SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

This side of the flood, we don't have to fear a universal deluge (see Gen. 9:12-16). Nevertheless we must fear a more lethal flood – that of being forever drowned beneath the cold waves of our own sin. Our only hope is in God's great grace. Read the verse below from Julia Johnston's poem "Grace Greater Than Our Sin," and reflect on the hope of the cross. Perhaps take time to pray and thank God for his gracious rescue plan.

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, Threaten the soul with infinite loss; Grace that is greater, yes grace untold, Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

- What are some of the reasons that a person might disagree with Gen. 6:5? Other than simply asserting the authority of Scripture, how would you try to dissuade someone who thinks people are essentially good? What other passages of Scripture point to the depravity of man?
- As you come to grips with your own wickedness (See Rom. 3) and the fact that God judges wickedness, are there some things in your life that need to be repented of? What do you need to confess and forsake today? A life of faith believes what God says about sin and responds appropriately to it.
- Why is Noah's "saved by grace" story so significant to the bigger picture of God's plan? How was it a precursor to the salvation the Jesus brings?
- Noah is mentioned some 50 times in 11 different books of the Bible. He is a major character in the story of redemption. What else can you learn about Noah from passages like (Ezek. 14:14, 20; Heb. 11:7; 2Pet. 2:5). Jot some of your findings below and maybe share them with a friend.