

Welcome to the fourth week of
25 Weeks of Advent.

The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the value and experience of Jesus' life as a human being. Why did He come as a human being? How can the flood teach us about this...?

Consider this... Just as the door on the side of the Ark (6:16) was opened and the world was renewed (8:16-19), this looks forward to when Jesus' side was opened by a spear and the blood and water poured out. This depicts the creation of Jesus' bride, the church, in baptism. And the church is God's new creation that offers renewal to humanity.



Readings for your Week

See I'm doing a new thing
Isaiah 43:1-21

The flood is a picture of baptism.
1 Peter 3:20-21

Proclaim the new creation
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Proclaim the Good News!
2 Kings 7:3-9

Week 4: God's Tears

Read: Genesis 6—8

Genesis 6:5 says, 'The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that *every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*' Since the fall, we have had a tendency to *lean away* from God, and towards everything... not-of-God. Ourselves. Selfishness. The world.

How's your heart? Where do you find it leaning most these days? How does your heart-lean affect your actions? How can you guard against a heart that only leans away from God, and restore a heart that lean towards God? It isn't recorded in Genesis, but when we think about Noah building the ark, we often assume there must have been some kind of ridicule from the people around him: "God told you to build a what?" "A big boat? Ridiculous." "A ginormous flood? Yeah right!" "What is 'rain' anyway?"

Noah faithfully followed God, and obeyed all that God had commanded (Gen. 6:22, 7:5, 7:9) He trusted God's plans; and God was able to save Noah and his family.



When has God asked you to trust Him for something that didn't really 'add up' according to the world? Were you faithful in obeying all God commanded you, trusting the big picture to him?

How can you encourage Christians around you, who are "building arks," obeying God, and being ridiculed?

* *Cut out the picture of the ark and place it on your Jesse tree.*

