story

The story of Noah is one many of us know quite well. Can you remember the story? Here are some questions and if you know the answer just jot them down (answers at the end of the document)

Questions:

What did Noah build?

What was God going to do to the world?

How old was Noah when the flood came?

How many animals went into the ark?

How long did it rain for?

What type of birds did Noah send out to search for dry land?

What mountain(s) did the ark come to rest on?

What sign did God send to Noah to say he wouldn't flood the world again?

The account of Noah

We have prepared a video telling the story of Noah. Watch and listen carefully as we hear this famous story from Genesis.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

The story of Noah can be quite worrying for us. It is like a Hollywood disaster movie with so much rain that the world is flooded. That's horrible. We don't want our nice world destroyed. We don't want to lose our friends and family like the people in the story. And that's true and it won't happen like that to us. The people in the story were bad, very bad. Think of the worst people in the world and then multiply that by ten and then ten again. Then realise that at that time everyone and I mean everyone was like that, evil and wicked. They didn't care for their friends and family... they didn't really have friends.

Only Noah was found to be good and to love God. It was because Noah was good that God chose him to be saved and to help make the earth lovely again. If God had done nothing, Noah and his family might have been the last good people ever to live. After Noah there might have been no one who was good anymore... now that would be a disaster. That is why God saved Noah. God had a plan! He saved Noah so the 'good' could continue. The 'good' could grow through his descendants. It could grow through Abraham, through Moses and eventually through to Jesus.

There is a lovely verse in the middle of this story, Genesis 8:1: **“But God remembered Noah”**. Noah was part of God’s plan. Throughout the Bible we can see God at work. Throughout the history of the Church we can see God at work. And now, through each of our lives, we see God at work in our ups, and in our downs, when we are apart, and when we are together.

Reflective response to the story

God is all about sorting things out and making things right. The focus of our story today is about God saving Noah and his family, because they loved God. God saved Noah, just like God saved the Israelites from Pharaoh in Egypt, like he saved Daniel in the Lions’ den, and like how he saves us through the love and sacrifice of his son, the Lord Jesus Christ.



Day	I love God because...	Tick when complete
SUNDAY		
MONDAY		
TUESDAY		
WEDNESDAY		
THURSDAY		
FRIDAY		
SATURDAY		

How is your love for God? How about writing a simple to do list to keep with you this week. On a piece of paper write Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and so on, with a space beneath each day of the week to write, ‘I love you God because..’” with a small square tickbox next to it. Perhaps draw a rainbow at the top to remind you of God’s promise as you look at it each day. You could prepare your sheet as you listen to this reflective music (click the link below). This is something that can be stuck to the fridge to remind you to have a time of quiet prayer each day where you can express your love to God. Check off each day as you go.

HYMN: [Click here to listen to I love you lord, and I lift my voice](#)

Response

As we heard last week, stories can give us many things. Some stories we remember all our lives – I still can remember most of the Hungry Caterpillar that I have read over and over as a child, and to my children.

Some stories can change the way we think, or behave – that is true of many of the stories in the Bible. As we consider this story of Noah, what is our response to God? Does this make any difference in our day to day lives today?

We read earlier in 2 Timothy **“all Scripture is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives”**

Take 5 minutes to consider the following questions:

- What is this story teaching me about God?
- What is it teaching me about myself?
- What is my response to God?

We can reflect on this further as we listen/sing our next hymn (click below):

So right now, individually, what is this story teaching us about God, about ourselves and how should we respond?

HYMN : [Here I am Lord \(whom shall I send\)](#)

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Let's pray :

- Thank you God that Noah trusted and obeyed you.
- Help to us Trust you Lord as Noah trusted and obeyed you. Praise your name for his faithfulness. We ask you give us the same faithfulness in all we do.
- Thank you Lord for remembering Noah and his family. We know that you remember us too.
- Help to us remember you too Lord – not as a once a week Sunday God, but as God of our lives, central to our lives – reliant on you and not on ourselves.
- As you protected Noah and his family, thank you that we can bring our own family and our church family before you.

We remember and bring before you now those on our heart.....

- Thank you God that you remember us and that we are part of your plan. When we see the rainbow we are reminded of your promise to Noah and thank you that you sent not an ARK to save us but something far more precious, your own son, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Be with us as we come humbly and thankfully before you now. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen

During the week

During the week as you think about this story you might like to :

- Make a Noah paper plate
- Write/decorate your name – stick it to the rainbow in the church entrance thanking God that he remembers you, just as he remembered Noah
- Draw a picture of your favourite things and thank God for all he gives us
- Make a plasticine model of your favourite animal from the story
- Remember your “I love God because” exercise

Closing Hymn

Our final hymn My Lighthouse, reminds us that God guides and leads us with his love and gives us peace. Sing along and join in with the actions if you would like to:

HYMN : My lighthouse

Blessing

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Noah Quiz - Answers

What did Noah build? An ark

What was God going to do to the world? Flood it

How old was Noah when the flood came? 600

How many animals went into the ark? Two of every kind plus seven pairs of every clean animal and seven pairs of every bird (Genesis 7:2)

How long did it rain for? 40 days and 40 nights

What type of birds did Noah send out to search for dry land? A raven and then a dove

What mountain(s) did the ark come to rest on? The mountains of Ararat

What sign did God send to Noah to say he wouldn't flood the world again? A rainbow