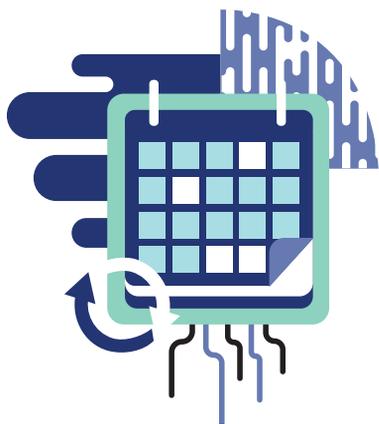


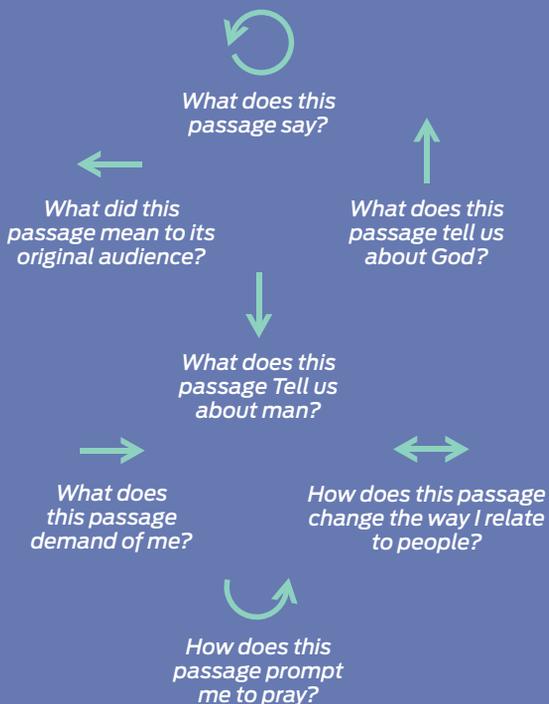
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## Genesis 6:1-7

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



We are not even a dozen chapters into the story of Scripture and yet God’s judgment of sin has reverberated on nearly every page. God judged Adam, Eve, the serpent, and creation in Eden (Gen. 3) and then Cain for murdering his brother (Gen. 4). Then we saw God’s judgment echoing in the refrain “then he died” throughout the genealogy from Adam to Noah (Gen. 5). Now, we see God’s judgment about to be poured out to wipe mankind off the face of the earth.

But if we look again we see God’s judgment is not absent of love and grace. God was gracious to Adam and Eve not to take their lives immediately and to cover their shame with clothing made from an animal. God graciously placed a mark of protection on Cain. In the genealogy, we read of one man—Enoch—who did not die, showing us that there is a way to escape sin’s curse. And even here, as God prepares to flood the world, we will see that He will graciously bring one man and his family safely through the waters of judgment.

**Why should we acknowledge both God’s judgment and His love and grace?**

# Genesis 6:6

Not only should our hearts be grieved over the fact that sin almost led, justifiably, to the entire destruction of the human race, but they should also be grieved over the fact that the God who judges sin also grieves because of sin's presence in our hearts. This was true not only back then, but even now. God is still grieved at the sight of the rebelliousness within us.

**When was the last time you felt heartbroken over sin in a friend's life? In your own life?**

**How does the truth that God is grieved by our sin influence the way you deal with personal sin and temptation?**

# Genesis 6:8-22

Noah was not spared because of anything he had done, but because of God's grace alone. As such, Noah's only proper response to God's grace was to be complete surrender.

Think of it like this: Imagine you wake up in an ambulance and the EMT says to you, "You've been in a terrible accident. But we've got you. We're going to save you. Just let us work." They're not asking you to get up and assist them. They're asking you to surrender to them.

You say, Well, I'm mostly surrendered to God. But there is no such thing as "mostly surrendered." What good would it do to "mostly surrender" to the EMT? Yeah, I'll just pull out one or two of these cords. It's no biggie. I'm still "mostly surrendered." In the same way, mostly isn't enough for God—He wants our total surrender to Him, our loving and all-powerful God.

**What area of your life is most difficult to surrender fully to God? Why?**

# Genesis 7:1-24

There are naturally questions that come up in our mind as we read this narrative. For instance, one of them, found in 7:16, has to do with the fact that after Noah, his family, and the animals were aboard the ark, God shut them in.

We don't quite know how God performed this divine act closing and sealing the ark's door; however, understanding why, not how, is more important. This was God's way of affirming that salvation truly belongs to Him. Noah may have built the vessel, but with an open door it would not have weathered the storm and preserved his live and the lives of all the others onboard. Noah was saved not by his effort, but by a gracious act of God—as we are through Christ.

**Where have you seen God's grace and goodness to you in your life lately?**

# Genesis 8:1-22

In God's appointed time, Noah exited the ark and stood on land for the first time in a year. And the first thing Noah did was worship God by offering burnt offerings of some of every kind of clean animal and bird (8:20).

We might say that despite Noah witnessing God's judgment on humanity and experiencing adversity for such a lengthy period of time, Noah was able to find grounds to worship God. But it may be more accurate to say that Noah found reason to worship God through what he had experienced, not despite it. Being saved through God's judgment heightened Noah's awareness and gratitude of God's grace. That is why Noah worshiped, and that is why we worship too.

**What are some current struggles in your life now? Why is it important to worship God even in difficult times?**