

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Week of Sept 11

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 6:5-7;9:7-17 The Lord saw that the wickedness of humans was great in the earth and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that he had made humans on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, “I will blot out from the earth the humans I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air—for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you 10 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. 11 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.” 12 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: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 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. 16 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.” 17 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.”

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introductions:

- Share about yourself: what do you do for fun? Work?

Scripture Reflection:

- What do we learn about God (traits, personality, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection:

- Pastor Lara talked about struggling to make sense of the violence in the Noah story. What parts of scripture have you struggled with in the past?
- Pastor Lara talked about different methods of Biblical interpretation. Which ones are you familiar with?
- Which methods of biblical interpretation were new to you?
- We're going to walk through the BIG story of the Bible this year at church. Have you studied the Bible that way before? What are you hoping to learn from that experience?

Closing Question & Application:

- Given our discussion, how might God want you to apply your learning in your life or in your community in the next week? Who might you share this with?

Prayer: *(save a little extra time for this)*

- Spend a few minutes sharing prayer requests with the group.
- This week, do a "phone call" prayer. Have one leader "dial" (open in prayer), then leave room for others in the group to pray. When it feels like the right time, have the other leader "hang up" (conclude the prayer).