

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Genesis 8:20-22 & 9:8-17

Sunday, September 3, 2017

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why did God send the great flood upon the earth? Why did God save Noah and his family?

Answer to the first question is Genesis 6:5, 11-12.

Answer to the second question is Genesis 6:9 and Hebrews 11:6, 7.

Those who lived on earth had to be miserable because of the way they lived (see above), and they would not change even though Noah preached to them (see 2 Peter 2:5).

2. Do human beings need to do anything or stop doing something for God to keep His promise never to send a great flood again over all the earth?

No. God’s promise or covenant was unconditional. No matter what people did in the future, God would keep His promise.

3. Did God say that He would never judge or destroy the earth again as a just judgment for human evil and rebellion?

No.

4. Why did God say that when He saw the rainbow that He would remember His covenant and promise?

So when people saw the rainbow they would remember that God would remember and never send a universal flood again.

5. Why do you think God emphasized repeatedly that when He saw the rainbow that He would remember His promise and covenant?

Noah and his family had just gone through the most traumatic experience imaginable, though they and the creatures on the ark had been saved. They and their descendants needed to hear God make His promise more than once to feel reassurance and remain calm in future rain storms. We often need to hear a promise more than once to believe and remember what was promised. God often gives commands and promises more than once in the Bible, which helps us remember how important they are to God and us.

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