



FOUNDATIONS • COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • GENESIS 6

Faith in a Corrupt World

A guided conversation from the October 18, 2026 sermon by James Drake

SUMMARY

Week six of Foundations lands on a hard chapter, and James Drake said so up front: Genesis 6 is about judgment, and none of us enjoy being judged. He got us laughing first — at how quick we are to pass sentence on a soggy sandwich, a slow cashier, the driver in the next lane — and then he turned the verdict around. The same corruption we spot everywhere out there runs right through our own hearts too. 'The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth... and it grieved Him to His heart.' Before a single raindrop falls, Scripture shows us the state of the world and the state of us.

But watch how God meets it. The verse does not say He was angry; it says He was grieved. James was careful here: 'God regretted that He had made man' does not mean a God caught off guard, scrambling to fix a mistake — nowhere is He less than sovereign. The Hebrew lets us feel His pain, not question His power. This is the ache of a Father who made a good world and watched His children wreck it. The God we answer to is not a cold judge tallying failures; He is grieved by sin because He loves what sin destroys — including us.

Then comes the smallest, largest word in the chapter: 'But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.' One conjunction holds back the dark. James called Noah a shining star in the midst of darkness, but he was careful about why: Noah did not earn this favor, he received it. He was 'a righteous man, blameless in his generation,' and yet flip a few chapters and this same man ends up drunk and passed out in his tent — righteous and still limping. The point was never that Noah was too good to be judged. It was grace, found in the middle of a ruined world and refusing to let go.

And grace gave Noah a job: build an ark the length of a football field, four stories tall, over decades, while the sky stayed clear and the neighbors watched. Only eight people boarded it. By every worldly metric, a failure — and yet 'Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.' James drew the line we most need: we are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful. 'By faith Noah... constructed an ark.' And right in the middle of a judgment chapter, God makes a promise — 'I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark.' Before the flood, there was an ark; before judgment, always mercy; before condemnation, always a door. The gospel was hidden in the carpentry all along: Jesus is the ark, the one door, and it is always God who begins it.

Father, we open a hard chapter — one about a corrupt world and a grieved God — and we would rather look at everyone else's wreckage than our own. Give us the honesty to see the corruption in us, and the comfort of knowing it grieves You because You love us. Before we talk about judgment, let us stand in the door of mercy You built. Meet us here, and teach us to walk faithfully in a world like ours. Amen.

James made us laugh about how fast we judge — a soggy sandwich, a slow line, the driver ahead of us. What is something small you caught yourself passing instant judgment on this week? What does that quickness say about us?

GENESIS 6:5-6 (ESV)

Genesis 6:5-6 (ESV) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

GENESIS 6:8 (ESV)

Genesis 6:8 (ESV) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

GENESIS 6:9 (ESV)

Genesis 6:9 (ESV) These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

GENESIS 6:11-14 (ESV)

Genesis 6:11-14 (ESV) Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch."

GENESIS 6:18 (ESV)

Genesis 6:18 (ESV) 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.

GENESIS 6:22 (ESV)

Genesis 6:22 (ESV) Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

HEBREWS 11:7 (ESV)

Hebrews 11:7 (ESV) By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

01 THE JUDGMENT WE KEEP FOR OTHERS

James opened by admitting Genesis 6 is hard because it is about judgment — then made us laugh at how freely we judge a soggy sandwich, a slow cashier, the car ahead. Where are you quickest to pass sentence on other people? What would it do to you to turn that same honest eye on your own heart first?

02 GRIEVED, NOT JUST ANGRY

Read Genesis 6:5–6. The text does not say God was angry; it says the wickedness of the world 'grieved Him to His heart.' James said this is the ache of a Father who made a good world and watched His children wreck it. How does it change the way you carry your own sin to know it grieves God because He loves you, not because He is done with you?

03 THE SMALLEST, LARGEST WORD

Read Genesis 6:8. The whole earth has been declared corrupt and judgment handed down — and then: 'But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.' James was clear that Noah received this favor, he did not earn it. Where are you still trying to earn a standing with God that, in Christ, He has already freely given you? What would it feel like to stop?

04 RIGHTEOUS AND STILL LIMPING

Read Genesis 6:9. Noah is called righteous, blameless, a man who walked with God — and yet, James reminded us, flip a few chapters and this same man ends up drunk and broken. Are you waiting until your record is clean to walk closely with God? What would it mean to walk with Him right in the middle of your limp?

05 FAITH IN A CORRUPT WORLD

Read Genesis 6:11–14 and Hebrews 11:7. The earth was 'filled with violence,' and into that God handed Noah a hammer and a blueprint. 'By faith Noah... constructed an ark.' Faith, for Noah, looked like obedient work in a culture going the other way. Where is God asking you to live and build faithfully right now in a corner of the world that has clearly corrupted its way?

06 FAITHFUL, NOT SUCCESSFUL

Read Genesis 6:22. Noah built for decades under a clear sky, and only eight people boarded the ark — by every worldly metric, a failure, 'yet Noah did all that God commanded him.' James said we are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful. What has God clearly asked of you that you keep postponing because it does not yet look like it is 'working'?

07 BEFORE THE FLOOD, AN ARK

Read Genesis 6:18. Right in the middle of a judgment chapter, God makes a promise and gives the exact dimensions of rescue: 'you shall come into the ark.' Before the first raindrop, there is a door, and God is the one who begins it. Where do you most need to hear that God is for you — that before condemnation He has already built a way through?

08 THE ONE DOOR

James closed where Genesis always points: before there was a flood there was an ark, and Jesus is the ark, the one door, for anyone who will come in. How does seeing Christ in this chapter change the way you'll read the hard parts of the Bible? And who in your life is standing outside a door God has already opened — someone you could invite in this week? Remember: none of this earns His love; it is the fruit of being loved already.

Pick one. Do it before you meet again.

- 1 **Judge yourself first, gently** The next time you catch yourself passing quick judgment on someone — the driver, the coworker, the person online — stop and turn the honesty inward before you let it out. Name one piece of corruption in your own heart and bring it to the Father whose heart breaks over it, instead of the world's.
- 2 **Build the ark God actually asked for** Name the one faithful thing God has clearly asked of you that does not yet look like it is working, and do the next plank of it this week — no editing, no waiting for the metrics to turn. Faithful, not successful. Tell one person in this group what you did.
- 3 **Point someone to the door** There is someone in your life standing outside an open door. This week, make one real move toward them — a text, a meal, an invitation to come Sunday — not to win an argument, but because before judgment there is always mercy, and you know where the door is.

Come back next week ready to say what happened, not what you intended.

- ▶ The corruption we are so quick to see in the world runs through our own hearts too — Genesis 6 asks us to stop judging the soggy sandwich and look honestly at ourselves.
- ▶ God is not a cold judge tallying failures. He is grieved by sin because He loves what sin destroys. His grief is not surprise; nowhere is He less than sovereign.
- ▶ Favor is received, not earned. Noah was righteous and still limping, a shining star given grace in the middle of a ruined world — and so are we.
- ▶ We are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful. By faith Noah built an ark; before the flood there was a door; and Jesus is the ark, the one way through, begun by God Himself.

Genesis 6 is a judgment chapter with a door cut right through the middle of it. Before there was a flood there was an ark — and the gospel was hidden in the carpentry all along: Jesus is the ark, the one door, and it is always God who begins the rescue.

Father, we came in quick to judge the world and slow to see ourselves, and You met us with grief instead of rage — grief, because You love what sin is destroying in us. Thank You that before the flood You built an ark, and that in Jesus You have cut one door through the judgment and left it open. Make us faithful, not just successful. Send us back out to live honestly in a corrupt world and to bring someone else to the door You opened. We come in. Amen.



GET THE APP

Christchurch Miami, on your phone

Scan with your phone's camera to download the free app for iPhone or Android — this study guide, Sunday's sermon and your Community Group, all in one place.

christchurchmiami.org/app

CHRISTCHURCH MIAMI

A Faith Family on Mission

8485 SW 112th St • Miami (Kendall), FL 33156

Sundays at 11 AM • Wednesdays 6:30 PM Family Night

christchurchmiami.org