

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

August 23, 2026

Heroes of the Faith

“Noah: Though None Go With Me, I Will Follow”

Hebrews 11:7

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There is a well-known book titled, *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Let me suggest another:

Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Noah:

- Don't miss the boat.
- We are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.
- Don't listen to critics; just do the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float a while.
- Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Among many of the truths that we can learn from Noah, one of the heroes of the faith, is that our close, faith-walk with God leads us to greater belief and trust in God. Out of our growing faith in God, we naturally obey God's direction for our lives and in so doing God then works in and through our lives to accomplish His will.

HEBREWS 11:7

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. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

NOAH WAS WHOLEHEARTEDLY DEVOTED TO GOD

We first learn it was by faith that **Noah was Wholeheartedly Devoted to God**. As we read *Hebrews 11* along with *Genesis 6*, we see that ten generations after Adam the population of the world is rapidly expanding. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and it was happening. Yet, God's heart was breaking because of the depths the world had plunged into sin. *Genesis 6:5* describes how utterly corrupted humanity had become as it says, *“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." It doesn't get any worse than that. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve and ten generations later it was tearing the world apart. Genesis 6 tells us God regretted ever creating humanity and putting them in this world. Therefore, God decided to start over with all of creation and wipe out all this evil. Thankfully, God had not totally given up on humanity as God saw one ray of light shimmering in the midst of this pitch-black darkness of sin. That shining light was one man, Noah.

What was it about Noah that caught God's attention? *Genesis 6:9* says, *"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."* No matter how far away from God the entire world was, Noah was walking in a close relationship with God like his great grandfather, Enoch. Imagine what that must have been like for Noah to be the only person in his neighborhood, his community, and even in the entire world who was walking in a close relationship with God. Nonetheless, that didn't keep Noah from walking closely with God and living his life for God. You may or may not be familiar with the song that originated from India, entitled, *"I've Decided to Follow Jesus."* There was a Welsh missionary who went to north-east India in the mid-19th century where he brought the good news of Jesus Christ to a very violent, hostile village who had never before heard about Jesus. In time, a father, mother, and two boys decided to follow Jesus. The chief of the village was not happy about this and, as a result, he brought the father out in front of the whole village, and he told him he must publicly renounce his new faith. The father said, "No, I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back." With that the chief gave the command, and his two sons were shot with arrows. As those two boys were lying there in the dirt dying, the chief looked at him and said, "You've got to renounce this faith." And the father said, "No turning back. Though none go with me, I still will follow." And with that the chief gave the order, and his wife was also shot. Now the chief says to the father, "I don't understand. You've got to renounce this faith." The father then replies, "The cross before me, the world behind me. I've decided to follow Jesus Christ." After they shot him, history tells us that eventually that same chief and many, if not all, in the village decided to follow Jesus because of this family's decision to follow Jesus though none go with them, like Noah did. The song is based on the last words of this father and today is considered the song of all the descendants of that same tribe.

Jesus approached twelve men and invited them to die to themselves and to follow Him. Each one made the decision to pay the price of dropping everything in their lives to follow Jesus. There were also others whom Jesus invited to follow Him that, for a wide variety of reasons, did not. Jesus told His disciples in *Matthew 7:13-14*, ¹³ *"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."* That was true in the days of Noah, the days of Jesus, and today in our world. For those of us who follow Jesus, we live in a world where most people are not in a close walk with God and, as a result, their lives

are going in an entirely different direction than ours. We should feel so out of place with the world's beliefs and values because they are not walking with God and following God's will. Peter recognizes this as he says in *1 Peter 2:11-12*, *"¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as **temporary residents and foreigners**" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."* That describes the faith of Noah who was wholeheartedly devoted to God even if no one else joined him.

NOAH BELIEVED AND TRUSTED GOD

The more Noah walked in a close relationship with God, the more **Noah Believed and Trusted God**. As we've learned in this series and what we witness in Noah's life, true faith not only believes God exists but puts its trust in God. God had a very special mission, and it required someone who believed in God and trusted God to carry out that mission. Imagine what it was like for Noah when God says to Noah, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that the world is full of corruption and violence, and I have decided to wipe all living things off the face of the world with a flood. It had to have been overwhelming for Noah to hear God was going to rid the world of all evil through a flood. Add to this the fact the world had never experienced a flood at that point in history. Noah had to have been very confused. God then says the good news is God will save the humanity and all different kinds of animals through a massive boat that Noah will build and he, his family, and two of every kind of animal will use this boat to save them from dying in the flood. Noah had never seen a boat much less built one or ran a zoo of animals. For Noah, God's plan was outside the realm of possibility and yet, what was Noah's response? Noah actually believed and trusted God to do exactly what God said He would do. In Noah's relationship with God, he learned along the way that God was 100% trustworthy and if He said it, it was true and trustworthy.

Speaking of weather forecasts, I have several weather apps on my phone. When I check the weather on the apps, they seldom agree. Alexa at home often gives us notice about the upcoming weather. Sometimes it's right. Two different times this past week my weather apps and Alexa told me to expect very serious storms. One night, nothing. The other night the forecast predicted 100% chance of very serious rain for a couple of hours... nothing came until afterwards and it was just a little rain for a few minutes. I do not fault meteorologists. I would not want their jobs, trying to predict as accurately as possible what the rain is going to be like wherever I am at. Most of the time I do not trust the weather forecasts because of personal experience. Yet, when God told Noah it was going to flood, Noah, in the face of an unbelievably uncertain future, believed God because he knew God never got it wrong, changed His mind, or lied. Noah knew that God is 100% trustworthy. Listen to what the angel said to Mary, the mother of Jesus, about God's Word and also listen to Mary's faith-filled response in *Luke 1:37-38*, *"³⁷ 'For the word of God will never fail.' ³⁸ Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.' And then the angel left her."* Mary

believed God about what sounded impossible because she knew that what the angel said is true and that is that God's Word never fails.

NOAH WAS OBEDIENT TO GOD

What we also learn about Noah is that out of his deep, rich belief and trust in God, ***Noah was Obedient to God***. After God told Noah to build a huge boat and gave him the blueprints of the exact dimensions of the boat, *Genesis 6:22* then says, "*So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.*" Noah didn't just say he believed and trusted God, Noah showed it by obediently doing what God told him to do. As Noah began the process of building the ark, I wonder what it was like when Noah went home to his wife and said, "Honey, I was talking with God, you know, like I always do each day in my time alone with God and you won't believe what He said is going to happen to the world and our role in this." No matter what obstacles Noah may have faced in obeying God, he did exactly what God commanded him to do. He got right to work following God's directions. Some believe it took anywhere from 75 to 120 years to build the ark. I wonder if, during any of that time, Noah's faith waivered even just a little bit. I wonder if and how many times Noah second-guessed himself. What did the neighbors think about this and say to him? His neighbors were not walking with God, so they had to think he was crazy or some religious fanatic. What did the Homeowners Association say about Noah building an ark in the neighborhood? What did Noah's family think about him doing this? No matter what challenges Noah faced over those 100+ years of building the ark, Noah never gave up building a massive boat all the world could see. Noah didn't quit and say, "This is ridiculous" or "This is taking way too long." Every day Noah woke up and made the decision to believe and trust God and obediently follow God even if no one else would join him.

After 100+ years of building the ark, Noah was once again tested as to how much he truly believed and trusted God. God told Noah, that now that the boat is finally finished, it is time for Noah to collect the animals and then he and his family join the animals on the boat. Before it ever started flooding, Noah, his family, and the animals were all on the boat. Once again, the Bible says this in *Genesis 7:5* about Noah's response to God, "*So Noah did everything as the Lord commanded him.*" After 120 years of building an ark, even after no flood has come yet, Noah never quit trusting and obeying God all those years. *Galatians 6:9* tells us, "*So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*"

Life has countless snares, traps, bumps, steep hills, setbacks, unseen holes, disappointments and losses that we will come across on our faith journey with God. How we respond to those challenges says a lot about our faith. God is counting on us to not give up believing in Him, trusting Him, and following Him in the good and bad times. The goal for each one of us is that at the end of our lives we can say, like the Apostle Paul who wrote in *2 Timothy 4:6-8*, from prison because He followed Jesus, these words, "*6 As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have*

remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.”

When Noah believed, trusted and obeyed God, he was in the center of God's will and in so doing Noah witnessed God's miraculous hand at work through his life. God used Noah to accomplish His will because Noah walked closely with God and believed, trusted and obeyed God. Leonard Sweet was a professor at United Theological Seminary who wrote these words, “One of our students received an appointment from a bishop, and the student did not feel the placement exactly suited his abilities. I overheard him complaining about it to another student, and then the other student said, ‘You know, the world's a better place because Michelangelo did not say, “I don't do ceilings.”’ Her comment stopped me dead in my tracks. I had to admit she was right. If you and I are going to be faithful to the ministry God is calling us to, then we had better understand that. I reflected on the attitudes of key people throughout the Scriptures and the history of the church. The world's a better place because a German monk named Martin Luther did not say, ‘I don't do doors.’ / The world's a better place because an Oxford don named John Wesley didn't say, ‘I don't do preaching in fields.’ / The world's a better place because Moses didn't say, ‘I don't do Pharaohs or mass migrations.’ / The world's a better place because Noah didn't say, ‘I don't do arks and animals.’ / The world's a better place because Rahab didn't say, ‘I don't do enemy spies.’ / The world's a better place because Ruth didn't say, ‘I don't do mothers-in-law.’ / The world's a better place because Samuel didn't say, ‘I don't do mornings.’ / The world's a better place because David didn't say, ‘I don't do giants.’ / The world's a better place because Peter didn't say, ‘I don't do Gentiles.’ / The world's a better place because John didn't say, ‘I don't do deserts.’ / The world's a better place because Mary didn't say, ‘I don't do virgin births.’ / The world's a better place because Paul didn't say, ‘I don't do correspondence.’ / The world's a better place because Mary Magdalene didn't say, ‘I don't do feet.’ / The world's a better place because Jesus didn't say, ‘I don't do crosses.’ / And the world will be a better place only if you and I don't say, ‘I don't do ...”

God is calling on us to simply believe in Him, trust Him, and obediently say “yes” to wholeheartedly following Jesus every single day no matter whether anyone will go with us or not. If we will do so God will work His good and perfect will in and through our lives.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: (Books marked with * are available to be checked-out in the Asbury Discipleship Resource Center)

- *Be Confident: Live by Faith, Not by Sight*, Warren W. Wiersbe
- *The Pursuit of God*, A. W. Tozer
- *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn
- *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald S. Whitney
- *The Class Meeting*, Kevin Watson
- *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*, Jerry Bridges
- *The Holiness of God*, R. C. Sproul

Icebreaker Questions

1. What is something you have done that initially seemed strange or unreasonable to other people, but made perfect sense to you?
2. Which is harder for you: starting something difficult, or continuing when you don't see results right away? Why?

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. Genesis 6:9 describes Noah as a righteous man who “walked in close fellowship with God,” even though the culture around him was moving in the opposite direction. What does walking closely with God look like practically in our culture today? What pressures make that difficult?
2. Noah trusted God concerning something he had never experienced and a future he could not yet see. What is the difference between believing *in* God and actually *trusting* God when circumstances are uncertain? Where are you being challenged to make that transition?
3. Genesis 6:22 says Noah “did everything exactly as God had commanded him.” Why is obedience such an important evidence of genuine faith? Are there areas where Christians can easily substitute agreement with God for obedience to God?
4. Noah continued obeying even though the fulfillment of God's promise did not come immediately. The sermon connects this perseverance with Galatians 6:9 and Paul's desire to finish the race faithfully. What causes us to grow tired of doing what God has called us to do? What practices or relationships help us remain faithful for the long haul?
5. The sermon concludes with examples of biblical and historical figures who did not respond to God's calling by saying, essentially, “I don't do that.” What is one assignment, relationship, ministry opportunity, act of obedience, or change that you might be tempted to tell God, “**I don't do ____**”? What would trusting obedience look like instead?
6. What impacted you most from the sermon? How might you apply this week's sermon to your life?
7. How might this group pray for you this week?