



**SPRINGCREEK  
CHURCH**

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## **THE POWER OF SMALL STEPS**

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What would you do if God gave you a task so big it took decades to complete—and no one else understood it? Noah did exactly that. Long before the rain came, he believed God and began building—one ax, one board, one bucket of tar, one small step at a time. This sermon dives into the slow, faithful obedience of Noah, who kept building even when it felt pointless, isolated, and misunderstood.

His story reminds us that radical results are often rooted in repetitive obedience and that there is power in small steps when those steps are taken in faith. When progress is slow or people don't see what you're building, keep going—God does His best work through steady, quiet acts of trust.

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## **1. THE CALL — OBEDIENCE BEFORE UNDERSTANDING**

What if the small steps you take today are laying the foundation for something massive tomorrow?

*Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.*

Genesis 6: 9b (NIV)

*So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit[c] high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. Genesis 6:13-18 (NIV)*

Obedience begins before understanding.

*Noah did everything just as God commanded him. Genesis 6:22 (NIV)*



- ❑ True faith often requires us to act before we understand.
- ❑ Trusting God means obeying without all the answers.
- ❑ Saying yes once isn't the same as saying yes every day.
- ❑ Obedience doesn't remove the weight of the responsibility of the calling—it often reveals it.
- ❑ Faith often lives in the tension between God's promise and our lack of clarity.

## ***2. THE WAIT — FAITHFULNESS IN THE SLOW, HIDDEN MIDDLE***

- ❑ Sometimes obedience separates you before it ever elevates you.
- ❑ Faithfulness feels most fragile when results are delayed.
- ❑ Even righteous obedience can feel irritating when it's misunderstood.



❑ Courage is not the absence of fear—it's obedience despite it.

❑ Faith isn't the absence of emotion—it's choosing obedience in the middle of it.

❑ God uses slow, steady faithfulness to prepare us for the future.

❑ Faithfulness is forged in the mundane and boring tasks of life.

*The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.*

Genesis 7:1 (NIV)

*But God remembered Noah...* Genesis 8:1(NIV)

❑ God moves in His time, not ours.



### **3. THE RESCUE — THE ARK, CHRIST, AND NEW CREATION**

- ❑ The ark was God's rescue plan.

*But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark...* Genesis 6:18 (NIV)

- ❑ Jesus is the ark of our salvation.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* John 14:6 (NIV)

- ❑ The ark was entered by faith.

- ❑ In the same way, we must enter into a relationship with Jesus by faith—trusting Him even before we see the full picture.

*By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.* Hebrews 11:7 (NIV)

- ❑ The ark was covered in pitch.

*Cover it inside and out with pitch.* Genesis 6:14b (NIV)



❑ The Hebrew word for “cover” is *kaphar*, which means atonement—the same root used for the covering of sin in the Old Testament.

❑ The ark was sealed with pitch, and we are sealed by the blood of Jesus.

❑ The ark had one door.

*Put a door in the side of the ark...* Genesis 6:16 (NIV)

*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.*  
John 10:9 (ESV)

❑ Jesus is the only door to salvation.

❑ And that's not a design flaw—that's the point. That we would be completely dependent on God.

❑ The ark points to a new creation—so does Christ.

❑ Jesus saves us for eternity.

❑ Just like the ark, Jesus doesn't invite us to manage the journey—He invites us to trust Him with it.

❑ We are not saved by how well we control our lives, but by trusting the One who carries us through the storm.



## ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

1. Where are you currently tempted to quit because progress feels slow or invisible (prayer, marriage, parenting, ministry, healing, a promise God gave you)? What makes it feel “not worth it” right now?
2. Noah obeyed before he understood. What is one “small step” God has been nudging you toward that you've been delaying because you want more clarity first?
3. The sermon said: “Saying yes once isn't the same as saying yes every day.” What does “daily yes” look like in your real life this week? Be specific (time, habit, boundary, conversation, obedience).
4. Noah's ark wasn't meant to be steered—only trusted. Where are you trying to install a “steering wheel” in your life (control, timelines, outcomes)? What would it look like to surrender direction to God while still staying faithful?
5. Noah stepped into a new world, and his first response was worship. What would worship look like for you in your current season—not after everything changes, but right now? How can this group support you in that?



