

Beginnings

2/27/22

Genesis 4-9

1. Darren began his sermon by asking about your experience with the story of Noah's ark and the flood.

**Describe your perception of the flood story before this sermon. Did your views change?

**Have you ever had a discussion with anyone who didn't believe in God because of what they thought the Bible said?

2. Read Genesis 6:5-7. This scripture describes the state of humanity when God decided to send the flood, and how God felt about it.

**Does this reasoning for the flood sit well with you? In other words, are you ok that God sent the floodwaters to cleanse the earth of the evil of humanity?

**Does it surprise you that God feels these emotions of regret, sorrow, grief, etc.?

3. In the creation story of Genesis 1:6-10, God divided the waters with protective barriers on days 2 and 3. Darren described the flood story in terms of undoing this original creation. In Genesis 7:11-12, God removed those protective barriers that allowed the waters to come back together. But then in 8:1-2, he put the barriers back in place to re-create the world.

**Describe your impression of viewing the flood story through this lens. Was it surprising, are you skeptical, or are you confused?

**How does this view change, challenge, or add to your perception of the *purpose* of the flood?

For more discussion: Read Genesis 8:6-12.

**What other aspect of the original creation from chapter 1 do these events recall?

4. Read Genesis 9:8-13. This describes God's covenant that he made with Noah and earth.

**Identify the terms of the covenant. For example, describe what God will do, and what Noah will do.

**What is the significance of these terms?

5. Darren's main point from his sermon was, "God is good and he can be trusted, even in the midst of evil."

**If you are willing to share, describe a time in your life when you had trouble trusting that God was good. Whether you handled it well or not, include the wisdom you gained from this experience.

**How can you share this story with someone who is struggling with God's goodness in order to encourage them?

Bonus content: Genesis 9:18-28 is an odd story about Noah and his sons repeating the sins of their ancestors. There was not time to cover this story in a sermon, so tune in to the podcast to learn more about it. Wherever you listen to podcasts, search "Forefront Church at Harvey Park" and find the podcasts titled, "More to the Story." A new episode is released each Tuesday.