



...beginnings
the gospel according to Genesis

Genesis 5-9

the favour of God

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

in the week leading up to growth group pray & read through Genesis 5-9

What stands out to you from these readings?

Are you puzzled about anything in these readings?

What do you **feel, think** or what might you **do** in response to these readings?

a taste of theology pre-reading: the following insight comes from the article on 'Grace' in the Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch, IVP, 2003, p372. "With [favor] the emphasis shifts to the disposition of the one who shows favor rather than the experience of the recipient of grace ... This is demonstrated by the phrase 'in the eyes of' that usually follows [favor] as in Genesis 6.8: 'Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh.'" Genesis 6.5-8 *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."* **But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.**

Reflect and pray in thankfulness to the God who freely gives his favor to undeserving people.

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

Do you have any ugly/daggy/weird/common/worthless favourite things? Do they deserve to be your favourite things?

1. the undeserved favour of God | read Genesis 5.1-6.8

▸ Given the story so far in Genesis, what is the importance of ch 5.1-3 for this whole genealogy? Are you surprised by what you read of the state of the world in Genesis 6.1-7? (Don't get hung up on 'the sons of God'! I reckon it could simply be a reference to 'the mightiest of men', 'warrior chiefs', etc. Remember the sin that grieves God is human.)

▸ What is stunning about Genesis 6.8?

2. the undeserved favour of God's covenant of life (Gen 6-9) | read Genesis 6.9-13; 9.18-28; Heb 11.5-7

▸ Do you think Noah received the undeserved favour of God or did God choose him because he was obedient (e.g. 6.22; 7.5; 7.16; 8.20 ... nb 6.12!)? Does Noah need saving?

▸ read Genesis 6.14-7.24: How and why does Noah survive the destruction of all things?

▸ read Genesis 8.1-9.17: What does Noah do in response to being saved? Why is worship the right response?

▸ What is the same and what is different after the flood?

▸ What do we learn about who God is and what God does through his covenant with Noah?

▸ Read Romans 5: Reflect together on what you read here of God's new covenant of grace (undeserved favour) in Christ Jesus. How is this covenant the same but superior to the covenant with Noah? Do you deserve to be one of God's favourite things?

PRAY!