

## Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

**September 13-19:** Read Genesis 7-8 & Gospel of Mark 2

### **Genesis 7-8**

These two chapters recount the flood story of Noah. From human and world perspective, this is the greatest of tragedy. For the first time in creation history, rain came down from the sky, not to offer cool relief, but to pound the earth and all its inhabitants with its brute force. The world is submerged. And only the obedient Noah and his family, along with a minimal set of the animal kingdom survived. They were in the ark for a total of 370 days. And at the end of their time, they came out to see the rainbow paint the sky.

### **Further Study & Discussion**

- We didn't read it in this program, but human sin triggered God into action (Genesis 6:5-7) and was the reason for the destructive flood. Was it fair for God to do this? Argue one way and then another. In the end, what *right* does God have to do what he did?
- The ark that saved Noah and his family is the same word used for the basket in the Nile River that saved baby Moses (*teva*). What do they have in common? And who steers the *teva*? And how does that relate to God's grace (free gift)?
- The ark has only one opening, and in chapter 8:6, Noah finally opened it. Where is it facing? And how is this important to the way we live out our life of grace?

### **Gospel of Mark 2**

Chapter 2 explodes with the various ministries of Jesus – his healing activity, his gathering of followers, and his truth teachings. It important to dwell on each of these to glean important truths and appreciate Jesus, the merciful and loving Son of God.

### **Further Study & Discussion**

- Capernaum became his home base during his ministry years (v.1). Imagine the day when the four friends brought a paralytic for Jesus to heal. Observe their effort – we see their physical efforts, but Jesus sees their inside (v.5). Discuss Jesus' healing – forgiving of sin and healing of body.
- Why is it significant that Jesus called a tax collector to become his disciple but he didn't extend that favor to the Pharisees? What is being taught here (v.17)?
- Many speak about the difficulty of living out a Christian life because it's so limiting. "It's no fun being a Christian! Party poopers!" But Jesus calls it a celebration, a wedding feast. Where did we go wrong?