
Entering In: (Ice breaker question)

If you were in the worship service on Sunday, describe how the brief video on the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday impacted you.

The Context:

God has preserved Noah, his family and the animals through the flood and is now placing them back on the earth. He establishes new guidelines and defines several fundamental changes that will take place. In this, however, he also affirms the dignity of humanity as one made in the image of God.

Going Deeper

1. *How would you describe what Noah might have been thinking and feeling when the door of the ark was opened?*

2. *Moses responds to his situation by worshipping God (Gen. 8:20). In what ways is worship an appropriate response to crisis?*

The Affirmation of God's Sovereignty.

3. *In this passage two names for God are used: the LORD (YHWH, the covenant name for God) and God (Elohim, descriptive of his sovereignty over all times and people and situations). Why do you think it is significant that both names are used in this passage?*

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4. *What does it mean for God to be sovereign? How would you describe this term to someone who doesn't understand it? What impact does this have on your relationship with Him?*

5. *Looking at 8:18 – 9:11, what ways do you see God's sovereignty evident in Noah's situation?*

The Understanding of a World in Struggle.

6. *How do you explain the reality of God's sovereignty over a world that still experiences struggles?*

The Declaring of the Sanctity of Human Life.

7. *Why do you think God didn't just "start all over" with the flood, wiping out of the human race rather than saving Noah and his family and the animals?*

8. *What changes in the relationship between humans and animals does God bring about (Gen. 9:1-3)? Despite this change, what distinction does God still affirm in creation (Gen. 9:5-6)?*

9. *What is meant by “image of God”?*

10. *How does our understanding of the image of God impact our view of people with disabilities, or the elderly, or the unborn child?*

The Establishing of Society's Statutes and Responsibilities.

11. *From verse 6, we can infer that God establishes a societal relationship/a government that hadn't previously existed, in the form of capital punishment – everyone being held accountable for the defilement of an image of God. How do we integrate this, and similar passages, with the passages that seem to speak against capital punishment (i.e. Matt. 5:38-39; Matt. 6:14-15; 1 Tim 1:12-16; Ez. 33:10-11)?*

12. *Take time to close together in prayer, interceding for those who are vulnerable/defenseless in society.*