



CHAPTER 1 LEADER GUIDE

Chapter 1 - Noah: God's Covenant with Creation

HOST CODE: 246810

TO THE LEADER

Leader Responsibilities

- Pray daily for your group participants.
- Complete the daily assignment along with your participants.
- Participate in the Group Discussion for the session on the app.
- Participate in the prayer request board and the message board on the app.
- Monitor all posts on the app and delete any you feel are inappropriate.

Leader Preparation for Group Meeting

- Read the Overview for Leader content for the chapter.
- Familiarize yourself with the chapter's leader guide to be confident with the content and flow of the meeting.

Using the Leader Guide

- Each leader guide is written to be flexible to fit a 60-minute or 90-minute small group session.
 - For a 60-minute session, SKIP all questions highlighted in blue. [Note: Questions denoted with a plus sign (+) were asked as part of the Daily Assignment for this session, including questions highlighted in blue. While the questions highlighted in blue are meant to be skipped during a 60-minute session, they may be incorporated if time allows.]
 - If you have 90 minutes, use the additional information and questions highlighted in blue.
 - The timeframes in parentheses (for example, 15 or 30 MINUTES TOTAL) mean that the first number is for a 60-minute session, and the second number is for a 90-minute session. (Note: the participants will have answered all the questions whether or not you have time to discuss them. They will have access to all their answers in their Meeting Guide.)
- To plan for your session, write the exact time of day you need to be at each new segment of the session. It is vital that you begin and end your session on the timeframe committed to by your group. This part of your preparation sets you up to stay on schedule.
- Space is left for your summary of responses to the assignment's Group Discussion. Return to the group discussion before the meeting, read the responses, and summarize.

CHAPTER 1 OVERVIEW FOR LEADER

Chapter Goals

This session's reading, discussion, reflection, and prayer will equip participants to:

- Understand the various types of covenants presented in Scripture and their meaning;
- Connect covenants and communal memory;
- Understand God's covenant with creation as an attempt to re-create the world and enter into a more harmonious relationship with human beings;
- Recognize our own role in and claim responsibility for working toward the healing and repair of the world.

CHAPTER ONE SUMMARY: NOAH: GOD'S COVENANT WITH CREATION

In session one, "Noah: God's Covenant with Creation," participants will connect God's regret over what creation had become to God's effort to re-create the world rather than to destroy it and walk away forever. They will recognize how God connects covenants with memory, through the sign of the bow that God places in the sky. They will experience some of the sense of wonder that Noah and his family must have felt in seeing that first, miraculous rainbow. And they will see in God's re-creation their own call to forgive, to reconcile, and to participate in the healing of the world.

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND FOR THE LEADER AND PARTICIPANTS

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

(Genesis 9:8-17)

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND FOR THE LEADER ONLY

⁵ The Lord saw that humanity had become thoroughly evil on the earth and that every idea their minds thought up was always completely evil. ⁶ The Lord regretted making human beings on the earth, and he was heartbroken. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I will wipe off of the land the human race that I’ve created: from human beings to livestock to the crawling things to the birds in the skies, because I regret I ever made them.” ⁸ But as for Noah, the Lord approved of him.

⁹ These are Noah’s descendants. In his generation, Noah was a moral and exemplary man; he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ In God’s sight, the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹² God saw that the earth was corrupt, because all creatures behaved corruptly on the earth.

¹³ God said to Noah, “The end has come for all creatures, since they have filled the earth with violence. I am now about to destroy them along with the earth, ¹⁴ so make a wooden ark. Make the ark with nesting places and cover it inside and out with tar. ¹⁵ This is how you should make it: four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark and complete it one foot from the top. Put a door in its side. In the hold below, make the second and third decks.

¹⁷ “I am now bringing the floodwaters over the earth to destroy everything under the sky that breathes. Everything on earth is about to take its last breath. ¹⁸ But I will set up my covenant with you. You will go into the ark together with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives. ¹⁹ From all living things—from all creatures—you are to bring a pair, male and female, into the ark with you to keep them alive. ²⁰ From each kind of bird, from each kind of livestock, and from each kind of everything that crawls on the ground—a pair from each will go in with you to stay alive. ²¹ Take some from every kind of food and stow it as food for you and for the animals.”

²² Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him.

⁷ The Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark with your whole household, because among this generation I’ve seen that you are a moral man. ² From every clean animal, take seven pairs, a male and his mate; and from every unclean animal, take one pair, a male and his mate; ³ and from the birds in the sky as well, take seven pairs, male and female, so that their offspring will survive throughout the earth. ⁴ In seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights. I will wipe off from the fertile land every living thing that I have made.”

⁵ Noah did everything the Lord commanded him.

⁶ Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters arrived on earth. ⁷ Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark to escape the floodwaters. ⁸ From the clean and unclean animals, from the birds and everything crawling on the ground, ⁹ two of each, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, just as God commanded Noah. ¹⁰ After seven days, the floodwaters arrived on the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day—on that day all the springs of the deep sea erupted, and the windows in the skies opened. ¹² It rained on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ That same day Noah, with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah’s wife, and his sons’ three wives, went into the ark. ¹⁴ They and every kind of animal—every kind of livestock, every kind that crawls on the ground, every kind of bird— ¹⁵ they came to Noah and entered the ark, two of every creature that breathes. ¹⁶ Male

and female of every creature went in, just as God had commanded him. Then the Lord closed the door behind them.

¹⁷ The flood remained on the earth for forty days. The waters rose, lifted the ark, and it rode high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and spread out over the earth. The ark floated on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹ The waters rose even higher over the earth; they covered all of the highest mountains under the sky. ²⁰ The waters rose twenty-three feet high, covering the mountains. ²¹ Every creature took its last breath: the things crawling on the ground, birds, livestock, wild animals, everything swarming on the ground, and every human being. ²² Everything on dry land with life's breath in its nostrils died. ²³ God wiped away every living thing that was on the fertile land—from human beings to livestock to crawling things to birds in the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were left. ²⁴ The waters rose over the earth for one hundred fifty days.

8 God remembered Noah, all those alive, and all the animals with him in the ark. God sent a wind over the earth so that the waters receded. ² The springs of the deep sea and the skies closed up. The skies held back the rain. ³ The waters receded gradually from the earth. After one hundred fifty days, the waters decreased; ⁴ and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day, the ark came to rest on the Ararat mountains. ⁵ The waters decreased gradually until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the mountain peaks appeared.

⁶ After forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made. ⁷ He sent out a raven, and it flew back and forth until the waters over the entire earth had dried up. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the waters on all of the fertile land had subsided, ⁹ but the dove found no place to set its foot. It returned to him in the ark since waters still covered the entire earth. Noah stretched out his hand, took it, and brought it back into the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and sent the dove out from the ark again. ¹¹ The dove came back to him in the evening, grasping a torn olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the waters were subsiding from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent out the dove, but it didn't come back to him again. ¹³ In Noah's six hundred first year, on the first day of the first month, the waters dried up from the earth. Noah removed the ark's hatch and saw that the surface of the fertile land had dried up. ¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day, the earth was dry.

¹⁵ God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you all the animals of every kind—birds, livestock, everything crawling on the ground—so that they may populate the earth, be fertile, and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah went out of the ark with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals, all the livestock, all the birds, and everything crawling on the ground, came out of the ark by their families.

God's promise for the earth

²⁰ Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took some of the clean large animals and some of the clean birds, and placed entirely burned offerings on the altar. ²¹ The Lord smelled the pleasing scent, and the Lord thought to himself, I will not curse the fertile land anymore because of human beings since the ideas of the human mind are evil from their youth. I will never again destroy every living thing as I have done.

²² As long as the earth exists,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and hot,
summer and autumn,
day and night
will not cease.

God's covenant with all life

⁹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the earth. ² All of the animals on the earth will fear you and dread you—all the birds in the skies, everything crawling on the ground, and all of the sea's fish. They are in your power. ³ Everything that lives and moves will be your food. Just as I gave you the green grasses, I now give you everything. ⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its life, its blood, in it.

⁵ I will surely demand your blood for a human life,
from every living thing I will demand it.
From humans, from a man for his brother,
I will demand something for a human life.

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,
by a human his blood will be shed;
for in the divine image
God made human beings.

⁷ As for you, be fertile and multiply. Populate the earth and multiply in it." ⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, ¹⁰ and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. ¹¹ I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. ¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. ¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures." ¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth."

Shem's blessing and Canaan's curse

¹⁸ Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth came out of the ark. Now Ham was Canaan's father. ¹⁹ These were Noah's three sons, and from them the whole earth was populated. ²⁰ Noah, a farmer, made a new start and planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and took off his clothes in his tent. ²² Ham, Canaan's father, saw his father naked and told his two brothers who were outside. ²³ Shem and Japheth took a robe, threw it over their shoulders, walked backward, and covered their naked father without looking at him because they turned away. ²⁴ When Noah woke up from his wine, he discovered what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵ He said,

“Cursed be Canaan:
the lowest servant
he will be for his brothers.”

²⁶ He also said,

“Bless the Lord,
the God of Shem;
Canaan will be his servant.

²⁷ May God give space to Japheth;
he will live in Shem’s tents,
and Canaan will be his servant.”

²⁸ After the flood, Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹ In all, Noah lived 950 years; then he died.

(Genesis 6:5–9:29)

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth— ² the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— ³ God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. ⁴ God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

⁶ God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other.” ⁷ God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way. ⁸ God named the dome Sky.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

⁹ God said, “Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear.” And that’s what happened. ¹⁰ God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. ¹¹ God said, “Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth.” And that’s what happened. ¹² The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was.

¹³ There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

¹⁴ God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth.” And that’s what happened. ¹⁶ God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. ¹⁷ God put them in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was.

¹⁹ There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ God said, “Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky.” ²¹ God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. ²² Then God blessed them: “Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³ There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife.” And that’s what happened. ²⁵ God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”

²⁷ God created humanity in God’s own image,
in the divine image God created them,
male and female God created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground.” ²⁹ Then God said, “I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. ³⁰ To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food.” And that’s what happened. ³¹ God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

² The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed. ² On the sixth day God completed all the work that he had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation. ⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

World’s creation in the garden

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky— ⁵ before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn’t yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, ⁶ though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land— ⁷ the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life’s breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. ⁸ The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. ⁹ In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides into four headwaters. ¹¹ The name of the first river is the Pishon. It flows around the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² That land's gold is pure, and the land also has sweet-smelling resins and gemstones. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It flows around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris, flowing east of Assyria; and the name of the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. ¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; ¹⁷ but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." ¹⁹ So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. ²⁰ The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

²¹ So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. ²² With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. ²³ The human said,

"This one finally is bone from my bones
and flesh from my flesh.
She will be called a woman
because from a man she was taken."

²⁴ This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren't embarrassed.

(Genesis 1-2)

SESSION 1

Introduction and Chapter 1 - Noah: God's Covenant with Creation

HOST CODE: 246810

LEADER NOTES

Note: Be sure you have read the content above and prepared your leader guide as directed.

Questions denoted with a plus sign (+) were asked as part of the Daily Assignment for this session.

MEETING OPENING (10 MINUTES)

Offer a personal welcome.

Take attendance as people join the meeting.

Ask how the group did completing the Daily Assignment and ask if anyone needs clarification on how to use the app. (If a participant needs more than a quick answer, arrange to talk after the meeting.)

Ask participants to open their app to the chapter's Meeting Guide. (Make sure all have found and opened their Meeting Guides before continuing.)

OPTIONAL: *If needed for your group, review any or all of the information below:*

Let's review **how to switch from Zoom to the app and back during a meeting.**

For those of you joining by smart phone or tablet, you return to the app by swiping up on the screen slightly to see all open apps. You then tap on the BeADisciple Study App. You repeat these steps to return to viewing Zoom. Try that now.

As you do this, you remain connected to the Zoom meeting and can see Zoom in a small panel in a corner. Your audio still works. You will see as others do this that an icon appears when they have swiped away from Zoom. Their video will restore when they return.

For those of you joining via computer, you can choose to switch back and forth between Zoom and your web browser, or you can resize the zoom and web browser tiles to both fit on your screen. Try one of those approaches now.

(Pause and check that everyone in your group knows how to switch between Zoom and the app.)

To get to your Meeting Guide, first return to the app and then tap on the “Go to My Notebook” button directly below the button you tapped to join the meeting. Do that now.

Once in your Notebook, you will find yourself on the Meeting Guides screen. Tap the button for the Orientation session. Then tap the segment titled “Small-Group Discussion.” Do that now.

Discussion guides will contain all content necessary for your self-led breakouts, including any questions and answers you write during the week’s study that you are to discuss. You can edit your answers from the meeting guide.

I will prompt you when you should switch to the Meeting Guide and to which segment.

Opening Prayer

Thank you for using the Prayer Request section of the app this week. Please continue to do so throughout this Study. *(Feel free to comment on any prayer requests or celebrations you read on the app).*

Open in prayer.

O God, let this season for us be more than a casual or routine remembrance of the depth of your love for us. Prepare us to do more than give up some small part of our daily routine in observance of Jesus’s sacrifice. Help us to understand the history of your love for us that has manifested itself since you created this world. And help us to trust in your promises so that we may fearlessly follow Jesus all the way to the cross, knowing that the cross for us is not the end but a symbol of your unending love for us—a love that triumphs over this world. Amen.

LARGE-GROUP DISCUSSION, PART 1 (15 or 25 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Please open the **Large-Group Discussion segment** of your app for content plus questions and answers you saved during your daily assignments.

Introduction

As we began this study together, we were given a group discussion question in our daily assignment to stir our thoughts.

We were asked:

What do you think it means to be called by God?”

Briefly summarize what was shared by participants in the Group Discussion.

Summary of discussion thread:

Introduction to Chapter 1

In your assignment for this session, you noticed that this is not only a Lenten study; it is about the entire salvation story that is presented in the Bible. We will not only reflect on Jesus's journey to the cross, but we will go all the way back to Genesis to appreciate fully God's faithfulness toward fallible and faithless human beings—and God's desire to be in intimate relationship to us.

Chapter 1 Video Discussion

In this video, Susan Robb looks at God's covenant with creation.

You were asked:

- + What did you learn or find interesting in this video? *(Hear from 2-3 people.)*

Chapter 1 - Noah: God's Covenant with Creation

Prior to the story of Noah, we discover that humanity, which God created in God's own image and declared "good," had become corrupt and it grieved the Lord.

That grief began with the disobedience of Adam and Eve and continued as Cain murdered his brother Abel. Things got worse and God became so devastated by grief that God decided to "undo" creation. But instead of putting an end to it all, God preserved a remnant of what God had created and start anew with the only person God finds to be righteous and blameless - Noah and his family. God wanted to wash away all of the evil from the world and make way for a renewed creation.

Note: Questions denoted with a plus sign (+) were asked as part of the Daily Assignment for this session, including questions highlighted in blue. While the questions highlighted in blue are meant to be skipped during a 60-minute session, they may be discussed if time allows.

You were asked the following questions. *(Hear from 1-2 people on each of the following questions.)*

- + Why do you think God repeatedly tries to restore broken relationships with rebellious humans?

+ Why do you think a God with the power to speak the world into existence even needs to try to draw human beings back into a harmonious relationship?

Robb explains that covenants are a primary motif in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and a primary way that God reaches out to humanity.

+ What kinds of agreements come to mind when you think of covenants?

+ How do divine covenants in the Bible differ from human covenants?

+ Why do you think some covenants between God and humans involve mutual promises, while others are unilateral on God's part?

+ Why do you think God choose to reach out to humanity through covenants as a way to prove God's faithfulness in providing what's best for God's children and all of creation?

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (15 or 25 MINUTES)

Divide the class into **random breakout rooms of 3-4 participants**, then **set the countdown clock for 14 or 24 minutes** and the **"Countdown after closing" clock to 60 seconds**. Tell participants to choose a small-group leader who will keep the discussion moving.

Tell participants to use the **Small-Group Discussion segment** of their Meeting Guide for content, questions, and answers they saved during their Daily Assignments.

BREAKOUT ROOM GUIDE

Participants (excluding leader and co-leader)	15	12-14	9-11	6-8
Breakout rooms needed	5	4	3	2

Note: The content of the Small-Group Discussion guide is included at the end of this document.

LARGE-GROUP DISCUSSION, PART 2 (15 or 20 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Please open the **Large-Group Discussion, Part 2 segment** of your app for content plus questions and answers you saved during your daily assignments.

The Rainbow and The Cross

As we learned, the rainbow helps us remember the God who remembers us—even, or especially, amid the chaos and rebellion we create. In delving into the story of Noah during the first week of

Lent, we also begin our journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross. (Hear from 1-2 people on each of the following questions.)

+ How do the self-imposed limits on God's power in God's covenant with creation connect you to the story of Jesus's acceptance of death on a cross?

+ How does the cross become, as Robb suggests, "our rainbow"?

Tikkun Olam

Robb discusses *tikkun olam*, the idea of repairing or healing the world.

+ How does the idea that as a follower of Jesus you are to participate with Christ in the re-creation of God's world influence your daily behavior? (Hear from 1-2 people.)

+ Why do you think God entrusts fallen human beings with part of the task of healing a world that they helped break? (Hear from 1-2 people.)

+ Where have you witnessed *tikkun olam* in your life or in your community recently? (Hear from 3-4 people.)

MEETING CLOSING (10 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Now please open the **Meeting Closing segment** of your app for content plus questions and answers you saved during your daily assignments.

In this Lenten study we are called to step out in faith and follow Jesus all the way to the cross. We will dive more deeply into God's work establishing covenant relationships with human beings. We remember these covenants are based on God's unconditional, unending love.

+ In the spirit of *tikkun olam*, what will you give up for Lent? (*Hear from all.*)

+ In the coming week, how will you specifically continue to follow Jesus to the cross, the ultimate act and reminder of God's love for human beings?

+ In this past week, where did you see God's love breaking through barriers in our society that separate people from each other?

Closing Prayer

As we prepare to close in prayer, know that we have a private Prayer Request board we can use at any time to share joys, sorrows, or personal needs. We will all want to read the requests and pray

for them daily. You will also want to look at your group roster and pray for each person in our group.

At the end of your Daily Assignment, you were prompted to write a Personal Prayer in response to this session's learning. Take a minute now to update your prayer with any new thoughts from your discussions so you will be ready to read your prayer during our closing prayer.

Pause for one minute allowing the group to update their prayers.

Remember, your Personal Prayer can be accessed each day in the coming week as you pray the Daily Prayer in the assignment.

Call on each participant to read their Personal Prayer.

Then, share your Personal Prayer followed with this prayer:

Lord, this season reminds us that you never stop trying to reach us with your love, no matter how much we rebel against your plan for the world. Let that love change our hearts so that we have the courage to follow you, to live according to your justice and mercy, and to contribute to the healing of this world in the places where we encounter brokenness. Amen.

<End>

Note to Leader

Plan to spend 5-10 minutes with anyone who needs assistance with any of the topics below following your meeting or set up time in the coming week.

Profile

Let's complete your profile.

Access your profile from the group roster on the study group screen. Complete all sections now, including adding a photo.

Setting App Notifications

Access the lefthand menu by tapping the three stacked lines in the upper left. Tap on Settings.

Settings is where you can:

- Change your password.
- Choose to download assignments only while on wifi, if you don't have unlimited data on your device.
- Set up a push notification to remind you to do your assignment.
- Choose push notifications you want to receive.

Right now, tap on all toggles to receive notification of Activity from Leaders and Prayer requests, and comments and reactions to your posts. You may turn off any notifications later if you choose.

Assignments

I want to highlight a few things you will encounter during the week's assignments.

First, you can read and/or listen to all assignments. There is an audio icon on each segment screen. Transcripts are provided for all videos for convenience.

In your assignments, you will encounter questions you are to answer, and it is important to answer all questions so that your Meeting Guide is complete and you can participate fully in our group meetings.

Be sure to tap "Save" on all answers as you enter them! Your answers are only accessible by you.

You will encounter Group Discussion segments. These are questions the group will discuss throughout the week via virtual message board. Reply to the question and return to the segment frequently during the week to interact with the answers by others in the group.

Leader Notes:

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask one person to be a timekeeper and plan to spend 2-3 minutes per question for discussion of the assigned questions. Remember, the purpose of the Small-Group Discussion is not just to quickly answer the questions but to take time to share openly your thoughts and feelings. Be sure everyone in the group gets a chance to share.

You will be transferred back into the main group when the breakout timer runs out.

Adam and Eve

As Robb notes in taking the story back to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, the beautiful relationship between God and human beings quickly becomes broken, leading to the disaster in the time of Noah.

- + How does God respond to the disobedience of Adam and Eve?
- + When have you felt like you disappointed God?
- + How has God responded to you?

Covenants and Remembering

- + What do covenants have to do with remembering? (Think of examples of secular covenants in our own contemporary society that call on us to “remember.”)
- + How does memory play into your relationship with God?

Noah and Creation

- + Why do you think God took such a drastic step to “reboot” creation through the Flood?
- + Why do you think God promised Noah and creation not to destroy the world again by flood, especially given what God had had witnessed in human behavior?

Discuss the remainder of the content and question in this Meeting Guide only if time allows.

- + Where have you encountered brokenness in this world? How do you respond to this brokenness?

+ How do your experiences with brokenness contribute to your understanding of God's reaction to the world of Noah's time?