

# “Sinful Humanity”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

## Message Summary

Last week we learned the first part of God’s Story found in Genesis 1-3. We learned how it all began and how things fell apart. We learned about the God who created everything and His perfect plan for us. We learned how He created the angels, the earth, the stars, animals, plants, and fish. We learned that the pinnacle of His creation was one man and one woman. We learned how Satan interrupted everything. We learned how humans broke everything. But we also learned how God in His grace and mercy made plans to restore everything. The Story was set into motion but many questions were left unanswered. Through this beginning and separation we realized our own life story follows the same pattern.

When Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden they had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord, however Abel’s offering was accepted but Cain’s was not. Cain, in the wickedness of his heart, killed his brother Abel. Cain also suffered the consequences of his actions and lived out his days under the judgment of God. As humanity continued to multiply on the earth so did sin. Ultimately God looked upon all He created and saw the wickedness of man was great and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was evil. So God in His sorrow and grief determined to destroy all He created. However, one man named Noah found favor in God’s eyes. Noah walked with God by faith and God determined to preserve the earth and His creation through Noah and his family. God commanded Noah to build an ark in order to save a remnant of His creation from the coming flood. As a result, in His justice and grace, God brought a flood on the earth and everything in whose nostrils had the breath of life died. God wiped out all humanity, animals, birds, and creeping things, except for Noah’s family and the animals on the ark. After the flood God made a covenant with Noah and his family that He would never again wipe out the earth with a flood. Rather, while the earth remains, there would be day and night and seasons and harvest time. God commanded Noah to leave the ark and to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with people once again.

We learned from this part of the story that every human has chosen to sin against God by choosing self over and apart from God. We learned that while people look at the outward appearance God looks at the heart. Further we learned that our sin causes God to grieve and bring righteous judgment upon sinful humanity. However, God who loves His creation, shows grace and offers salvation for all who trust Him.

As you meet with your Missional Community this week practice telling this part of the story with one another. Help one another understand how this part of God’s Story intersects with your story. Further, identify someone who needs to learn the Story of God and invite them to this week’s session of the StoryFormed Way.

## Message Outline

4 Truths regarding sinful humanity:

**1. The Lord sees our sinfulness.**

Man looks at the outward appearance.

God looks at the heart.

**2. The Lord grieves over our sinfulness.**

Unbridled human sin is the source of grief.

God’s grief is predicated on relationship.

**3. The Lord judges our sinfulness.**

The Flood was...

- De-creation.
- A foretaste of final judgment.

**4. The Lord shows grace.**

Noah was...

- Saved by grace.
- Righteous through faith.
- A sinner.

We are...

- Saved by grace.
- Righteous through faith.
- Repenting Sinners.

## “Sinful Humanity”

### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Genesis 6:5-8:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

### Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray for the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.