

## ExtraORDINARY #2 – Noah

**Sermon by Todd Lester**

September 18,

2016

Hebrews 11:7 It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before.

2 Chronicles 16:9 The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Genesis 6:5-8

### **GOD USES PEOPLE WHO ...**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 1:17-18

A \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than a \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than a \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 6:9, Genesis 6:11-12, Genesis 6:9

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 6:22, Genesis 7:5

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 6:3, Genesis 9:20-25

3 things that tempt us to give up:

P \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

## Ark Animals Alphabet

Try to fill in as many blanks as possible with the names of animals that Noah would have had on the ark. When scoring, you will get 1 point for each blank filled in and an extra point if your animal is unique in the group.

Animal	Points
A _____	_____
B _____	_____
C _____	_____
D _____	_____
E _____	_____
F _____	_____
G _____	_____
H _____	_____
I _____	_____
J _____	_____
K _____	_____
L _____	_____
M _____	_____
N _____	_____
O _____	_____
P _____	_____
Q _____	_____
R _____	_____
S _____	_____
T _____	_____
U _____	_____
V _____	_____
W _____	_____
X _____	_____
Y _____	_____
Z _____	_____
Total:	_____

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2 Chronicles 16:9 The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Genesis 6:5-8 The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. And the Lord said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” But Noah found favour with the Lord.

### ***GOD USES PEOPLE WHO ...***

#### **1. ARE AVAILABLE**

Attitude is more important than aptitude

Mark 1:17-18 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Availability is more important than ability

#### **2. DARE TO BE DIFFERENT**

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

Genesis 6:11-12 Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt.

Genesis 6:9 He walked in close fellowship with God.

#### **3. FOLLOW HIM COMPLETELY**

Genesis 6:22 So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

Genesis 7:5 So Noah did everything as the Lord commanded him.

#### **4. NEVER GIVE UP**

3 things that tempt us to give up:    Problems    Pressures    People

Genesis 6:3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years.”

Genesis 9:20-25 After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked.

When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had

done. Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham: “May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives.”

3 things that tempt us to give up:    Problems    Pressures    People

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## Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Ark Animals Alphabet' activity is a light warmup exercise about Noah's ark. Give time for participants to fill in an animal for each blank, reminding them that unique answers get extra points. When you feel they've had enough time then go over the list with people sharing their responses – if more than one person has the same answer then they each get 1 point, if nobody else has an answer then that person gets 2 points. Have them tally their scores and the top score wins the prize: Animal Crackers! (if you buy some ahead of time)

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

How do you interact with the story of Noah and the questions it often raises? Do you accept it as literally true? Do you consider the difficulty some may have with God's destruction of the world, including infants and children? Are you familiar with scientific creationism's view of the importance of this story (including the recent reconstruction of a model of the ark)?

Read [2 Chronicles 16:9](#) What do people tend to look for in a person when choosing someone for a particular task? How are God's criteria different?

## **GOD USES PEOPLE WHO ...**

### **1. ARE AVAILABLE**

#### **Focuses on [Mark 1:17-18](#)**

Availability is more important than ability

Attitude is more important than aptitude

What do you think it means to 'be available'?

Todd said that we often use a lack of ability or aptitude as an excuse. When has that been true for you?

Todd reminded us that God uses ordinary people and that He doesn't need 'superstars.' Explore that term – do we have Christian superstars today? If so, why do you think that is? Is the idea of a superstar tied to modern celebrity culture? Was the apostle Paul a 'superstar'?

Can you give an example from your life when you didn't really feel 'able' but God still used you?

### **2. DARE TO BE DIFFERENT**

#### **Focuses on [Genesis 6:9](#), [Genesis 6:11-12](#), [Genesis 6:9](#)**

What do you think it meant for Noah to be a 'righteous man' or a 'blameless person'? Does [Genesis 8:20](#) provide a clue? (ie. that though he may not have been sinless, he repented and sought forgiveness, relationship with God)

Todd pointed out that Noah would likely have been ridiculed for building this boat. In what ways have you experienced being misunderstood or criticized for what you believe?

How have you navigated the balance between wanting to 'fit in and be accepted' with also wanting to be a witness for God?

[Genesis 6:9](#) says that Noah 'walked in close fellowship with God.' What do you think that looked like: a) back then? b) for us now?

### **3. FOLLOW HIM COMPLETELY**

#### **Focuses on [Genesis 6:22](#), [Genesis 7:5](#)**

Do you find it challenging that Noah did 'everything exactly as God had commanded him'? Does it help that it seems God gave very clear instructions?

Discuss Todd's statement that a good definition of faith is to obey God without question.

What tests of faith have you experienced? (Todd said that this involves following God's will even when we don't understand it)

Todd mentioned that while God will ask us to do things that are hard to understand, He also wants us to follow Him in lots of ways that make sense and are therefore easier to follow. Can you think of examples of some of these more obviously easy (?) kinds of commands?

### **4. NEVER GIVE UP**

#### **Focuses on [Genesis 6:3](#), [Genesis 9:20-25](#)**

3 things that tempt us to give up: Problems Pressures People

In what ways do you think that Noah would have been tempted to give up?

Give an example from your life when you were tempted to give up because of problems, pressures, or people (or all three!).

Do you find it ironic that in the midst of an example of not giving up that it seems God gave up on humanity? (Todd pointed out that it seems that God's patience does have a limit)

Is it surprising to you that even though God may have called you to a task that there can still be problems?

Reflect on Todd's question: 'What has God been doing in your life?' (or 'when was the last time you experienced an answer to prayer?' or 'when did you last feel used by God?')

Of these 4 points about being useable (being available, daring to be different, following God's plan in faith, never giving up) which of these are particularly difficult for you?

Consider the epilogue to the story which Todd shared. What lessons can we take from this incident?

After all that Noah experienced with God is it surprising to you that he messed up? Would you not expect that seeing God act so dramatically should help bolster your faith?

Near the beginning of the message Todd pointed out that God uses ordinary people who have faults, hangups and fears. What are some which you need to face and overcome?