

Week 3: Ready to Build?

This week's passage is a familiar story to us: Noah and the Ark. You may have only thought about this story as a nursery decor or as a parable about the end times: but have you considered what lessons it might hold for your marriage? This week we will dive into that layer of the story. Let's take some time this week to reflect on our communication with the Lord. Do we share with Him our frustrations? Do we take the time to listen to His direction? Make sure you are signed up at Cana90.org to receive your weekly video from us!

Messy Family Podcast Resource for the Week:

MP102: The Spiritual Life of Children

MP007: Family Prayer

Monday

WHAT FLAVOR IS YOUR FAVOR?

*The LORD saw how great the wickedness of human beings was on earth,
and how every desire that their heart conceived was always nothing but evil.
But Noah found favor with the LORD.*

GENESIS 5:5,9

Reflecting on this passage, maybe we understand and somewhat share the Lord's frustration with the evils of humanity. But how did Noah find favor with God?

Noah wasn't perfect by any means, so how did he find favor? Unlike the rest of the people of the time, Noah was a man of prayer who talked to God and listened to Him. In fact, a few lines down we read, "When God saw how corrupt the earth had become, since all mortals had corrupted their ways on earth, God said to Noah ..." (Gen. 5:12-13a). So Noah was someone that the Lord could express His frustrations to. That is amazing, when you think about it! Think about these three points:

- Consider the role of anger and frustration in your marriage and family life. Where are you angry? What are you angry about? These areas need greater dialogue. Assess where and how you need to have better communication, remembering that you are not God. Act on it.
- We are into the third week of the challenge. How is your prayer? Are you speaking to God, and listening to Him?

→ If God wanted to tell you something important enough to save your family, would you hear it?

Tuesday

ARK IS FOR ANIMALS... RIGHT?

*I will establish my covenant with you. You shall go into the ark
you and your sons, your wife and your sons' wives with you.*

GENESIS 6:18

Between where we left off yesterday and today were some fun instructions God gave Noah about how to build the ark. Today we are going to reflect on the command and promise God gives Noah about what to do with the Ark.

The story of Noah and the Ark is so amazing and grand and the animals are so fun it is often easy to overlook a very important detail. God's purpose is to save Noah and his family! God tells Noah He will make covenant with him. God tells Noah the Ark is for him and his family, and his family's family. **It's all about the family**, and that was all possible because Noah conversed with God.

Reflect today on how God may be calling you to step out in faith to do something for your family. Hint: it's probably not building an ark. But what is it? Ask Him.

Wednesday

COME TOGETHER...RIGHT NOW

*I will establish my covenant with you. You shall go into the ark
you and your sons, your wife and your sons' wives with you.*

GENESIS 6:18

Because the concept of "covenant" is so important here, we are going to stick with the same verse from yesterday. What is a covenant? The English word "covenant" comes from the Latin "con venire," meaning "come together." More than a contract, it is a sacred bond between the two parties that no

action nothing can sever. A covenant is indissoluble. In other words, imagine God saying to Noah, “For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health...”

Sound familiar? It should. The marriage vows you and your spouse took were covenant vows. They are a sacred bond, made before God, that can bring you through the worst storms of life if you enter into them. God is faithful and will give you all you need to keep those vows!

- Reflect on where you and your spouse have grown apart since your wedding day.
- Pray about one practical thing you can add to your challenge areas of prayer, fasting, and mercy that could help you and your spouse come together, either in new ways or in ways you have grown apart.
- Ask God about what He wants you to do to help your family come together in a greater way during Cana90.

Thursday

WHEN I SAY "JUMP!" YOU SAY, "HOW HIGH?"

Noah complied. He did just as the Lord God had commanded him

GENESIS 6:22

We’re going to be completely honest. We are jelly. As parents, wouldn’t we just LOVE it if all our kids reacted to us the way Noah reacts to God? But they don’t, do they? And we also don’t respond that way to God ourselves, do we? Or if we do, we don’t enjoy it. What can we learn from this? Noah was in conversation with God and he trusted God. God said, “Build an ark.” Noah (apparently) said, “How many cubits?” This week we’ve been praying a lot with what God is asking of us. Today ask God for the grace to respond with the obedience of Noah. This is NOT something that comes naturally. If you have kids, this is even more painfully obvious. Ask yourself: How can I obey God wholeheartedly when He calls me?

Friday

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you for all ages to come. I set My bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

GENESIS 9:12-13

A lot has happened since we left Noah and his family back in Chapter 6: many days of rain, many more days of no rain, a long time of waiting for the water to recede, the sending of first ravens and then doves, and then finally! They are able to leave the Ark and experience the new world the Lord has given them.

Noah didn't waver in his pursuit of God's call for him. Even though it may have not played out as he thought, he knew God would remain faithful. Then God gives the rainbow as a sign of his covenant.

- We have rainbows in our marriages and families. What are yours? What is your tangible reminder of your love for your spouse and your spouse's love for you?
- When the floods are raging, when the dove comes back with nothing, what do you have set up in your lives to point you back to the covenant of your marriage? What are the times when you have "sent out ravens or doves" and gotten nothing back? How can you communicate with and trust God and your spouse during those times?

Weekend: Grow Your Family Culture!

DISCUSSION

- If we were living in the early Church during the time of persecution would there be enough evidence to convict our family as Christians?
- Have someone in your family pretend they are a Roman prosecutor and they are trying to throw you all in jail. What is the proof against you?
- Start thinking about choosing a family scripture. Is there a passage which speaks to our family that we can all memorize during Cana90?

HANDS ON:

- If your family enjoyed the toy animal Creation Story last week, act out the story of the Flood with the same cast of animals and a laundry basket.
- Make a [tin can telephone](#). Make the string really short and then really long. Reflect with your kids on how clear the messages were with the different string lengths. When the cans are closer together we can hear the person on the other end more clearly. The closer we are to God the better we can hear Him.
- Give out paper and colored pencils and take some time for everyone to draw your family and God. Let each person explain their picture and take time to discuss. From this activity talk about how you can all grow in that relationship. How can you come closer to the Lord together?