

The Great Flood was the worst thing that I had ever experienced. I was incredibly thankful for Noah and so glad that my family was saved, but the destruction – the death – it was overwhelming. It is difficult to speak about even now.

I offer you the gift of patience. I doubt my patience looked much like patience at the time. It was hard staying in that ark for so long. In the years since then, there have been many questions about how we did it. People always want to know why I went along with a plan that seemed so insane. I don't know how to answer that because I don't know what choice I had.

Of course, I found it difficult, but Noah was my husband. My duty was beside him. I trusted him with my life – literally. I know that there are some who have said that I first refused to climb aboard. That just is not true. I have theories about why such a rumor began and believe that there have been those who have wanted to make women look bad, but my patience with Noah was simply a given. He told me this was what needed to be done and I helped him.

As I've already hinted, it sounds much simpler than it was. I was worried for my family. I was concerned about how Noah looked in our community. I had my own questions, but outwardly I felt my job was to be supportive and loving for him and my family.

I had no way of knowing what was going to happen. And, then the rain began. I can't really describe how it felt for us to be inside. We were scared, but felt safe. The sound of trees cracking, homes being washed away, and the screams, the screams were hard to take. What a very strange feeling to be glad to be someplace and to feel guilty and sad all at the same time.

I had asked Noah if some of our friends, at least, could come, but he said that wasn't allowed. And, patiently I went in and patiently I waited. Okay, there were days that I yelled a bit, but for the most part, there was nothing else we could do. So, we waited. If I get to be known for patience for that, I guess I can accept it.

I don't think that patience is simply sitting by and waiting, though. I think it is an active gift. I helped my husband, I educated my children, and I grieved for my friends and in fact the world. When it was all over, there was nothing that could rattle me. I patiently endured all the rebuilding and all the struggles that came our way. Patience begets patience.

## *Discussion Suggestions - Noah's Wife*

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For most of us it is never easy to be patient, but it is probably more difficult now than ever before in our history. We live in a world where communication is instant with email and text messaging, etc. We can cook an entire meal in a matter of minutes with the help of a microwave, or better yet, call ahead to our favorite restaurant and have our order hot and ready for us to pick up on our way home from work. But what happens when our computers and cell phones malfunction, our microwaves are cooked out, and our drive through meal is not ready when we are? We are plagued with expecting instant gratification in today's society. But we must remember that patience *is* a virtue and a very important tool in our lives. Patience can help us endure any trial, no matter how long it lasts or how rough it may become. It is a gift we are given, but it is a gift that we must nurture daily and allow it to blossom in our lives.

Noah's wife must have had a remarkably strong faith, and a very healthy dose of patience, to endure what she did. Not only did she have to be cooped up on the ark with her family and literally a pair of *all* of the animals and creepy crawlies of the earth, but also she had to help maintain it all as well! Can you imagine the ark-cleaning chores that had to be done on a daily basis? With all of those animals?

How can we develop and nurture such faith and patience in our lives? In her monologue, Noah's wife states that she doesn't think that "patience is simply sitting by and waiting...I think it is an active gift."

- ✦ How is being patient different from "sitting and waiting?"
- ✦ Describe how being patient is an active gift.
- ✦ Invite the group to share times that they have had to be very intentional about remaining patient. What did they find difficult about it? What helped make that time in their lives easier? What did they learn about the gift of patience?

### **PRAYER:**

Have the women in your group pair up. Instruct each woman to share with their partner something in their lives with which they have to exercise the gift of patience. Close with the pairs praying for one another, asking God to strengthen their faith, and their gift of patience.