

Life Group Questions November 4

Generous Servants: Jesus and Saints

Sermon Text: Hebrews 11:1-3; 12:1-2

Getting to Know Me

Who in your life has inspired you?

Into the Bible (Asking Questions of the Text)

Genesis 6:9-22

Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

- Why did God choose Noah?
- What evidence did Noah have to convince him to begin building the ark?

- What do you think others would have thought about Noah's decision to build an ark?

Going Deeper (Letting the Text Ask Questions of Us)

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

- According to New Testament scholar N.T. Wright, "Hebrews wants its readers to learn that faith... is not simply believing difficult or impossible things for the sake of it." Based on these words from Hebrews 11 and the example of Noah in Genesis, what does it mean to be faithful?

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

- The "great cloud of witnesses" refers to the faithful ones of the Old Testament the author references throughout chapter 11. What does it mean for us that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses"? Who else in your life has been a faithful witness for you?
- Why are we able to run the race that is set before us and live faithful lives? What obstacles do you face as you try to live a faithful life?

Last Week's Challenge

Last week, we were to take time to reflect on areas of your life where you might be distracting yourself instead of facing what God may be calling you to. We were to ask for the strength and courage to generously serve those around us. What insights came from this practice?