

Intergenerational Life Group Guide

Genesis Week 6: Wicked



✦✦✦ Make this week even better by: having some red or pink construction paper, plus a clear bowl and some food colouring.

Hi and Lo:

By now you probably know most people's names, so today you can take time to go around and let everyone share one 'hi' (good thing) and one 'lo' (bad thing) from the past week or coming up. The rules are: keep it brief, anyone can say 'pass' if they don't want to share, and everyone quietly listens without interrupting when it's someone else's turn.



Bonus idea: Do you have a pulse measuring app on your phone? You could invite people to try taking their pulse at the beginning, as we start talking about hearts.

Recap:

If not everyone in your group saw the adult message this week, briefly go over the story.

Option 1: Have one person who was in the adult service give a brief recap.

Option 2: Invite some kids to tell the group the story of Noah, from memory. What parts of the Noah story do we take in as kids? Which parts do we need to see with fresh eyes?



Option 3: Go on Youtube and look up '**Saddleback Kids Noah Obeys (Genesis 6-7)**' to see a quick 1 minute video of Genesis 6-7.

Are you a group that includes a **snack or a meal** in your time together? Consider tying it in to the topic this week:

- Have foods that are partially one thing and partially another, e.g. Chicago mix popcorn, with half sweet caramel pieces and half salty cheese pieces. Or taste test different chocolate bars that are 70%, 80% etc. cocoa.
- Can someone make a recipe that they've mastered now, but has caused them some regret in the past? (Our first Thanksgiving turkey was still cold in the middle by the time our families both arrived in our little apartment!)

Guard Your Heart:

In the Bible it talks about our 'heart' but it doesn't just mean the organ in our chest. What does the Bible mean when it says 'heart'? What is the 'heart' in charge of, or what does it do? What things are in the 'heart'?

Option 1: Have more dextrous, or at least older, people work with younger people to cut out a big heart shape for each person. Spend some time writing or drawing your answers in the heart.

Option 2: Have families work together, or people work individually, to come up with a personal or family motto. What core statement could you use to let people know 'where your heart is at'?



Discussion Questions:

- Read Genesis 6:6
 - Is there something in your life that you regret?
 - What do you think it means the 'God's heart was troubled?'
- Read Proverbs 4:23. In this verse we are told to "guard" our heart.
 - What does this look like practically?
 - Can you think of a recent example where you had to guard your heart?
- Read Ezekiel 11:17-20.
 - Do you feel like you have a new heart?
 - Why or why not?



Gospel Connection:

- Read Mark 7:21- 23.
 - Do you think things were very different in Jesus' time than in Noah's?
 - What do you think Jesus means?
- Read Mark 12:28-32.
 - How has God helped you love Him and others with all your heart?

With Your Whole Heart

Spend some time connecting to what we're learning in a more physical way.

Option 1: Give everyone a few items to juggle. You could use soft balls for this, but balled up socks work well too. Let people try with 3 'balls' and then switch to just one. Talk about it, was it easier to keep the balls in the air when you could focus on just one? How does having an undivided heart help you in life?

Option 2: Let everyone, or maybe just the kids, play 'scream and run'. Everyone lines up at one end of an open area, and then they scream and run forward until their lungs are empty and they can't scream any more. (You have to be honest for this game to work!) What did it feel like to give 100%? How does this connect to loving God with your whole heart? What is the same or different?

Option 3: Fill up a large clear container with water, maybe a large jar or glass bowl. You can make this work with various options, depending on what is available to you: Add just a couple drops of food colouring, or a tiny bit of salt or dirt. If you used food colouring, invite your group to look at how just a little bit affects the whole container. If you used salt or dirt, ask if anyone wants to take a nice cupful to drink, hopefully no one does. Then make the same point: a tiny bit makes a big difference. God tells us we can ask Him to help us keep our hearts 100% on Him, not letting any little pocket of wickedness affect the whole.



Pray together

Pray together that God would help you see the wickedness of your own heart today, and ask Him for a new, fresh, 100% heart.