

6-SESSION STUDY GUIDE

Flooded

THE 5 BEST DECISIONS
TO MAKE WHEN LIFE IS
HARD AND DOUBT IS RISING

Nicki Koziarz

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Hey, there!

Welcome to the Flooded Study Guide. I'm so glad you are here! We are about to have the best time studying the account of Noah at a deeper level.

Just a quick little note with some helpful tips as you get started.

First, please note that this study guide is designed to go along with the book Flooded. So if you don't have a copy yet, you might want to grab one before beginning.


Second, there are videos that go along with this study. You don't have to watch the videos, but I highly recommend them. Plus, the Flooded Video Study will give you a peek around the Fixer Upper Farm. This guide is designed for you to watch the videos before starting each week of the study. We even have a section for you to take notes during each session!

*Third, studies show that doing something like this with at least one other person is super helpful to staying committed. Not sure how to lead a study? No problem. I've got you covered at nickikoziarz.com/freebies, where you can download a free resource on how to lead a Bible study (with zero experience!) either in-person or online. Any question throughout the study that has an asterisk * next to it would make a great question for group discussion.*


Fourth, and last, because this is starting to feel like a sermon with my three points (smiles): I'm really excited to walk through all this content with you. This is hard and holy work. Each day I ask you to write out one thing you are trusting God for. You can write the exact same thing every time, but write something. We're building and strengthening your faith one day at a time.

Ready? Let's do this!

Nicki



Humility, honor,
and hope
are some
of the greatest
by-products
of walking
with God.



WEEK ONE



Decision One: To Walk with God

SESSION 1 VIDEO STUDY NOTES

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DAY 1

Where Do We Start?

Read: Chapter 1 of *Flooded* and Genesis 5:28–31.

Write down one thing you are trusting God for today:

Verse-of-the-Week Daily Challenge: Read this out loud three times today to help memorize it.

He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17:20

I love the first day of a new Bible study. The crispness of the unused pages. The hope for all I will learn. And the determination to stay focused for a few weeks on one subject of the Bible.

The reality is, as you are opening these pages today, there are things fighting for your attention. Your to-do list won’t get shorter by the end of this. I know my laundry piles are staring at me.

Yet there's a longing to be still, just for a few minutes, isn't there? To grow. Change. And challenge your faith.

Can I just go ahead and give you permission to invest in yourself today and all the days to come during this study?

The only way to become spiritually healthy and stronger is by taking time to do the work your soul needs. I'm tired of us not believing holy work isn't worth it. It is.

You may not feel up to wrestling through some hard things, or maybe you do. Regardless of where we're all starting today, there is something I dare say we all need more of: *faith*.

I've come to understand that the opposite of faith is doubt. And defeating what doubt can do to a soul is our focus in this study.

What better person in the Bible to teach us about defeating doubt than a man named Noah?

He's my favorite teacher on this subject. He's taught me valuable lessons. And he's helped me understand there are decisions we can make that can defeat the destruction of doubt. These five decisions we can see through his journey are small and simple, but they have an impact that reaches into eternity.

Here's my question for you as we begin: "*How's your faith?*" It's not a question we ask ourselves very often. But our faith should always be increasing, not decreasing.

If we've found ourselves in a season of seeking faith, it's okay, we'll find faith. Or if we are feeling like we're in a season of settling, it's okay, we'll find faith that moves us. And if your faith feels fine, then let's try to go from fine to fulfilled.

In fact, let's start off today with a little self-evaluation of your faith. Here are a few questions I'd like for you to answer as we begin this process.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best it's ever been), where would you say your faith is today? _____
2. Have you ever found yourself praying for someone and wondered if your prayers really mattered? Yes or No
3. Do you feel like you have a healthy perspective on what it means to obey God? Yes or No

4. What does it mean for you to obey God?

5. Who is someone whose faith inspires you?

Now that you've taken inventory of yourself, I always like to take inventory of how much I think I know about a passage of Scripture before I begin. This is helpful because at the end you'll be able to look back and see how much you've learned.

Most likely you have heard of Noah. You've heard of the ark, the animals, the flood, and the rainbow. In the space below, write down everything you know about Noah, and then below that, I want you to write down anything you want to know by the end of this study. There's no right or wrong answer to this.

What I know about Noah today:

*** What I want to know about Noah by the end of this study:**

I wish I could specifically see the things you want to know about Noah, because I know I had so many questions going into this. But I have to be honest. Even after studying Noah for almost a year, I still have questions. There are a lot of unknowns to the Scriptures we will study, and specifically to the account of Noah. But here's my promise: We will try to get as many questions answered as possible through this study. I will share with you the perspectives people have showed me on the meaning of the text and the hope that is tucked away in each part of Noah's story.

According to reference.com, the word *faith* appears 336 times in the King James Version of the Bible. In other versions, it is used more—the NIV uses it 458 times!

If you had to write a definition of faith, what would it be? Write it here:

Ever wonder why Bible studies look at either the Greek or Hebrew meaning of a word? Words don't always have the same nuance of meaning in every language. Plus, one word can have a range of meanings in one language that only partially overlap with how it might be translated in another language. When we study the Greek or Hebrew words of a text, in essence we are studying the original language used, which can help us apply it to our lives today.

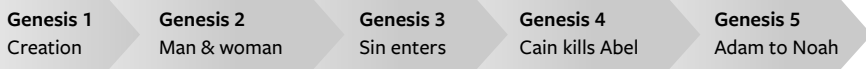
In the Greek, the word for "faith" is *pistis*. Take a quick detour to your favorite internet browser and do a word search of what *pistis* means, and write it below:

No matter how we've defined our faith or how we are showing up today in this study as it relates to our faith, Noah is definitely a man who teaches us a thing or two about faith. Noah is a great example of faith being expressed as faithfulness: He was faithful to do what God told him to do *for 120 years*. Obedience can be tiring, and your faith

can grow weary. But being faithful is like exercising your faith in the athletic training sense. It is a strain, but it's what it takes to make it stronger. Noah "trained" for 120 years!

So let's open our Bibles to the point we meet Noah and his family in Genesis 5, and see what God said.

It's crazy to me that we are only six chapters into Genesis, and the world seems to be falling apart already. Humans are messy. This is optional, but I encourage you to take time this week to read Genesis 1-5 to see how we went from creation to the flood in just five chapters.



From Adam to Noah there were ten generations. That's all it took. Ten generations for God to become incredibly grieved over humanity.

According to Genesis 5:28, who was Noah's father?

How old was he when Noah was born?

In verse 29, what did Noah's father say after naming Noah?

According to verse 31, how many years did Noah's father live?

- A. 500
- B. 777
- C. 595

There's much more to learn, but I want to keep things doable each day for you!

After reading chapter 1 of *Flooded*, use the space below to write down any quotes/verses that stood out to you, as well as your initial thoughts on the chapter.

* Why do you think the human heart has not changed since Adam?

* What is one thing you learned in today's study?