



How Can I Make A Difference? - Message 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In the first message of the new series *Answers*, we will discover that we can make a difference with our lives and learn how.

DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been surprised by someone's answer to a question you asked? What was the question and the surprising answer?

We are all called by God to minister to hurting people. Making a difference is not about your platform, it's about having deep passion and strong convictions. Anyone can make a difference when they live with a passion and conviction to help people. Passion is your enthusiasm that motivates you. Convictions are your strong beliefs. When we have both of these things, God can use your life to change the world.

Noah had deep passion and strong convictions. We can learn a lot from Noah's life on how we can make a difference in other's lives. **One person can make a difference.**

- What are some areas in your life where you feel a deep passion and strong convictions?
- How can Noah's example inspire you to act on your passions and convictions?

Genesis 6:5-6: *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

Luke 17:26-27: *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."*

In both mentions of Noah, the context is wickedness on the earth and the End Times. We find ourselves in a culture like the one Noah lived in. However, God found a person and He's looking for people now! Why not let it be you? **Genesis 6:8** says: ***But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*** Noah's life story could read at this point, "The earth was in bad condition. God was ready to start over. But God still allowed me to make a difference."

- How does recognizing the darkness in our world today influence your sense of urgency and purpose in ministering to others? How can we respond with grace and truth?

Three Ways You Can Make A Difference:

1. You can make a difference in your generation.

Genesis 7:1: Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation."

God sees Noah as a light, he's righteous in an unrighteous generation. We have a responsibility to this generation. Noah impacted the generation in which God placed Him. Noah built his life on godly values and convictions.

The enemy's #1 strategy is to keep us focused on ourselves. We can all live near-sighted if we are not careful. When we live without a biblical lens, we only see our little world. Jesus said, "Lift your head, and open your eyes to the opportunities right before you!" Something happens in your heart when you go outside yourself. We may not be able to solve all the world's problems, but we can make a difference one situation at a time when we take our focus off of ourselves and focus on reaching others.

- What are some practical steps you can take to make a positive impact in your generation and community?

2. You can make a difference in your family.

Genesis 7:7: So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. God knew there was a flood coming. He prepared a way to protect and preserve Noah and his family, and they entered the ark. We clearly see here – your relationship and favor with God not only impacts you – but your household, your family. Whether you're aware of it or not – your life is already impacting those around you – either positively or negatively. Be a positive impact. **Acts 16:31: So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."** When you give your life to Jesus – your salvation impacts your sphere of influence – starting with your family. Jesus tells us we are salt and light. Be light in your home, your family, your environment.

- How does your relationship with God affect your family and those around you?

3. You can make a difference for God.

Even if culture is dark around you – God's looking for someone He can use to make a big impact! **2 Chronicles 16:9: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..."** God's looking for people who have a heart for Him and want to be used by Him.

- How does knowing that God is looking for people with a heart for Him inspire you to live out your faith?

Noah's Words of Encouragement:

"Don't be afraid to stand out in a crowd." To make a difference for God, we can't be afraid to be a little different. **"Don't be afraid to do something for the first time."** We can be the first ones to be pure in an unholy world. Our stand produces faith in others to stand.

- What is something new you feel God is calling you to do? How can you take the first step toward it?

LIFE CHALLENGE

God wants us to be a person of passion and conviction. All we need is a heart to make a difference for God. Whose life can you make a difference in? What will you do different this week to make a difference?