

News Story Summary

A new, \$3 million documentary called *Finding Noah*, narrated by actor Gary Sinise, is headed for 640 screens on Oct. 8 for one night only through an arrangement with Fathom Events. It includes a panel discussion with the filmmakers simulcast at theaters nationwide.

The film follows an expedition of about a dozen archeologists, scientists, historians and theologians who were set to explore Mount Ararat where, according to the book of Genesis, the Ark came to rest. Mount Ararat, on the border of Turkey and Iran, is an ice-capped dormant volcano that can be as dangerous politically as it is environmentally, hence the filmmakers were forced into dealing with Kurdish militants who initially requested \$600,000 for the privilege of being left alone to pursue their quest.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using phrases such as “Finding Noah” or “Noah’s Ark Documentary.” Disclaimer: Referencing this film is not an endorsement of or recommendation for conclusions drawn by the movie.)

Focus Attention

As the group settles, ask: *What comes to mind when you think about Noah’s Ark?* Inquire about the number of parents who decorated their kids’ rooms with a Noah’s Ark theme, or had Noah’s Ark toys (you may check out your church’s preschool area and borrow a Noah’s Ark playset as a visual aid).

Share the news story about the upcoming documentary about the expedition to find Noah’s Ark. Ask: *What is it about this story that is so captivating for both believers and unbelievers? Do you think the success or failure of any expedition to find the Ark would make a difference to someone’s faith? Would it make a difference to yours?*

Lead the group to call out an a word or phrase that would summarize the importance of the story of Noah and the Ark. Record responses on a whiteboard. Then, write The Point for today’s study: *Being true to His character, God judges sin but extends grace.* Challenge the group to look for how this truth is demonstrated in this story.

Challenge

Remind the group of the news story about the Noah’s Ark expedition documentary. Emphasize that the filmmakers are keeping quiet about what the expedition did or didn’t find, or conclusions drawn from the search. Say: *Based on the truth of God’s Word, we can embrace the truth that God judges sin but extends grace. Those of us who are followers of Christ have already*

experienced that truth firsthand. Allow a volunteer to share about how they came to understand their need for forgiveness and how Jesus provides that forgiveness. Close by praying for people who need to experience God's grace offered through Jesus for themselves.