

# Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 6:5-22

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

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Looking back in your life, what was the best plan you ever had? Maybe you planned a once-in-a-lifetime trip, or planned to build and decorate a house, or planned to get married and have kids. How did that plan work out for you?

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Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

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Here is some context for Genesis 6:5-22.

*In Genesis 4, we read about the first murder, but we ended with the hope that people began to call on the name of the Lord. Then we have a genealogy in Genesis 5. Other than Enoch, who it says walked faithfully with God, we don't get any other idea of the spiritual state of humans in that chapter. Then we get to Genesis 6, and all of a sudden, people are so evil that God regrets creating them and decides to wipe them off the face of the earth. Genesis 6:5 says:*

*The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*

*That doesn't paint a very good picture of humans. In such a seemingly short time, humans have gone from following God to having only evil thoughts all the time. Yet, in spite of the wickedness of humans, there is a bright spot: Noah. We'll look at the story of Noah over the next three lessons.*

What are your thoughts about the context? Discuss the context as a group. Write some key points here.

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Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

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Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

What does the passage say about God?

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What does the passage say about people?

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What does the passage say about God's plan?

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What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

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As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your life. How does this passage affect how you view God?

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How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

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How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

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Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.