

The Essentials: The Book of Genesis

Session 2

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Watch Video

Read: Genesis 8:18-9:1 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Did you hear anything new from Margery's video? If so, what?
2. The flood is a common children's Bible story and has been widely used in popular culture. What have been your past feelings about the flood? What makes the flood story difficult?
3. Genesis 6:5 says "every inclination of the thoughts of their (humanity's) hearts was only evil continually..." Compare this statement with last week's reading about God declaring creation "very good." How can both of these statements be true? Are they both still true?
4. Margery said that the flood could be understood as an "embodiment" of sin's unmaking God's created goodness. What do you think she means? How do you see our sin (or other people's sin!) undo God's created goodness? Give some examples.
5. God's response to Noah's sacrifice is the promise (covenant) that he makes in v. 21. Read it again. Why do you think God establishes this covenant even when He makes the statement about the evil thoughts of human hearts? How does that make you feel?
6. Margery said that you could understand the rest of the Bible as God dealing with sin. With whatever knowledge of Scripture you might have, describe what you think that looks like in the rest of the Bible?

Check in and closing prayers

Genesis 8:18-22

[18] So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. [19] Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

[20] Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. [21] And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. [22] While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

9 [1] And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." (ESV)