

THE NOAH FACTOR

Selected scriptures

Introduction

Matthew 24:37

I. A Cavalier Generation – Matthew 24:38-39, Luke 17:28-30

II. A Carless Generation – Hebrews 11:7, 2 Peter 3:3-6

III. A Corrupt Generation – Genesis 6:5, 11-12, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-12

IV. A “Caught Off Guard” Generation – Matthew 24:39, Matthew 25:37, 40-41, John 14:3, Matthew 24:36-42, Acts 4:12

Conclusion

Genesis 7:1

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. From your perspective, how is your generation different from the current one? How is it similar? **Every generation is shaped by the religious, social, political, and economic events of their day. Today's young people are no different, except in one respect: those born in the past 15-20 years are the first generation whose lives are saturated by mobile technology and social media. This creates a number of differences from previous generations. Explore these differences with your group.**

2. When you think about the era in which you grew up, what were some of the values, aspirations, and goals that felt normal to you and everyone else? **The environment in which an individual is brought up, namely the things that they lack or are deprived of in their childhood, strongly influences their value development throughout adulthood. Perhaps you could invite your small group to discuss what they 1) lacked and 2) were deprived of in their forming (i.e., growing up) years. This could be material things or relational ones.**

Going Deeper

1. Read Matthew 24:38-39. Describe some similarities between this biblical time period and ours. In what way does the word "cavalier" describe both? **Cavalier—a dismissive attitude that disregards all the warnings that should be heeded. Notice that in this passage Jesus was not talking about people doing bad things, just normal things. They were eating, drinking, having weddings, and taking life as it came. All the time, Noah was hammering away and preaching. Like our Lord Jesus, Noah was both carpenter and evangelist. But everyone disregarded his message and looked upon him as a fool.**

2. Read Hebrews 11:7. When have you felt compelled to obey God “by faith?” Describe a time when you experienced “godly fear.” What did you do? **When God spoke to Noah, the old man believed, being moved with godly fear. He was concerned for his family, and his concern and care for the Lord served to condemn everyone else who was careless with the things of God and heedless to things as yet unseen. Pastor Jeremiah said, “So many people around us are ignoring the spiritual warning signs because they feel they're bulletproof. It's inconceivable to them that anything cataclysmic could happen. Peer pressure seems stronger than prophetic warnings, and a careless attitude has swept the land.”**
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 and 2 Peter 3:3-6. How has violence increased in your lifetime? How are evil options readily available in historically unprecedented ways? **In Noah's day, people had vile imaginations. That hasn't changed, but now we have the technology to put violent images and rhetoric (even worse ones that you or I can imagine) on screens and instantly transport them to a billion eyeballs and minds with the click of a button. This can lead to increasingly larger thoughts of violence beyond the scope of just one person or group of people.**
4. Read Matthew 25:37, 40-41. Describe a scenario when you have been “caught off guard.” How did it feel to not be prepared for what happened to you? **Can you think of a more vivid way of describing the Rapture? Two people, standing side by side...one is taken, the other is left. Jesus said that during times resembling those of Noah, He would return and some people would be *taken* by Himself (i.e., taken from the world). He also described this experience as He would receive His followers to Himself. Two days later, using the same language, He repeated the point to His disciples: "I will...receive you unto myself" (see John 14:3).**

5. Read John 10:7 and Acts 4:12. What experience or person prompted you to believe in Jesus Christ as the only option for your eternal security? **There is only one way to safety, one way to escape the coming judgment, and that is through Christ. He bore God's wrath for us, and He rose again to save us from the penalty of sin. He is the door, and He is the only door... the only way. The Bible proclaims that without Christ, you're living in the days of Noah: cavalier, careless, corrupt, and about to be caught by surprise. At any moment, the door will swing shut, the Lord will come for His church, and you'll be left behind.**

Applying the Message

1. As you reflect on your own spiritual journey, how prepared are you to face either 1) your death, or 2) the imminent return of Jesus Christ? **Scripture, and this week's sermon, highlight the imminences of Jesus' return, *the Rapture*. And the Bible exhorts everyone to sort out the way they want to 1) face death, or 2) face Jesus when He returns.**

2. In what way do you need to take another step of faith? What would that step require of you? When will you take this step? **If someone in your group is unsaved, today would be the wisest, best day to choose salvation. For the saved people in your group, it is a great time to "step up" their game of faith by making a new, obedient decision for Jesus.**