

“Prepare” Series

Echo Church | Week 48 | November 30, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Part 5: “Prepare to Build” | Genesis 6

Genesis 6:13-14

And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.”

Genesis 6:17-18

“And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.”

Genesis 6:22

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Genesis 8:15-17

Then God spoke to Noah, saying, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”

Genesis 8:22

“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

Genesis 9:1

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.”

Introduction

What did God tell you to build? That’s the question I want you to wrestle with as we close out this “Prepare” series. The truth is, when God gives us instructions, the first thing we tend to do is run them through a filter—does this make sense to me? Is this

how God worked before? Does this line up with what I already know, what I've already seen?

For many of us, our obedience has become tethered to our understanding. If we can't see it, if we haven't experienced it, if it doesn't fit our logic, we hesitate. But look at Noah. God told him to build a giant boat—an ark—at a time when it had never rained. Noah didn't have a frame of reference for rain, let alone a flood, but he moved forward anyway. Noah shows us what it looks like to trust God beyond what's familiar or comfortable.

It's almost like trying to use an instruction manual for a gadget that's already outdated—putting hours into assembling something, only to find that it just doesn't work the way it was supposed to because the times have changed. Yet, so many of us want to build what's already been built, or we're frustrated when we realize yesterday's methods don't work for today's challenges, let alone tomorrow's promise.

Noah's context may feel ancient, but his assignment is surprisingly current. God still calls people to build things that have never existed, to obey when there's no obvious evidence for believing—and to trust that what He's asking isn't just about survival, but about setting up what's next. Noah's story calls us to let go of comfort, trust the voice of God, and prepare to build for what's to come, not just for what's already been.

Point 1: Build from a Place of Righteousness

Scripture: Genesis 6:9, Genesis 6:13-14, Proverbs 3:5-6

Noah lived in a world deeply corrupted—humanity had turned from God, and violence and wickedness filled the earth (Genesis 6:5, 11). Righteousness wasn't popular; standing for God meant standing alone. When Genesis 6:9 calls Noah "a just man, perfect in his generations," it means he set himself apart by consistently choosing God's way, even when no one else did. God's instructions to Noah—to build an ark and prepare for a flood—came in a cultural climate that didn't even have the concept of rain or floods as judgment. Proverbs 3:5-6, though written later, echoes this faith: trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your understanding, and God will direct your path.

Noah's walk with God was radical obedience in the face of radical opposition. His willingness to hear and obey God, despite societal pressure, is what positioned him for divine assignment.

Imagine being the one person in your family, school, or job who won't cut corners or compromise, even when everyone else does. That's what it means to walk with God like Noah did. Righteousness isn't perfection; it's direction—it's setting your life to pursue God, regardless of what others are doing.

You might think your obedience and integrity are going unnoticed. But God's pattern has always been to use those who are willing to stand out and live differently, because it's those people He can trust with the blueprints for something new. Your character is the foundation God wants to build on. Even when it's unpopular, staying faithful and true positions you to receive the next set of instructions from God—because trust is the doorway to revelation.

"God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. But your character is the currency that unlocks the calling."

Are you walking with God, or are you walking with the crowd? Your ability to build what God has called you to starts with your willingness to live a life that honors Him.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 37:23: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."

1 Peter 1:16: "Be holy, for I am holy."

Point 2: Build for What's Coming, Not for What's Comfortable

Scripture: Genesis 6:17-18, Hebrews 11:7, Isaiah 43:19

Genesis 6:17-18 sets the scene at a time when no one had witnessed rain, let alone a flood. The earth was watered by mists and streams from the ground—rain was a foreign concept. So, when God told Noah disaster was coming in the form of something never seen before, He was calling Noah to prepare for something unimaginable. Hebrews 11:7 affirms this, describing Noah as "warned of things not yet seen" and moving "with godly fear." Isaiah 43:19 echoes God's pattern to do something "new," even in the wilderness.

Sometimes God will give you instructions that don't line up with your present reality or your past experiences. It's like being asked to pack an umbrella for a place where it's

never rained. Many times, we want to build based on what makes sense to us, or what's already been done. But faith calls you to construct what has never existed before, because God's preparing you not just for today but for tomorrow. Imagine trying to fix your phone with instructions from a flip phone manual—frustrated because what worked then won't work now. Sometimes, our obedience is hindered by a fixation on the familiar.

"Faith doesn't look for evidence; it listens for instructions."

Noah didn't argue with God about the logistics. He didn't say, "This isn't how You did it before." He simply obeyed. And that's the kind of faith God is looking for in this season.

Stop asking God for a blueprint when He's already given you a word. What has God told you to build that doesn't make sense right now? Trust Him—it's not about the current conditions; it's about the coming promise.

Additional Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established."

Point 3: Build with the End in Mind

Scripture: Genesis 8:15-17; 22, Genesis 9:1, Philippians 1:6

After months of floodwaters covering the earth, God spoke to Noah and told him to leave the ark with his family and all the animals (Genesis 8:15-17). The ark had been their place of safety—a seemingly permanent fixture in the midst of chaos. But when the ground dried, God made it clear: the ark wasn't their new home, just a vessel to get them through the storm. Verse 22 underscores the restoration of normal seasons, while Genesis 9:1 is God's fresh commission: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth"—a new mandate for a new beginning. For Noah's family, this meant letting go of survival mode and embracing God's promise and purpose on dry ground.

Let's be real—how many times have we clung to something God only meant for a season? Maybe it's a way of thinking, a relationship, a job, or even a ministry assignment. It worked before; it kept you dry during your storm. But now, God's saying, "Step out, there's more to build."

Think about it: You don't live in the moving truck after you've arrived at your new house. The truck got you there, but it's time to unpack and move forward. Sometimes, we end up worshiping the method more than the God who gave the instructions. The call is to use what preserved us as a launchpad, not a permanent address.

"Don't let what preserved you in the past prevent you from stepping into your promise."

God's covenant with Noah was a reminder that, regardless of conditions, the assignment remains—be fruitful, multiply, and trust Him as you step into new territory. The storm clarified their mission; it didn't cancel it.

What are you holding onto that God is telling you to leave behind?
The ark was a tool, not a destination. Don't confuse the two.

Additional Scriptures:

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways."
Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you."

Conclusion

Let's bring it all together. Noah shows us that before you start building, you have to check your foundation—is your life marked by walking with God and letting righteousness shape your response? Then, you have to let go of what's familiar and trust God enough to build not for what you can see, but for what He's promised—even when none of it makes sense to your natural eyes. And finally, you must recognize when it's time to leave behind what only served you for a season so you can step fully into the assignment He's placed on your life.

The call to build isn't about your past, your age, or your resources. It's about radical obedience—boldly starting even when you don't have all the answers. God isn't calling you to rebuild yesterday, but to create space for what's coming next, just like Noah did.

Don't let uncertainty hold you back from building what God has spoken. Someone's breakthrough, someone's future, and even your fulfillment are on the other side of your obedience.

Here's the charge: If God has given you the blueprint, pick up your tools—for what you build in faith today will become the foundation for God's promise tomorrow. Now, it's your turn to build.