

Group Discussion Guide for Week of **6/14/2020**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Hebrews 11:7 (NIV)*

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

The complete O.T. story/account is found in Genesis 5:28 – 9:29

NOTE: The MESSAGE paraphrase/version of the Bible has a helpful way of unpacking and illustrating the final phrase in this verse, about the world and condemnation.. It says:

“[Noah’s] act of faith drew a sharp line between the evil of the unbelieving world and the rightness of the believing world. As a result, Noah became intimate with God.”

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)
Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- Can you think of a time that you believe you “heard” God tell you or lead you to something specific? Was the outcome what you expected? Did “resolution” come right away? How did you feel?

v.7

O: What words in verse 7 strike you or jump out at you? Why?

****Another way to ask: “Choose one word or phrase from the verse that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further.” Now share it with the group*

O: Looking back to Genesis (6:9,13) why and how exactly was “Noah Warned?”

What does this mean about Noah and his relationship to God (Genesis 6:9)? (KNOW/BE)

O: Briefly summarize what God told Noah to do (Gen 6:14-21) and why this required faith (Heb 11:7)? (DO)

O: What specific things does this verse (Heb.7) point to as a way to illustrate Noah’s faithfulness?

I: How does living “in holy fear” or “in reverent regard” shed light on what it means to live by faith? (BE)

I: In what ways was Noah different from others in his society (Heb.11:7, Genesis 6:6-9, 2Peter 2:5)? (BE)

I: How do you think Noah was able to endure in his faith and walk with God in such a corrupt and evil society? (BE)

Another way to ask this could be: How does Noah exemplify endurance in faith and life? What can we learn from that?

A: Noah “heard” God and then responded... how do you hear from God (are you hearing from God)?

How are you faithful in hearing AND responding to God right now? (KNOW/DO)

A: How do you think God might be leading you right now in your life in terms of deep faith and obedience? Be specific.

Follow-up: What is it that usually keeps you from doing something that God wants you to do? (DO)

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray for faith, wisdom, discernment, boldness, decisiveness, perseverance.... Pray that we would both individually as well as corporately have lives characterized by deep faith.
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God’s word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week’s companion devotional guide (which dives deeper into the O.T. passages that Hebrews 11 points to).
- **Read:** Next week’s sermon (6/21/20) will focus on Hebrews 11:8-16. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, as well as journey through this week’s companion devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament*, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study, Zondervan, along with the following group studies specific to Hebrews: Tom Wright (978-0-281-06379-6), Kay Arthur (978-0-7369-2306-4), Wiersbe (978-0781445665), MacArthur (978-0-7180-3515-0).