

HOUSEGROUP NOTES: Week Beginning 11th September 2016

RSVP - 'AN INVITATION TO CERTAINTY'

Read: (Genesis 6-7 & Hebrews 11:7)

TO BREAK THE ICE:

Golfers may get asked who they'd most like to join them on a round and why?
Chefs may get asked who they'd most like to have at the meal table and why?

WHAT activity would each person in your group most like others to join them in and WHY? Plus, WHO would be their three favourite choices to invite to do so?

SHARE

WHEN and WHY an invitation might be such a joy to receive?

WHEN and WHY an invitation might not be such a joy to receive?

WHAT and WHY has been each other's greatest and worst invitation?

The Bible is a book of INVITATIONS and few are greater than the one God gave Noah (Genesis 7:1) NOTE: The Hebrew reads better as *COME* not *GO*.

Q. Why did God give it to Noah? HINT (Genesis 6:8)

Q. Why was such an invitation needed? (Genesis 6:5)

Do we under-emphasize God's judgment? How can we properly emphasize it without sounding like "*hellfire and damnation*"? (Or should we sound like that?)

What would you say to someone who argued that all people aren't as bad as verse 5 indicates? How can we speak of judgment without being judgmental?

Q. How was the invitation extended to Noah?

How might we extend the invitation to GET ON BOARD with God in our day and age and what does GETTING ON BOARD with God need to cover?

Q. What might the ARK be a picture of and why? (1 Peter 3:20-21)

Q. What does the structure and size of the ARK tell us about our certainty in Christ as believers in Him?

Noah was not only saved BY the ark, he was also satisfied IN it. (Genesis 6:21)

Q. How does this speak to the certainty of our Christian lives? HINT (John 6:35)

Q. What does (1 Peter 1:5) assure us that people of God can rest certain in?

A PERSONAL THOUGHT:

To me, fossils are like Gospel tracts, reminding us of the truth of the Flood, the judgment of God and His mercy in salvation.

Q. In what way was Noah's faith instrumental in getting the job done? (Hebrews 11:7)

Some may think of faith as an ethereal, impractical sort of thing. But Noah's faith took up axe, hammer, and saw and built a ship in his back yard! His faith cost him a lot of time, money, and ridicule for over a century.

A FEW PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO DISCUSS:

Q. How can we build an ARK of safety for those in our community here at SBC?

Q. What is required of God's people in presenting Christ as Saviour today?

Q. What should we be inviting people to and is it ready to go or not?

FINALLY, think about how long it took Noah to build the ark and then live on the ark, yet we find him patiently & obediently waiting for the Lord to give the word. (Genesis 6:3 - 7:24 & 8:1)

Q. HOW does Noah's patience with the process of ark building and ark living encourage us to build our own certainty and confidence in God?

Remember God didn't just produce an ark he called an ark builder. God didn't just dry up the water instantly, but used the wind and other natural processes. It took time. That's usually how God works.

TELL of a time when you felt forgotten by God. **WHAT** did you learn?

HOW can we build more gratitude into our lives?

Shaun