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BLUEPRINTS: In The Dry: Countering The Cultureⁱ Genesis 6:5-22

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning, church family. Before we jump into this morning's message, I want to welcome those of you that are guests with us today. Thank you for entrusting us with your Sunday. It is our prayer that our church already feels like home to you.

And we would love to connect with you. You can text the keyword, TBCMP, which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant, to the number 94-000. You'll be sent a link back and you can follow the instructions from there.

Or you can stop by Guest Connect located in the lobby. Even if you text in, I want to invite you to stop by Guest Connect. We have a team that would like to meet you and give you a gift as a way of saying thank you for being here today. Again, we welcome you.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

We are in week 6 of a teaching series we've called Blueprints: Building Families by God's design. We're looking into our blueprint, the Bible, to see God's design plan for building godly families. This is an important because as goes our homes, so goes society. And the pursuit of a godly society comes as a result of godly homes.

So far in our study, we've looked at the foundation of God's design. Gathering the power tools of prayer, building walls of a healthy marriage, and developing discipline in our homes. Today, we look at the topic of being In The Dry: Countering the Culture

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: Playing by Different Rules

Most of you know that I am somewhat of a sports enthusiast. I'm not saying I'm necessarily good at sports, I just love watching them. And I have shared with you about coaching my boys in basketball and baseball. I just love sports. There's just something about competition and strategy that draws me in.

But you have not watched sports until you've watched kids play a sport for the first time. In fact, I love going to the baseball fields during the season to watch some of your kids play ball. And I love watching you parents coach and get all

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riled up during the game. And there's nothing better than watching first year tee ball.

Kids running to third instead of first. Kids when they get the ball, they're just excited because they got the ball. Then you have the kids that are dancing in the outfield and have no idea what is happening in the game. But my favorite are the kids that are there for the snacks. Yeah, yeah, yeah, baseball. But what do we get to eat after the game. Anyone have a kid that's all about the snacks? My boys, when they were little, were all those things at one time or another. Here's a picture that pretty much sums up little league for us. [\[Show picture\]](#)

You can see both Drew and Reece with their snacks in tow. But if you look closely, Reece is already done with his chips and Drew's hasn't even opened his yet. In that family picture, Carsyn is dying from having spent all day at the fields and little Eden, she's excited she got some chips out of the deal.

One thing you probably already know about Reece, he's our social butterfly. That kid can talk to a brick wall. And when he was playing tee ball, he was one of the only kids on our team that could actually catch a ball. So, we put him at first base to get some outs. But, being a social butterfly, he would often get distracted talking to the runner on first base that he would miss the start of the next play. Or when he was in the dugout, he'd get to talking and almost miss his at bat. Now, he's our center fielder and carries one of the highest batting averages on our team. But, when our boys were little, it was like they were playing by a different set of rules. Have you ever noticed that?

When it comes to our life as a follower of Jesus, we can often feel like the culture surrounding us is playing by a different set of rules. As a follower of Jesus, our lives will often seem counter-cultural. That's because following Jesus is counter-cultural in many ways. The standards we live by. The measurement of success we have. And the way we conduct our lives. Simply put, we are playing by a different set of rules.

But the pressure to conform is intense. Christians might seem odd. Different. Or even offensive at times. So, how do we build a family that lives counter to the culture? How can we be in the world, but not of the world? How do we keep our family in the dry? Not preventing culture's influence, you understand, but building families that endure the storms of cultural pressures?

I want to invite you to take your Bibles and turn with me to Genesis chapter 6 as we see the answer to those questions. We are going to begin in verse 5 and learn from the life of Noah. You know, when you build something, it is a wonderful thing when that building is in the dry. While the outside of the structure is exposed to the elements, the inside is not. And it is when the building is in the dry that the finer workings of construction can begin.

When it comes to Noah, he and his family were quite literally in the dry as the result of going against cultural norms. And we are going to see the condition of the culture, the countering character, the consequential impact, and ways to cultivate counter-cultural families. That is where we are headed this morning.

MESSAGE:

So, let's first look at the...

1) Condition of the Culture.

Many view the Scriptures as ancient and not applicable to our culture today. We see all the advancements in civilization, the development of technology, and we can wonder what does The Bible might have to say to a culture that has these things? Well, the more things change, the more they stay the same. We'll see that in our study this morning.

Read with me, Genesis 6, beginning in verse 5, as we see the condition of the culture in Noah's day. ***"5The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."*** Skip down to verse 11. ***11Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.***

We see some pretty harsh descriptions regarding the culture Noah lived in. But I believe we see evidence of our culture being similar. And understand, my aim here is not to throw stones, I'm simply saying that living godly lives has always been counter-cultural. That's nothing new.

So, I want to press into some of these descriptors of the culture in which Noah lived and take a look at the descriptors we might use of our culture today to see if we can draw some correlations regarding the condition of culture.

The first thing we see, in verse 5, that the wickedness of man was great. The word, "wickedness," literally means ethically bad, evil actions and wrong doing.ⁱⁱ Secondly, we see that every intention of humanity's heart was only evil. The heart being the inner thoughts of mankind. We use the heart to describe emotions and feelings. The Hebrews used the gut to refer to that. To feel something in the gut. The word for heart in the original language refers to the seat of thinking.ⁱⁱⁱ Noah's culture is described as having wicked thoughts. It is not saying that every man was equally wicked, but that wickedness was the prevailing characteristic of the culture. And the intention, the purpose^{iv}, of those thoughts was to do evil and ungodly things.

Then in verses 11 through 13, we read in Noah's day the earth was corrupt and full of violence. The word translated, "corrupt," means a perversion of God's design.^v The Hebrew word for "violence," is the word, "hamas." It is a word that communicates physical and verbal abuse.^{vi}

So, we get the picture that Noah's day was full of people who believed, lived, and perpetuated wickedness. And the use of strong language, here, is to draw our attention to the depravity of the culture.

I think in many ways, the same can be said of the culture today. The brokenness of our world confronts us. Sexual perversion and immorality, both inside and outside the Church. Widespread violence expressed in wars, hate speech, and attacking rhetoric for those that see things differently. The inability to engage in dissenting discourse and instead being labeled a hater and a bigot. Blatant disregard for justice, the taking of innocent life, suppressing truth, idolatry, and the corrupting hunger for power. These are the prevailing characteristics of our culture today, is it not?

And the more things change, the more they stay the same. That is because the condition of the human heart has not changed. Culture is the way culture is because of the human heart. Apart from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and heeding His voice, we will venture down the path of sin and destruction. The culture described in Genesis 6 is similar to our culture today. And the conclusion we come to is that these are difficult days to raise a family.

So, we see the condition of the culture. Secondly, the...

2) Countering Character.

I think this gives us reason for hope and not despair. In the midst of a wicked culture, God is always at work. And in Genesis 6, Noah was one who lived counter to the culture. Look with me at verse 8. ***8But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. 9These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*** Skip down to verse 22. ***22Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.***

Noah stood out from the culture. And in these verses, there are 5 characteristics Noah demonstrated and modeled. I want to examine the 5 characteristics of counter-cultural people. These are the 5 things that we want to instill in our families as we seek to live counter-culturally.

The first characteristic is **embracing God's grace**. Verse 8 says, ***8But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*** The word translated, "favor," in verse 8 is the word for grace.^{vii} Noah understood that even in the presence of judgment is God's grace. And I believe God's grace, His undeserved favor, is what motivated Noah to trust God and to live for The Lord. When we understand the grace of God, it will not cause us to impose upon it with wild living. The opposite is true. Those who understand and have deep appreciation for God's grace are the ones that run from sin, not to it. God's loving kindness leads us to repentance.

The second characteristic of those that live counter to culture is **righteousness**. Verse 9 says that Noah was a righteous man. The word used here means just in one's cause^{viii} and not under penalty.^{ix} So, Noah was doing the right things, staying out of trouble.

The next characteristic is to be **blameless**. Verse 9 says Noah was blameless in his generation. The word translated, "blameless," means complete and sound.^x It carries the idea of having integrity.^{xi} Noah lived a wholesome life.

The fourth characteristic of a counter-cultural person is in **walking with God**. This conveys the fact that Noah lived a moral and godly life. He was godly.

Then the fifth characteristic is **obedience**. Verse 22 describes Noah's response to God's request for him to build an ark. He did ALL that God commanded him.

Noah's culture was described as one that was wicked and perverse. But he lived counter to his culture. He was the opposite. When people were doing wrong, Noah did what was right. When the culture was compromising, Noah had integrity. When the culture didn't care what God said, Noah walked with God. And where the culture was disobedient to God's commands, Noah carried them out.

Now, I think it's an important discussion point to say that in no way shape or form are we to believe that Noah was perfect and sinless. While he was righteous and had integrity, he was still a sinner. The Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. That is to say all but Jesus sinned. Certainly, Noah was named in the "all" who have sinned category.

But righteousness doesn't mean perfection. It means to live for The Lord, knowing there will be times that He reveals our sinful ways. We then repent from them and trust The Lord. The righteous love God and hate their sin. But the unrighteous love their sin and hate God. Do you see the difference? Let's not think that living counter-culturally means perfection and the absence of sin. It means ultimate faithfulness and surrender to God.

Noah's character was righteous. And when we are talking about raising families that are counter-cultural, we are talking about establishing godly families. To live in such a way that when people around us move away from God, we move toward Him. May we raise a generation that moves toward God.

And what we see in Noah brings us to our third point. We have looked at the condition of the culture and the countering character. Thirdly is the...

3) Consequential Impact.

Noah's commitment to God in a culture that went against God had a profound impact. Look at Genesis 6, verse 10. ***10And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*** Skip down to verse 18. ***18But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.*** There are two directional lines of impact that comes from Noah's righteousness in an unrighteous world. Impact forward and impact prior. Let's begin by looking at the impact forward, from Noah on.

Noah's righteousness impacted his immediate family. Because Noah found favor with God, God was going to spare Noah and his wife, sons, and

daughters-in-law. Because Noah was obedient to build an ark when God asked him to, even though it came at the expense of being ridiculed by people that thought he was a mad man, he and his family were saved by his obedience.

I believe there is a lesson there for us, parents and grandparents in the room. The way in which we live our lives, what we communicate to our kids and grandkids is important, and the legacy we leave has influence over the direction of our family's future.

But the other thing that really stands out to me is that Noah is not only the impact forward, but the impact prior. Noah came from a long line to men who loved and followed The Lord. Look at Genesis 5, verse 3. ***When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.***

You remember the story of Adam and Eve. They had two boys. Cain and Abel. Following the devastating effects of The Fall in Genesis 3, the wickedness on the earth really reared its ugly head. Because of a sacrifice made to God, Cain was jealous of his brother, Abel, and killed him. Again, the curse of sin.

But when Adam turned 130, they had another son and named him Seth. Seth started a whole new legacy. God raises us Seth up in Abel's place and he launches what is God's redemptive plan. It is through the lineage of Seth that ultimately Jesus would be born. And Seth is Noah's great, great, great, great, great grandfather. And Seth lived a life of godliness that was passed on to future generations ultimately impacting Noah.

Hear me, Church Family. The lives we choose to live now, the families we desire to raise now, will have a generational impact. It will not only impact our immediate family, but generations to come. Living counter-culturally has such a consequential impact.

So, we've seen the condition of the culture, the countering character, and the consequential impact. Now, in the time we have left, I want to look at...

4) Cultivating Counter-Cultural Kids

How do we raise kids that live counter to the culture? Well, I think we have to make a decision to instill a Biblical Christian worldview in our families. A worldview being the lens by which we understand and see the world around us.

As Christian parents, we have a responsibility to train up our kids with such a view. But research seems to suggest that we are failing.

ILLUSTRATION: Barna Study

I came across a study put out by the Barna Group. The results of the study revealed that only 4% of Americans have a Biblical worldview.^{xii} Just so you know, the study defined a Biblical worldview as believing in 8 things. Absolute moral truth exists, truth is defined by the Bible, Jesus lived a sinless life, God is the creator of the universe, salvation is a gift of God, Satan is real, the Bible is accurate, and Christians have a responsibility to share their faith. Only 4% of Americans believe those things. And only 9% of people that say they are born again Christians believe them.^{xiii}

That's a problem. Because our culture is preaching a secular humanistic worldview that the next generation is buying wholeheartedly. A secular humanistic worldview believes that you are to live your truth, there are no moral absolutes. You are to follow your sinful heart in all things. You don't need religion, it's just a crutch, and the world centers around you. So, we can see that culture and Christianity stand in contrast. But what are we to do? How do we instill a Biblical worldview in our families?

I want to be very practical for just a moment. And at the risk of offending some, I want to lovingly share with you how we go about living by a Biblical worldview. I want to share with you the 4 questions that we must learn how to answer from a Biblical perspective, give a practical example, and then mention 3 ways you can instill those things.

The 4 questions to answer in your home.^{xiv} 1) Where did we come from? 2) Why are we here? 3) Who is in charge? 4) What are the rules? We have to answer those questions Biblically. And that will inform everything about the world.

Take for example moral issues of the day and apply the answer to those questions. For exercise's sake, let's talk briefly about the issue of abortion. That's a hot topic these days. Let's work the questions. 1) Where did we come from? Biblically, God made man, all people, in His image. He knew us before the foundation of the world, knowing the very hairs on our head. Therefore, all life matters to God, and should matter to us, from the womb to the tomb. 2) Why are we here? To be God's hands and feet. To serve and not be served. To

come alongside the broken and hurting and confused. To help those in crisis pregnancy situations to see God's truth and His awesome plan for their life. To step in and foster and adopt kids that otherwise would be in unfit conditions. 3) Who is in charge? God is. In the beginning God. His ways are best. His Words are truth. And our leaders should not ignore God's Word on these kinds of issues. 4) What are the rules? Innocent life should be protected and defended, because it is God that knits humanity together in their mother's womb. And the mistreatment of life should be held accountable.

Now, you understand I'm not trying to be political here. I'm just trying to speak the truth in love. And you know what? God's truth is an equal opportunity offender regardless of the side of the political aisle you stand on.

My point is simply, we have to think Biblically about the issues of our day. And we have to help our kids think Biblically about them as well. And we must hold true to the Word of God. The question is how do we do that? Let me mention 3 ways you can instill a Biblical Worldview in your family.

1) **Make the Bible central.**

I think we have to take an honest look at whether or not Scripture is central in our lives. Do we know what it says? Does it inform our decision making? Do we consult Scripture before we move forward? Ask the question, "What does the Bible say about... and fill in the blank. Invite your kids into those conversations. Make the Bible central.

2) **Teach Scripture in your home.**

The Bible says that parents are to be the primary spiritual educators of the home. The Church wants to be a partner with you in that. But don't outsource that to, quote, the professionals. Deuteronomy 6, verses 6 through 9 says, *"6And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* We need to know and understand that our kids are being disciplined. The question is not if our kids are being disciplined. The question is who is disciplining them and what are they being trained to believe?

3) **Model life in Christ.**

Mom and Dad, you need to know and understand that you are still the most influential person in your kid's life. Leverage that to show them what a life commitment to Jesus is all about. Let them catch you reading your Bible and praying. Talk to them about why you make the decisions you make and why you have the rules you do. Share your testimony with them.

When you personally make the Bible central in your life and you teach Scripture in your home, and you model what it looks like to be a Christ Follower, The Lord uses that in a powerful way.

Know the condition of the culture, develop the characteristics of a counter-cultural person, know the consequential impact, and cultivate counter-cultural kids. That's the call on our lives as parents and grandparents.

CONCLUSION:

If you are here today and you do not know Jesus as Lord, there has not been a moment in your life where you have been born again unto a relationship with Jesus, then we want to visit with you today. Eternity is at stake. At the end of our service, our elders will be here at the front and would love to share with you how you can be saved, born again. Just come, grab our hand and say, "I need Jesus." It would thrill us to visit with you about that.

Maybe The Lord is impressing on your heart to be more intentional in instilling a Biblical worldview in your home. Maybe you need prayer about that, or even something else. Know that this altar is open during this time and we would love to pray over you following the service.

I'm going to pray. Let's all reflect on what The Lord is speaking to us. We will close with some announcements and then be dismissed. Let's pray [PRAY]

ENDNOTES:

ⁱ Works consulted in preparation for this message: David Guzik, Enduring Word Commentary, “Genesis 6 – Man’s Wickedness; God Calls Noah,” published by Enduring Word, accessed online: <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-6/>; John MacArthur, “The Destruction of Mankind, Part 1,” sermon published by Grace to You, January 14, 2001, accessed online: <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-255/the-destruction-of-mankind-part-1>; Hope Lutheran School, “Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Developing a Christian Worldview,” blog published by Hope Lutheran School, December 30, 2023, accessed online: <https://hopelutheran.org/school/2023/12/30/comprehensive-guide-to-understanding-and-developing-a-christian-worldview/>; Mark D. Roberts, “Developing a Biblical Worldview in 2004,” sermon published by Mark D. Roberts, accessed online: <https://www.markdroberts.com/htmlfiles/resources/worldview.htm>; Lora Fanning, “Raising Children to Counter the Culture,” article published by Radical, March 3, 2015, accessed online: <https://radical.net/article/raising-children-to-counter-the-culture/>; Steph Wood Rome, “How to Raise Up Counter-Cultural Kids,” article published by David Rausch Ministries, July 16, 2024, accessed online: <https://www.imdavidrausch.com/post/how-to-raise-up-counter-cultural-kids>; Erwin W. Lutzer, “Reclaiming The Family, Parts 1 & 2,” sermons published by The Moody Church Media, June 5, 2005, accessed online: <https://www.moodymedia.org/sermons/reclaiming-family/countering-culture/>; Answers In Genesis, “Developing a Biblical Worldview in Our Children,” article featured in Answers Magazine, accessed online: <https://answersingenesis.org/train-up-a-child/raising-godly-children/developing-a-biblical-worldview-in-our-children/>; NC Family Staff, “How to Teach Your Children a Biblical Worldview (With Dr. George Barna),” podcast published by NF Family Policy Council, March 2, 2024, accessed online: <https://www.ncfamily.org/how-to-teach-your-children-a-biblical-worldview/>; Alisa Childers, “Training Our Kids to Counter Unbiblical Ideas in the Culture,” article published by Focus on the Family, accessed online: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/training-our-kids-to-counter-unbiblical-ideas-in-the-culture/>; Annie Yorty, “4 Ways to Teach Children a Biblical Worldview,” article published by Crosswalk, January 13, 2022, accessed online: <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/ways-to-teach-children-a-biblical-worldview.html>; Shane O’Brien, “Developing a Biblical Worldview with your Teen,” blog published by Faith Chapel, November 20, 2023, accessed online: <https://www.faithchapel.cc/blogs/post/developing-a-biblical-worldview-with-your-teen>; Chip Ingram, “How to Raise Positive Kids in a Negative World,” sermon published by Living On The Edge, accessed online: <https://livingontheedge.org/broadcast/how-to-raise-positive-kids-in-a-negative-world/?srsltid=AfmBOopZLivGlxnTLp0-0N6aLKqAMMp0cei4E8Gfo09mfkKoJ2B3r4Gc>.

ⁱⁱ Strong’s Concordance, 7451, ra’.

ⁱⁱⁱ MacArthur.

^{iv} Strong’s Concordance, 3336, yester.

^v Strong’s Concordance, 7843, shachath.

^{vi} Strong’s Concordance, 2555, chamas.

^{vii} Strong’s Concordance, 2580, chen.

^{viii} Strong’s Concordance, 6662, tsaddiq.

^{ix} Brown-Driver-Briggs, 206, קָדַדְ.

^x Strong’s Concordance, 8549, tamim.

^{xi} Brown-Driver-Briggs, 91, תָּמִים.

^{xii} <https://www.barna.com/research/a-biblical-worldview-has-a-radical-effect-on-a-persons-life/>.

^{xiii} Ibid.

^{xiv} Questions taken from the article by Lora Fanning.