

SUMMER 2025

you®

RISK-TAKERS:

THE ADVENTURE OF
WALKING BY FAITH

+ + +

CHARACTER COUNTS



A PROMISE THAT WILL NEVER BE BROKEN

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It hurts when people break a promise. Some people make promises they have no intention of honoring. Others sincerely mean well, but circumstances interfere and they're unable to do what they said they promised they'd do.

God is not like us. When He makes a promise, He keeps it. Period. He is always faithful to His word. For example, He promises an abundant and eternal life to those who trust in His Son, Jesus Christ.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:9,13).

But we don't automatically enjoy the benefits of this wonderful promise. We must understand and believe Jesus died on the cross, taking our sin upon Himself, and then rose from the dead, making a new, eternal life possible for us. As we believe, we also acknowledge His lordship, turning from sin and surrendering our lives to Him.

God's promise is for you. If you would like a new life in Christ, repent of your sins and put your faith in Him. Admit to God you are a sinner and ask Him to forgive you. Turn from the sin that has kept you from God and accept Jesus's gift of forgiveness. Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Express your repentance and faith by praying something like this:

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins. I ask You to forgive me. I now accept Your gift of eternal life. Thank You for Your love, forgiveness, and a new life in Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I choose to follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Share your decision to follow Jesus with a pastor or those in your Bible study group. Get involved in a church that will help you grow in faith. Be baptized as an expression of your faith.

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ON THE COVER

Dr. Marc Antoine Lavarin, Sr. is the Senior Pastor of the First Calvary Baptist Church in Durham, NC. A native of Boston, Massachusetts and a son to Haitian immigrants, Dr. Lavarin completed his studies at Northeastern University, Boston University, Duke University, and Virginia Theological Seminary. Dr. Lavarin's passions lie at the intersection of Faith, Education, and Policy. Dr. Lavarin is a former middle school teacher and an advocate for Black churches creating schools whereby they can create Biblical, and justice centered curriculum that minister to the whole child.

Pastor Marc is a published author, with his newest contribution "Let the Schoolhouse Say Amen: The Pedagogical Congruency Between the Black Church and Critical Literacy", published by Information Age Publishing Company in January of 2022.

As a Pastor, Dr. Lavarin's philosophy of ministry has focused on "evangelism through community service" where he seeks to inspire communities to "see the [church's] good works and glorify God."

The First Calvary Baptist Church has been blessed by the YOU curriculum for several years. These teachings have been used in Bible Study, Sunday School, and other small group settings.



SUMMER 2025 +++ VOL. 17 No. 4

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Printed in the United States of America

YOU (ISSN 1943-6230, Item 005030553) is published quarterly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Ben Mandrell, President. © 2021 Lifeway Christian Resources. For ordering or inquiries, visit lifeway.com, or write Lifeway Resources Customer Service, One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234. For bulk shipments mailed quarterly to one address, email orderentry@lifeway.com or write to the above address. We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers. NOTE: Some Internet addresses given in this periodical are outside the Lifeway Internet domain. At the time of this posting, the specific pages mentioned were viewed and approved by Lifeway editorial staff. Because information on these pages may have changed by the time of your viewing, the Lifeway editorial staff cannot be held responsible for content on pages outside their control. Specific page addresses referenced in this periodical possibly may link to inappropriate material.



EDITORIAL

MARK CROSTON

Current research indicates that we are now living in a post-Christian age. This is the situation in a society where Christianity was, but is no longer, the dominant religion and has been replaced by other values, culture, and worldviews. We should not feel discouraged or defeated, instead we must live out our faith with certainty and confidence. God is able and we are more than conquerors through him who loves us, but we must do our part.

This issue of the YOU Bible Study will dig into some helpful issues for walking by faith and living with assurance. We will be studying Risk-Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith; and Character Counts with a special focus study on Safe and Secure: Our Eternal Security in Christ. In addition to these studies get extra insights and teaching tips from our **YOU Blog** at you.lifeway.com and listen to our Lifeway YOU Podcast on your favorite podcast app.

The **Black Church Leadership and Family Conference** is right around the corner. This is the one conference where you don't have to leave your family at home. There is a full program for every member of the family and all your church leaders! Join us for this all-in-one, equipping and energizing week, July 21 through 25, 2025. I'm sure this year will be just the time of relaxation, refreshment, and revival we need.

Learn more at lifeway.com/blackchurchconference.

Thanks for joining me as we dig into this study. Now grab your Bible because you never know how God will speak through YOU!

Be Blessed!

Dr. Mark A. Croston, Sr.

YOU General Editor

National Director of Black Church Ministries

lifeway.com/BlackChurchLife

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOU

YOU is a three-in-one learner and leader resource with inspirational and educational features to enhance Bible study that leads to spiritual maturity and life change. Here is information to help you get the most out of *YOU*.

LEARNER PAGES

The first half of *YOU* includes pages for personal study. These should be read by the learner and leader prior to group time. Included in each session:

Memory Verses encourage filling the mind with the Word of God to strengthen every aspect of spiritual life.

Keywords identify and define words or phrases to add clarity to the biblical text.

Digging Deeper provides a deeper look at a word, character, or other aspect from the session.

Did You Know? combines biblical truths with an urban or African-American cultural or historical fact, connected to the session.

Live It sums up the session and offers applications points to challenge daily living.

DAILY READINGS

Included with each session are five devotionals to be read by the learner and leader. The benefits of a daily devotion are innumerable. Their primary purpose in this resource is to focus attention on the biblical content of each session for application of and conformity to the Word of God.

LEADER PAGES

The second half of *YOU* includes pages to guide the teaching of each session. Leaders can use the leader pages to guide learners through the passage and its key emphases as detailed on the learner pages. Here are suggestions on how to teach:

- Prior to the session, read and study the Bible passage, keywords, and learner pages.
- Plan teaching using the leader pages. Keep in mind that because of time, it may not be possible to use every teaching suggestion. Also the teaching suggestions are in sequential order for easy use.
- Features to use when teaching include: The Point, which is readily recognizable on the learner and leader pages; The Question at the top of the first page of each learner session; Keywords on the Scripture pages; "Digging Deeper"; "Did You Know?"; Pack Items* (see next page); "Object Lessons"; and Commentary at the end of each session on leader pages.
- Refine your teaching plans when necessary.

Get more teaching help at you.lifeway.com.

PRAY

Because the Holy Spirit is the guide for your study, invite Him to show you how to "rightly divide the word of truth" as you teach your group. Read the Bible passage several times, asking the Holy Spirit to show you its meaning and application.



FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GO DEEPER



The **Advanced Bible Study** is written for group members who desire more extensive commentary. It includes exposition of each session's Scripture passage, an examination of keywords, an introduction to the setting of the passage and biblical life and times, questions to guide the study, and interactive responses to help readers apply God's truths to their lives today.



The **YOU Leader Pack** is a collection of teaching aids designed to help leaders provide a visual and interactive experience for learners. Each pack contains posters, charts, maps, and handouts that can add another layer to teaching and engender needed variety that makes learning more interesting.

The **YOU Leader Pack** is located at lifeway.com/YOU



YOU podcasts provide a candid overview of each **YOU Bible Study** session. General editor Mark Croston and content editor Natasha Meniffee casually discuss each biblical topic from an urban perspective with a strong theological and biblical emphasis. The intent of these podcasts is to provide listeners with a time-efficient overview of each session and creative tips for study group leaders.



Social Media: Connect with a community of **YOU** users.

- Post responses to questions, share teaching ideas at **Facebook.com/YOUbiblestudy**
- Learn more about **YOU** and link to great blog content at **YOU.lifeway.com**
- Shop **YOU** at **www.lifeway.com/YOU**

YOU DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

The Pathway of Discipleship

Growing in Christ is a journey—a lifelong journey—but what does that look like? Lifeway's research reveals eight markers consistently present in the lives of believers who are growing spiritually. Each year, Bible Studies for Life engages all eight of these areas. Following this intentional plan for discipleship ensures progress on the pathway to becoming more like Christ.

Visit BibleStudiesforLife.com for a fuller picture of this discipleship plan through 2025.

8 SIGNPOSTS	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Winter 25-26	Spring 2026
Exercise Faith	Risk-Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith			
Obey God & Deny Self	Character Counts			
Engage with Scripture		The Greatest Truths of All Time		
Obey God & Deny Self		How to Handle Life's Interruptions		
Exercise Faith			Limited Resources, Limitless God	
Share Christ			Sharing Jesus in a Post-Christian World	
Seek Good				God Is: Understanding the Character of God
Live Unashamed				Seize the Day: Embracing a Mission with Purpose

STUDY 1 RISK-TAKERS: THE ADVENTURES OF WALKING BY FAITH

INTRODUCTION

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Exercise Faith.

The Christian life is a call to faith and trust. Sometimes it's easy to trust, but at other times, obedience to God feels risky. Growing in Christ is learning to trust Him more and more in every area of life.

Writer Bio

Terry Kirby

wrote this study. He is an author and lead pastor of Pigeon Forge Baptist Church in Tennessee. In thirty years of ministry, he has helped many Christ followers understand the importance of obeying God's Word. Visit terrylkirby.com for more information.

Stacy Carmichael

adapted this study for the *YOU* audience. She is a middle school teacher in Lakeland, TN. She is also a realtor and owner of Carmichael Travel Consultants. She has been married to Dr. Brian Carmichael, pastor of Holy Temple Baptist in Memphis for 28 years. They have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. She serves in Christian education and outreach at church.

Joy Nettles

wrote the Daily Readings for this study. She is a wife and mom of four who teaches at a local university. She enjoys reading the Word and actively finding ways to show its relevance in the now.



A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT LIVING WITH RISK-TAKING FAITH

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In today's savvy computer age, it is a very prevalent reality that ordinary people are unknowingly taking risks. As the internet has become more popular, so has the rise of money-related scams that target the ignorant and uninformed. Many of us may have received an email from what appeared to be a legitimate company or person. The email states that the sender wants you to cash a check and, in return, will allow you to keep a portion of the money. This is a scam. Once the person deposits the check in their account and sends the money, they quickly find out that it's a fraud and they have lost their own money.

Scams are nothing new. Back in the '90s, Pyramid Schemes were very popular. Someone enlists you to come in and pay a certain amount, and then you enlist others. Eventually, you run out of interested people, and those at the bottom of the pyramid

have lost their hard-earned money. These are risky ventures that people will participate in to receive a reward in the end. They say, "No Risks, No Rewards!" Like many who were on the losing end of scams, they risked and received no reward.

In Christ, unlike Pyramid Schemes or check-cashing scams, we have a guaranteed Return On Investment. The prophet Isaiah said it best "There will be times of security for you—a storehouse of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure" Isaiah 33:6.

Reaping this return requires us to be diligent about our faith. Exercising faith can be equally risky, but the deciding factor is in whom or what we are placing our faith. God does not ask us to take risks for the sake of being risky. But following God by faith can feel risky, though the God we follow turns that trust into a grand adventure. Believers in Christ must be all in!

SESSION 1

NOAH: A FAITH THAT PLEASES GOD

Leader pages on pp. 102-105

THE POINT:
LIVING BY FAITH BEGINS
WITH A RIGHTEOUS
RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD.

GENESIS 6:5-9, 17-22; 8:20-22

MEMORY VERSE

⁵ When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them."

⁸ **Noah, however, found favor with the Lord.** ⁹ These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God . . .

.....
¹⁷ "Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with 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 with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives.

¹⁹ You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

²⁰ Two of everything—from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds—will come to you so that you can keep them alive. ²¹ Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them." ²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him . . .

.....
²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

²¹ When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

²² As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

KEYWORDS

Human wickedness

(v. 5)—The wickedness of humankind was not limited to evil actions. Every mind was corrupted, as well.

The Lord regretted (v. 6)—God's emotional life is not like ours. God's regret in this verse is a reflection of God's deep grief over the sin.

Establish my covenant (v. 18)–

The covenant that is established is a continuation of the covenant God had made with Adam. As such, Noah is pictured as a new Adam.

Altar (v. 20)—Noah is the first person in the book of Genesis, and therefore in the entire Bible, said to have built an altar.

HOW DO OUR LIVES DEMONSTRATE FAITH IN GOD?

There is a song that the late Keith “Wonderboy” Johnson sang. It was titled “Be Right.” A part of the song says, “When you see me walking along, I just want to be right!”¹ When others look at your demeanor, what is their perception of you? We all know that a person’s perception may not be reality. But what if many are saying the same thing? Lamentations 3:40 tells us to test and examine our ways. Ultimately, Christians ought to be a reflection of Christ’s nature. He is righteous, so we must be, too. He knows your heart. You may be able to fool me or others, but God can never be fooled. He created you, and He knows everything about you (Ps. 139:1-4).

Let us remember Job’s story, for example. The Bible states that he was a devoted and righteous man who walked with God. He had found favor with the Lord. What a testament of his life to be declared righteous before God. In this lesson, you will learn about Noah’s relationship with the Lord. Just as God responded to Noah with grace, His unmerited favor, let us also desire that. Let this lesson inspire us to emulate the righteousness of Christ by faith.

We Walk in Righteousness //

Genesis 6:5-9

It’s easy to follow the crowd. People demonstrate all sorts of bad behavior when there’s a crowd around them to hide their sinful actions in plain sight. Indeed, a person who stands out in the crowd is often one whose behavior doesn’t reflect that of the crowd. This person’s conduct is defined by moral or biblical standards that many people are unwilling to follow.

Football is a popular sport played in high schools. The coaches control every minute on the practice or game field. The coaches evaluate each player regarding their attitudes, abilities, and teamwork. As the season goes on, the players may think they need a place to let off some steam. The locker room is such a place. For the most part, the coaches stay away unless things get out of

control. Players—regardless of their claims to be a Christian or even a moral person—might use profanity and tell exaggerated stories about their exploits on and off the field. Although many of us have never experienced a football locker room, we might have been in other settings that made it easier to compromise our values.

The world Noah found himself in was one large locker room gone wrong. People were engaged in every kind of sinful behavior known to man. Unlike the football coaches, God knew all the behaviors, attitudes, and intentions in the hearts of every



THE POINT: LIVING BY FAITH BEGINS WITH A RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

person. And what was God's reaction to the crowd? God regretted creating mankind.

If we stopped reading God's story after verse seven, we would miss seeing one of the most important features of God's nature. Yes, God is Creator and Judge of His creation, the One who perfectly evaluates how far away humanity has moved from Him. But now we see a tender side to God's nature. You see, God desires to have a close relationship with His creation. This intimacy with God is made possible by His grace through our faith in Him.

One of the most remarkable sentences in the Bible is, "Noah, however, found favor with the LORD" (Gen. 6:8). This simple sentence introduces the subject of God's favor. God's favor is simply defined as His grace. God's grace is His unmerited favor upon mankind. The apostle Paul taught his readers about grace in his letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul mentioned two key aspects of God's grace:

Receiving grace: Paul indicated people are "saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift" (Eph. 2:8). Receiving grace happens when someone responds to God's love and accepts this free gift.

Sharing grace: Paul taught that saved people are also to share grace. "You have heard about the administration of God's grace that he gave to me for you" (Eph. 3:2)

Two clear signs that we are living in right relationship with God are that we have received His grace, and we are sharing the message of grace with others. How do we know Noah lived in a righteous relationship with God by faith?

Verse 9 describes Noah as:

- A righteous man
- Blameless among his contemporaries
- Who walked with God

As if these three phrases weren't enough, the Book of Hebrews tells Noah's story in its chapter on the heroes of the faith. Hebrews 11:6 states, "Now without faith, it is impossible to please God." Later in verse seven, the writer says, "By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family." This New Testament tribute connects Noah's faith in God and his mission to deliver humanity and the animal kingdom from the judgment to come. He acted in faith, and he proclaimed these truths to others.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO WALK WITH GOD?



DIGGING DEEPER CLEAN AND UNCLEAR

In Genesis 7:2-3, God tells Noah to take with him seven each of every clean animal, a male, and female; two of each unclean animal, a male and his female; also, seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of the earth. Genesis 8:20 speaks of what happened when Noah and his family exited the Ark. Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered a burnt offering on the altar. So, when it is said that the animals came in by twos, it is actually speaking of the unclean animals. God gave a command and instructions and Noah faithfully obeyed. Like the animals, mankind has clean and unclean areas in our lives. Romans 12:1 urges us to, "present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship."

What unclean area of your life do you need to submit to God today?



We Act in Obedience //

Genesis 6:17-22

God's words to Noah, which began their conversation earlier in the chapter, were like none other ever spoken. The Bible doesn't record any dialogue between God and Noah before that, but Scripture does describe Noah as a righteous man, blameless, who walked with God, so it would be interesting to know more about their relationship prior to this day. The message of impending doom announcing the complete destruction of every creature because the earth was filled with wickedness would have been jarring words—even coming from a dear friend.

From this point forward, Noah's living faith would be on public display for all his contemporaries and the future readers of God's Word. As the story continued to unfold, there would no longer be any questions about Noah's faith. In verse 17, God began to share with Noah the details of His plan to destroy His creation. Noah's faith in God would be stretched to new lengths as his habit of obeying God's commands reached new limits. Difficult days were ahead.

As God painted a picture of this flood, Noah's ability to capture the concept and act upon God's instructions required great faith in God. There would be no escape for everyone and everything he knew outside of God's specific instructions. Noah was surely overwhelmed.

Beginning in verse 18, Noah's life was forever changed. Noah was perhaps too busy listening to formulate, much less ask questions, as God said,

"But I will establish my covenant with you." These words would change Noah's life and the history of the world forever. Remember God's promise in verse 8, "Noah, however, found favor with the LORD." This was the precursor to the bold statement of God's covenant in verse 18.

Only God knew the day the raindrops would begin to fall. In the meantime, Noah's faith wasn't only public; the world could now measure it by the product of his obedience, and there would be a deadline. Obedience would demand he step outside his comfort zone and accomplish two enormous projects: building the ark and bringing the animals into it. On top of all of that, Noah would pilot a floating zoo and be the steward of God's creation. With his growing faith came an increasing confidence that with God all things are possible.

Verse 22 reads like it was no surprise to anyone how Noah would respond to God's instructions. We sometimes sit back and contemplate God's commands found in His Word and struggle with what appears to be an easy reply. Noah, on the other hand, faced a monumental event and obeyed God's voice with energy and expectation. Having a living faith, Noah knew God would provide him with everything he needed for his obedience to bear fruit.

WHEN HAS GOD ASKED YOU TO STEP OUT IN FAITH AND TAKE A RISK?

We Worship in Gratitude //

Genesis 8:20-22

God continued to instruct Noah and gave him new responsibilities in his stewardship of earth. In Genesis 8:16-19, God commanded the ark's crew and passengers to exit their temporary home. God informed Noah that every living creature exiting the ark would be fruitful and multiply on the earth. God had directed the animals to enter the ark in pairs, male and female, and it's interesting to note that Scripture said when they exited the ark, it was "by their families" (v. 19).

This simple phrase should remind us that regardless of the extent of our challenges, life continues and bears fruit in accordance with God's plan.

THE POINT: LIVING BY FAITH BEGINS WITH A RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Verse 20 tells us that Noah's first act was to build an altar. Noah was no doubt overwhelmed with gratitude for God's provision and deliverance from the flood.

Notice God's method of receiving Noah's offering. Genesis 6:5 says, "When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread." Genesis 8:21 now says that "the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma." God is wonderfully able to connect with His creation in powerfully descriptive ways. The aroma was the smell of the burnt offerings, but deeper than that, the Lord was pleased with what this sacrifice represented—Noah's worship. This was a clear sign of Noah's obedience to God's commands and his willingness to be the point man God would use to continue His plan—the plan for mankind and all the creatures to bring life to the earth after their rescue from a watery grave.

Finally, we read that the Lord spoke to Himself and made two promises He alone could make and keep. He stated He would never "curse the ground because of human beings" (v. 21), and He would never again "strike down every living thing" (v. 21). These promises remain reasons for God's people to honor Him and give Him the worship He is due.

WHAT PROMISES FROM GOD PROMPT YOU TO WORSHIP HIM?

DID YOU KNOW?

God's instruction to Noah was to make the ark 300 cubits long by 50 cubits high and 30 cubits wide. We know they didn't have the technology we have now. A cubit was measured as being the length from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. In today's measurement, it was 510 feet long, 86 feet wide, and 94 feet high. It is the equivalent of approximately two football fields. A very good representation of Noah's Ark exists in Hebron, KY. It is the largest timber frame structure in the world. Over 3.1 million board feet (12"x12"x1") of timber was used in the construction of the Ark. You can actually go in the ark and see what life would have been like for Noah and his family. They even show how the animals could have been housed in the ark and their feeding regimen. I know I left the ark in awe of the amazing God we serve!

Biblical Truth: "God, you are awe-inspiring in your sanctuaries. The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!" (Ps. 68:35).

When was the last time you stopped and marveled at the intentionality of God's creation?

LIVE IT

How can we demonstrate Noah-like faith in our daily lives?

The foundation and strength of one's faith rests in the object of one's faith. The only One we can trust unwaveringly is God, but that trust is based on who He is, not on who we think He is or how we want Him to act. Living by faith begins with a righteous relationship with God. Choose one of the following applications to apply this week:

+ + +

- **Confess.** Do you want a living faith in God? Living faith begins by establishing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Talk to your group leader or look to the inside cover of this book for more help.
- **Grow.** Your relationship with God must grow. Your faith will grow as you learn more about the God of your faith. Now, your faith is in the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Study the Bible and His 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!

DAILY READINGS

1. LIGHT WITH A MISSION // MATTHEW 24:37

Jesus noted in Matthew 24:37, “As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be.” He was warning us that our world would look like Noah’s did before His return. Wickedness abounded, and sadly, the same is true today. Still, in the face of that, Noah separated Himself, choosing right relationship with God over assimilation and sin. God desires the same from us today. We are carriers of His light, and He expects us to let that light shine unabashedly—even if we must do so alone. Matthew 5:17 reminds us, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

God chose us to be His best even on the darkest of days, and just as He was with Noah, He is with us as well.

2. DO WHAT? // HEBREWS 11:6-7

No one had seen rain in Noah’s day, so it was a significant act of faith for Noah to take God at His word and build an ark in preparation for a flood. Hebrews 11:6-7 tells us emphatically that Noah and his family were saved because of his faith in God. He didn’t have to see to know. God said it, and he believed no matter how ridiculous preparing for a flood might have sounded to anyone else. Our obedience might not always make sense to anyone else, but because we know God for ourselves, we can move with confidence, knowing that He’ll be just as faithful in the future as He’s been in the past.

God’s word is always sure no matter how unusual the request.

3. A LAYERED PACKAGE // 1 SAMUEL 15:22

There were about 100 years between God speaking the promise and Noah seeing the promise. Add to that the fact that God spoke to Noah, not his family, which means they, too, would have had to trust, and it’s easy to see that this task was neither ordinary nor easy. God’s promises

rarely come in easy packaging, but just like Noah and his family, we can’t allow the time in between to detour our faith. The very lives of both Noah and his family hung on seeing God’s promise through to the end. The same could be true for us. Is a lack of patience worth the risk of finding out?

God’s process often requires reinforced patience, but in the end, He always delivers.

4. UP-SIZE YOUR WORSHIP // PSALM 63:3-4; JOHN 4:23-24

Imagine how it felt to actively witness God’s salvation in the midst of total devastation. This was Noah’s reality for almost a month and a half. He was not oblivious as to what was happening outside of the ark. It’s no wonder that when Noah finally emerged, he did so with a heart of gratitude and worship. We can all recall a time when God miraculously brought us through some particularly hard trial. The relief and gratitude on the other side brought about a different level of worship—the offer of our lives. This depth of worship should always be our response; it goes straight to the heart of God! “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

True worship originates at the spirit level; it’s the only kind that’s pleasing to God.

5. GROUNDING WORSHIP // DANIEL 3:16-17

There is a worship that brings with it grounding faith. Faith that is cloaked with a knowing that whatever life brings, our God is stronger. This type of worship is able to remove all doubt because in remembering what He did, we come to know He’ll do it again. A famous worshiper described it this way, “Sometimes we sing it because we’re sure of it; sometimes we sing it until we know.” The very nature of Satan is to send doubt. He likely did the same to Noah, but Noah knew who God was. We must know who God is, too, and often stirring up this knowing in worship is exactly what’s needed for a guaranteed win!

True worship has the power to propel us into our next victory!