

Study Series: The Overcoming Life

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Lesson Title: “ ‘Come Thou and All Thy House into the Ark’ ”
(pp. 144-156)

Session 11

May 14, 2023

The main point of this lesson is: God has warned of coming judgment that people might repent and enter His salvation before it arrives.

Focus on this goal: To help adults seek God’s mercy for themselves and their families while there is opportunity to do so

Key Bible Passage: Genesis 7:1

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Invite the group to name some blockbuster movies. Ask them to identify major themes in these popular films. State one of the main themes of the Bible is God’s exercising deserved judgment against sin while offering people mercy and salvation from that judgment.

Invite a volunteer to read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 154).

Step 2. A Solemn Message

State one of the biblical accounts of mercy and judgment is Noah and the ark.

Consider why people might struggle to believe the record of Noah. Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 144). Read and discuss the second paragraph of Day One (p. 144) beginning with, “I believe the story of the flood . . . .”

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 145). Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 6:8-22. Determine what we can learn from this passage about Noah, the people, and God.

Step 3. How the Message Was Received

**Explain:** Some scholars use Genesis 6:3 to determine Noah built the ark for 120 years. Regardless of how long it took to complete the ark, according to 2 Peter 2:5 that calls Noah a “preacher of righteousness,” Noah wasn’t just building the ark all those years—he also was warning the people of coming judgment. The people had plenty of time to repent and cry for mercy.

**Discuss** Day Two, activity 1 (pp. 145-146). **Identify** from Day Two (p. 146) the various responses Noah may have received from the people and **examine** how those responses are evident in today’s world. **Ask:** What is your impression of Noah after considering all these responses? How could he withstand that year after year?

**Discuss** Day Two, activity 2 (p. 147).

Step 4. Moving In

**Read** Genesis 7:1. **State:** Whether our translation says, “Come,” “Go,” or “Enter,” the point is that God was issuing an invitation to enter into salvation, another major theme in Scripture. **Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (pp. 147-148).

**Request** a volunteer read Genesis 7:4. **Determine** how God was continuing to show mercy. **Invite** another volunteer to read Genesis 7:11-16. **Ask:** Who all RSVP’d Yes to God’s invitation? When did the invitation lapse? What’s the significance of God shutting the door to the ark?

**Note** that Noah could be obedient to God’s instructions, but he could not save himself or his family, only God could save them from judgment by shutting the door. Noah couldn’t decide when the door would be shut, nor could he open it for those who begged for mercy when it was too late.

**State:** Right now, the door to salvation is still open, but there will come a time when Christ returns and God will shut that door that no one can open. We can rejoice that we will be safely shut in, but the heartbreaking truth that people will be shut out should compel us to urge them to accept God’s invitation now before it’s too late.

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 149).

Step 5. Judgment

**Invite** a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 6:1-2. **Analyze** how the people in Noah’s day received the grace of God in vain. **Ask:** *Why is “now” the day of salvation?*

**Read** the Day Four pull quote (p. 150). **Ask:** *What examples can you point to in order to demonstrate that God always precedes judgment with grace?*

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 150). **Declare:** *Let’s be willing to receive the salvation Christ offers and pray that others will be willing as well.*

Step 6. Are Your Children Safe?

Request a volunteer read the first paragraph of Day Five (p. 151). Declare we need to be careful not to apply the principle of “household salvation” (that teaches an entire family is saved through the faith of the parent) to the author’s words here.

Ask: Noah’s sons were grown men; he couldn’t drag them onto the ark. So how do you think his family was saved from the flood? Declare each person must make a conscious personal decision to accept Christ’s invitation to enter into salvation.

Ask: Parents cannot believe in Jesus for a child, but what can parents do? Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 152). Request a volunteer read 2 Timothy 1:5. Declare parents can demonstrate true wisdom by letting Jesus shine through them in their homes.

Invite another volunteer to read 2 Timothy 3:14-15. Assert parents can teach their children the Scriptures while they have the opportunity—and no matter the age, parents can pray for their children’s salvation.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: So, what’s our response to a lesson like this?

Urge all who want to make sure they are safely in Christ to speak with you after the session.

Encourage participants to use Day Five, activity 2 (p. 153) to pray for their loved ones’ salvation.

Pray 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 over your group as a closing benediction.

