



## Week of April 3 Sons of God and Daughters of Men

### **Overview:**

At some point in our lives, we have to wonder: Why are we here? How did all of this come to be? What are the origins of our universe, our story, and our purpose? In the first eleven chapters of the Genesis, we see a cosmic story unfolding—an epic narrative—of God shaping a good and meaningful world, what went wrong, and how God is redeeming the mess, restoring us to something good. The next several weeks, we will explore new ways to study this narrative and learn how to apply those tools to all of Scripture.

### **Group Objectives:**

- Reflect on this past Sunday’s message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- In Noah’s time, the world was filled with wickedness where everyone did what was right in their eyes. It often feels like our world today is much the same. Consider how we might receive consolation and hope from Genesis 6:1-9, and what it teaches about God’s character.

### **DNA statement(s) tie-in:**

- *We are on mission to reach one more.* Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to reach one more—one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.

### **Conversation Starters:**

- It’s spring in Nebraska, which typically means a mixture of weather, especially rain. How does the weather affect your day-to-day outlook?
- What do you most look forward to in the spring?

### **Read and Reflect: Bible Study Discussion**

*Genesis 6 describes the downward spiral of humanity that leads to God’s decision to flood the earth. We read of the growth of the earth’s population, including the beautiful daughters of humans who the sons of God saw and married. We also read of the Nephilim who were “heroes of old, men of renown,” sometimes referred to as “the fallen ones.” The human race is filled with wickedness, and people do whatever is pleasing to them. Their thoughts and deeds are evil all the time. Because of their great rebellion, evil, and wickedness, God’s heart is grieved, and he regrets making humans, so he decides to send a flood to wipe out the human race as well as all the animals. However, there is hope! Noah finds favor with God as a righteous man who “walked faithfully with God.”*

---

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 6:9. See also Enoch, Genesis 5:22.

- **Read Genesis 6:1-9**

- What stood out to you from Genesis 6:1-9 that you did not see before?

*In Gen 6:1-4, we read about “sons of God,” “daughters of humans,” and the Nephilim. Read these other Old Testament references to “sons of God” (or angels)—Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7, and Daniel 3:25, 28.*

- How might these other passages clarify the potential meaning of the phrase “sons of God” in Genesis 6:2, 4?
- How do we reconcile passages that are confusing and potentially inconsistent with what we know or believe about God and creation? In what ways does using scripture to interpret scripture help us?
- *Genesis 6:5 states that human wickedness was widespread on the earth.*
  - What may have caused this widespread wickedness? How is the condition of the human heart described in these verses?
  - Which of these things do you see as being true in our world today? What might we do to bring hope and God’s light into our world?
- *In Genesis 6:6, we read that God “regrets” that he made human beings.*
  - How can the sovereign Lord “regret”? What’s going on here?

*The Hebrew word, translated as “regret” is nacham, which means “to be sorry, to console oneself, repent, regret, comfort, be comforted.”<sup>2</sup>*

- How does this fuller definition of “regret” influence our reading of Genesis 6:6?
- What else do we learn about the character of God in verse 6?

*God is “deeply grieved.” The Hebrew word used is atsab, which means hurt, pain, grief.<sup>3</sup>*

- How does this compliment or contrast with the “regret” of God in verse 6?

- **Read Matthew 24:36-39** considering Genesis 6:1-9

- How might the verses in Matthew serve as a warning and call to action for us today?

### **Respond and Pray**

- Both Noah and Enoch “walked faithfully with God.” In Micah 6:8, we read what God requires for mankind that is good: “...to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” How might we walk more closely with God this week?
- God chose to save humanity through Noah’s righteousness. Read 2 Peter 3:9. How can we be part of God’s plan that “none would perish but all would come to redemption”? To what practical step is God calling you to bring light and hope to a world that seems so dark?
- Consider Praying: *Loving and merciful God, we thank you that you spared humanity because of the righteousness of Noah. May we be like Noah in walking faithfully with You. We desire a relationship with You. Show us how we might love and serve others, bringing your light to them and sharing your love, mercy, grace, and salvation. We love you. Amen.*

### **For further study:**

Brown, Raymond Edward, et al. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Prentice Hall, 1990.

*Additional resources, including books, videos, and podcasts, are found at [cccomaha.org/origins](http://cccomaha.org/origins)*

<sup>2</sup> <https://biblestudytools.com/lexicons/Hebrew/nas/nacham.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/atsab.html>