

FOUNDATION OF FAITHFULNESS

The Greek word is *pistis*.

The word means:

- true to one's **word**, promises, vows
- reliable, **trusted**, or believed
- full of **faith**, believing

1) The Faith of Noah

a) Read Genesis 6:9

- Noah was the grandson of Methuselah, the oldest man who ever lived. Methuselah died at the age of **969** (note: Genesis 9:29).
- Other than a birth record, we know nothing of Noah until he was **500** years old.

b) Read Genesis 5:32

- After the age of 500, God spoke to Noah and commissioned him to build an ark. God had decided to drown wicked mankind in a universal flood.

c) Read Genesis 6:17

d) Read Genesis 7:1

- God said Noah was **righteous**.

Discussion Question: What does the word "righteous" mean?

- Noah did what **God** commanded him.
- Noah and his sons built the ark, until Noah's 600th year.

e) Read Genesis 7:6

Noah walked with God, stayed close to him, He **believed** what God said and that His way was right.

- Noah put his faith into **action**; revealing constant trust, confidence and full dependence on God.
- Noah had work to do, the process to build the ark was not **fast**.

Lessons from Noah:

- a) Always plan ahead. There wasn't any rain in the forecast when Noah started building the ark.
- b) Don't listen to your critics; listen to God.
- c) Stay physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally ready. You never know when God will commission you.
- d) Speed is not always a benefit.
- e) Be flexible in your thinking; Give God room to move.

2) Working for the Lord – Read Matthew 25:14-30

Abilities and opportunities

THE PARABLE APPLIED ... Main points:

- a. Be faithful in **using** the opportunities for service which the Lord has given us
- b. **Care** is rewarded
- c. Whatever we have, whether opportunities or abilities, belongs to **God**
- d. Jesus did not expect to return immediately (“long time” – vs. 19)

Ask yourself: Am I faithful to God?