

**Genesis 6 verses 17-22**

***“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 son’s wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them”.***

***Noah did everything just as God commanded him.***

Not only did Noah have a massive task to undertake for building the ark, he was also told to put enough food on the ark for all the animals and his family.

***What are you like at following instructions?***

If Noah followed God’s exact instructions, the covenant which God made with him would be fulfilled and Noah and his family would be protected - they would be saved from this terrible event that is about to occur.

As I have studied this and looked into the instructions God gave Noah – the more I think about it, the more I break out into a cold sweat! It all looks to me as some horrendous DIY project that Adam and I would totally freak out at.

This is what you hear from my husband Adam when he’s putting something together following instructions, “These instructions are wrong!” This is what you hear from me when we’re putting something together “Where is E, I can’t find part E”, while everything is scattered all over the floor and little screws and important things are rolling under the sofa. It is highly likely we have stopped talking to each other for the rest of the day.



And we are discovering that not only do beds and chest of drawers come with DIY instructions - toys need putting together, like scooters, bikes, dolls houses and baby nursery units. Christmas Eve is no longer about wrapping up presents with a glass of mulled wine. We have got the toolbox out with part-built toys everywhere. Even Kinder Eggs come with instructions which we find hard to follow!

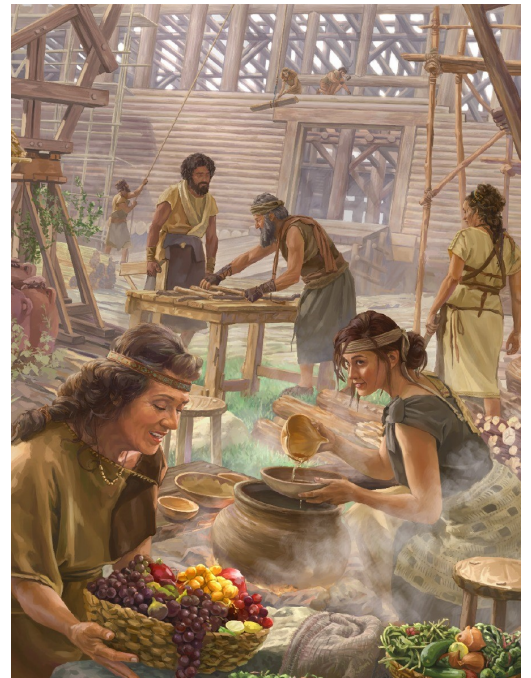
So it's safe to say that Noah was most definitely the right man for the job.

If I was given the task of having to feed all those animals and store enough food for everyone...I would probably use my IPAD and go on Amazon Prime next day delivery, with my feet up on the sofa, cup of tea and chocolate biscuits...or I would delegate the task to somebody who has run camping trips for a large youth group or group of people. We know people who have run summer camps - who are very good at planning, buying and transporting the right amount of food they need to take to the campsite for 7 days in order to feed everyone. I bumped into them once in Asda a few years ago when they were shopping for the camping trip...it looked like a military operation; they had to invest their time, they had planned everything out, they had lists, they were running to tight finance budgets, they had focus and discipline....and an awful lot of carrier bags!

But Noah didn't have Amazon or Asda...he had to source the food from the land; farm, forage, pick and carry. He didn't have fridges or freezers. The Bible doesn't tell us specific numbers of how many animals went on board the ark but there is some debate that he may have had up to 16,000 animals to feed!

Let's just acknowledge here what a big responsibility this was to keep every one on the Ark alive....and if he got it wrong...Ooops! Sorry God the animals have died - I've run out of food!

- Noah wasn't distracted – his focus was on completing the work God had given him to do.
- When no one gave him encouragement – he didn't stop working.
- When no one turned up to help – he kept turning up.
- When everyone else was living their lives exactly how they wanted, in wickedness and corruption, Noah continued to be righteous and faithful to God.
- If people tormented him and laughed at him – he didn't take offence or lack confidence in himself.
- Noah had faith with action.
- He was obedient to God and was walking with him.



Because Noah was obedient, he saved his family.

Because Noah was obedient, God protected him and fulfilled his promise.

In order for Noah to get through the flood, the storm, save himself and his family, there was a requirement that Noah RESPONDED to God.

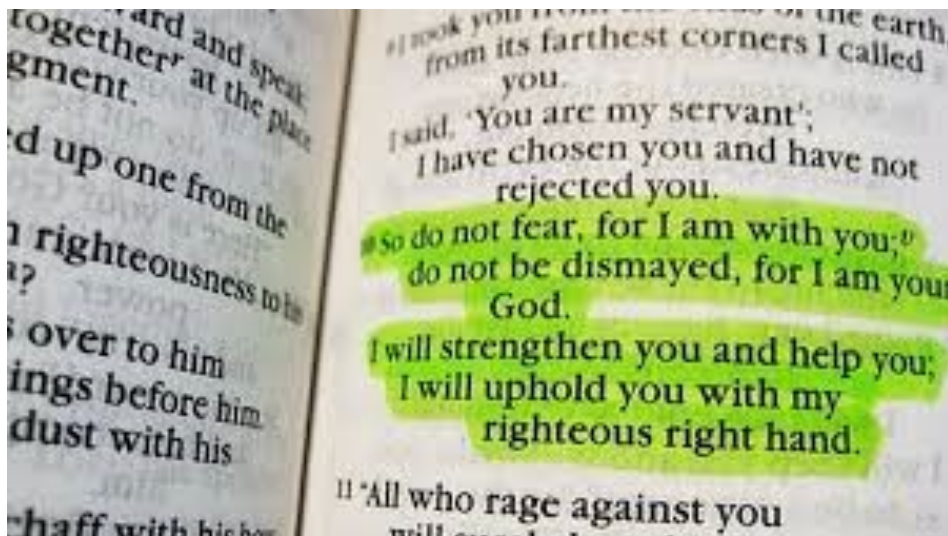
## **What is your response to God?**

Noah's response was immediate and without question.

The last verse says: *Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

We have the Bible which is our set of instructions from God of how we should live our lives and be obedient to him. God has made many promises throughout the Bible to lots of different people, for lots of different circumstances.

***I'd like to invite you to share any promises or words that you hold dear from the Bible with your group. Perhaps you have a story or testimony to share about it? Perhaps you have stepped out in obedience?***



***Spend some time reflecting and praying about God's promises. If you don't have any, then I'd like to encourage you to find one as there are so many wonderful promises in the Bible.***

***Over this week remember your promise(s) or even learn about a new one - pray about it, study it, find out who it was for, read the full chapter around it and ask God to show you how it can impact your life, your ministry, your challenges and how you can respond.***