**1. Motivate**

What’s the biggest “I must be crazy doing this” risk you’ve ever taken?

* parachute jump/sky diving
* zip line
* bungie jump
* take a trip by myself
* drive all the way across America/Europe/England
* go for a college degree when I’m well past college age
* build a house and act as the general contractor
* start a business

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://tinyurl.com/2rjbfb33> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4h92553v>

* sing/play a solo for church
* ride a roller coaster at my age
* run a marathon

**2. Transition**

Today we look at the “crazy risk” Noah took.

* That really took faith
* Living by faith begins with a righteous relationship with God.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Living in a Right Relationship

Listen for a unique person.

Genesis 6:5-9 (NIV) The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

What did seeing the wickedness of humankind stir up in the Lord?

* God was grieved He had ever created man on the earth
* God’s heart filled with pain

What did He decide to do?

* I will wipe mankind (my creation) from the face of the earth
* all men and animals and creatures, birds will be destroyed

What do we learn about God’s character from these verses?

* God is righteous, just
* God cannot tolerate evil
* God will destroy evil
* God is holy – separate, unique, different, other from all else

God saw wickedness everywhere on earth. What does it mean that Noah “found favor in the eyes of the Lord”? How might that relate to faith?

* it says Noah “walked with God”
* he did not reject God’s values, God’s intended design for mankind
* Noah paid attention to God
* he pursued a relationship with his creator
* he didn’t want to be their own “boss” of his own life
* he desired to please God
* he pursued all that God intended for mankind

We can imagine Noah faced peer pressure from people of his society. In what areas of our culture are believers pressured to follow the crowd?

* entertainment
* drive for material things
* desire for power
* lifestyle – keep up with others
* pursue the same desires

How does Noah's faith challenge the idea that faith is only belief and not obedience?

* God told him there was going to be a flood
* he could have said, OK … I’ll be ready and build a raft/boat for my family
* instead his belief of God’s news was followed by a *long* project building the ark
* then the logistics of collecting so many animals
* this was more than just “OK, I’ll watch for the rain when it is coming”

What does Noah’s example teach us about trusting God when His commands don’t seem to make sense to others—or even to us?

* God’s purposes go beyond our understanding
* God is at work in many ways at once – He is the infinite multi-tasker
* He coordinates all His purposes and plans
* we are a small (but important) part of His plans
* we are called to trust Him and do our relatively small part of a much more widespread process

3.2 Living with Obedience

Listen for specific instructions.

Genesis 6:17-22 (NIV) I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. 19 You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. 21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

God’s judgment would be to destroy everything through a flood. What was His personal word to Noah and on what was it conditioned?

* again, the contrast “but”
* God established a covenant with Noah
* He would preserve him and his family and the animals they gathered

What additional assignment was Noah given?

* he was to enter the ark with his family when the time came
* he was to gather the prescribed animals and keep them in the ark during the flood
* pairs of animals so as to preserve the species
* also he would gather sufficient food for his family and the animals

Certainly Noah could have felt overwhelmed. What are some reasons it would have been difficult for Noah to obey God’s instructions?

* this is no easy task to gather in thousands of species of animals
* they were not just going to arrive in pairs on a given day and march calmly into the ark
* and building the ark … consider the size and the amount of lumber required
* we don’t read of God giving him blueprints or any kind of plan that would be structurally sufficient or how to create the pens for different species

What does it look like in your daily life to “do everything just as God commands”? What are some small or big examples?

* Jesus called us to be involved in the Great Commission (it’s not the Great *Suggestion*)
* put Jesus on the throne of your life
* allow God’s Holy Spirit to be the “boss” of your life
* live according to the principles and commands of Scripture – knowing that God’s Holy Spirit will empower and guide you
* be ready to go through the “open doors” of opportunity God provides
* be ready to back off from the “closed doors” God puts in our path

3.3 Living to Honor and Worship God

Listen for a promise.

Genesis 8:20-22 (NIV) Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. 22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Noah’s initial act after exiting the ark was to build an altar and sacrifice burnt offerings. What indicates Noah’s act of worship was pleasing to the Lord?

* God sensed the pleasing aroma of the offerings
* much more than just smelling the cooking odors of the “barbeque”
* the sacrifices symbolized the offering of praise and worship to God for His deliverance

How would this act be a demonstration of his faith in God?

* he was killing and burning up a limited resource
* yes, he had some extras of the clean animals and birds
* but to be down to one pair was taking a chance
* he had to trust that God would continue to provide, that the remaining pairs would produce offspring

What promises did the Lord give not only to Noah but to all humankind?

* promised never again to curse the ground in judgment against mankind
* there will be those whose life will be totally evil for their whole lives
* but God promised never again to destroy all living creatures as had just happened

In what ways can worship be a natural and faithful response to God's goodness—even before we see all His promises fulfilled?

* when you are trusting God for a particular need, begin thanking Him ahead of time
* tell God you praise Him for being loving, powerful, and sufficient
* thank Him in faith for His provision, in His timing, and His way of answering the need

What are some areas in our lives where God could be calling us to respond with faith and worship instead of fear or self-focus?

* tithing 10% or still more – even though your budget is at its very limit
* responding to requests to be involved in leading or helping in children’s or youth ministries
* giving of time to be involved in the music ministry of the church
* joining the outreach ministry of the church, calling on folks in various neighborhoods
* volunteering for church work/cleanup days
* help with the nursery or children’s church ministries.

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Confess.

* Do you want a living faith in God?
* Living faith begins by establishing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
* Romans 10:9 says, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in you heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
* Talk to your group leader for more help.

Grow.

* Your relationship with God must grow.
* Your faith will grow as you learn more about God.
* Before you became a follower of Jesus, your faith may have been in your career, your money, your education, or your family.
* Now, your faith is in the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.
* Study the Bible and the Holy Spirit will help you know God better.

Share.

* Your faith is meant to be shared.
* Talk with someone who is far from God about the ways God has made Himself known to you.
* You can begin by sharing how God saved Noah!

One of the Baptist churches here on the outskirts of Anchorage, Alaska has had their sign attacked by a rogue grizzly bear. Somehow, he knocked all the letters straight down. The bear is long gone, so we need help getting the letters back up in place. Some letters are easy, they are the only ones in that column that fell. Next, go for the two or three letter words and replace letters that seem to make sense. When you finish, notify the worship pastor. It was his week to put up a message. For help or other Fun Family Activities , go to <https://tinyurl.com/4h92553v>

Fallen Phrases Puzzle