



Catastrophe: the Flood

1

Key Themes

- God must judge sin.
- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

Key Passages

- Genesis 6:5–9; Romans 3:23; 2 Peter 2:5

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that disobedience grieves God and leads to judgment.
- Recognize that Noah believed God, tried to please God, and obeyed God—he was righteous.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will decipher a “Backward Message” relating to the lesson and class.



Studying God’s Word

page 5

The third C is Catastrophe. God punished the wickedness of man by bringing a global Flood. However, God showed His mercy to Noah who was righteous in the eyes of the Lord.



Activity 1: Bible Drill

page 8

Students will race to look up several passages that contain references to Noah and the Flood.



Activity 2: Memory Verse Shout Out

page 10

Students will practice learning their new memory verse, 2 Peter 2:5.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Backward Message worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Backward Message worksheet for each student



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Gather pictures of damage caused by local catastrophes—floods, tornadoes, fires, etc.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Pictures of damage caused by local catastrophes
- Lesson Board Work outline



BIBLE DRILL

- Print one Bible Drill Scripture sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.

- Bible Drill Scripture sheet



MEMORY VERSE SHOUT OUT

- No preparation is necessary.

- Memory Verse poster



Memory Verse

2 Peter 2:5 And [God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

As you prepare your heart to teach God's Word, study these background passages: Genesis 6–9; 2 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 11:7.

The account of Noah begins in Genesis 6. Genesis 6:5–6 says that God saw the wickedness of man and that He was grieved and sorry that He had made man. Scripture describes the situation at the time: “wickedness of man was great,” “evil thoughts continually” (Genesis 6:5), “corrupt” (Genesis 6:11–12), “filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11, 6:13).

Hebrews 11:7 tells us that by faith, Noah was divinely warned of things not yet seen. He was warned by God of the coming destruction, and it was Noah's faith that led to his obedience and the salvation of his family. Because Noah is described as a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5), we can imagine that he spent his time while building the Ark trying to persuade the people to be righteous and warning them of God's coming judgment. However, only Noah's family believed and joined him in the Ark. Noah was a “just man” (Genesis 6:9), he “walked with God” (Genesis 6:9), and it was by faith that he believed, obeyed, and was saved (Hebrews 11:7).

God shows in this account that He does judge all sin. The Flood wiped out the entire population and was a bitter judgment. But, as God saved Noah and his family in the Ark, He has also shown us His mercy and grace by providing salvation from our sins through His own Son, Jesus Christ.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Looking at the full counsel of the Word of God we see that several other biblical writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to confirm the historical account of Noah and the Flood. It was more than 1,700 years after the Flood that the prophet Ezekiel mentioned Noah (Ezekiel 14:14, 14:20). And about 2,400 years after Noah lived, Jesus Christ referred to him as He described His return and coming judgment (Matthew 24:37–39).

The writer of Hebrews also confirmed Noah's existence when he included him in the “Hall of Faith” chapter, (Hebrews 11:7). Peter writes of both Noah and the Flood, again confirming that this

watery judgment occurred just as we read in Genesis. Noah was a real person called by God during this amazing time in history.

In addition, the sheer size, dimensions, and directions given by God to Noah for building the Ark show that this vessel was seaworthy and able to withstand a year-long global Flood. In other words, the Ark itself confirms the Flood.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A careful reading of Genesis confirms again God's precision in handing down the history of the universe. Noah was born 1,056 years after Creation (Genesis 5). He was 500 years old when he began to build the Ark. It could have taken up to 75 years for him to complete the project. It is a good practice to take special note of details when God so specifically gives them.

In the years following the Fall, mankind became more and more self-willed. They were filled with violence and the thoughts of their hearts were only evil continually. Because God hates sin, He had to judge the world. This judgment came via the worldwide Flood.

Here is the timeline of Noah and the Flood as gleaned from the book of Genesis:

- Year 0 – Creation
- 1056 – Noah born (Genesis 5)
- 1536 – Proclamation of judgment by God (“in 120 years earth will be destroyed”)
- ~1581–1601 – God instructs Noah to build Ark and Noah begins building and preaching
- 1656 – God instructs Noah to prepare to enter Ark; Noah enters and God shuts the door; the Flood begins
 - 40 days – Rains fall and fountains of deep break open
 - 110 days – Water covers earth, begins to recede, Ark rests on mountain
 - 74 days – Waters continue to decrease, tops of mountains seen
 - 40 days – Noah sends out a raven, which does not return
 - 7 days – Noah sends out a dove, which returns

- 7 days – Noah sends out a dove, which returns with olive branch
- 7 days – Noah sends out a dove, which does not return
- 29 days – Noah removes the cover from Ark
- 56 days – Noah and his family leave Ark
- 1657–The Flood is over; God instructs Noah to leave Ark

Noah and his family were on the Ark for 371 days.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, thank you for your Word and the truths you have given us there. I pray this week that as I prepare this lesson, you will give me the understanding I need and the realization that my disobedience displeases you. Forgive me, Lord, for the ways I have disobeyed you. As I come before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16) on behalf of the children in my class, I pray, Lord, that you will help them grasp a better understanding of their sinfulness and that they will realize that all sin grieves you, and you must punish sin. Lead them to an understanding that forgiveness is freely given through Jesus Christ alone.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- Distribute the Backward Message worksheets for students to decipher.

To make it more exciting and engaging for the class, you may want to have your students compete by setting up teams—with girls against boys, blondes against brunettes, etc. Time them to see who can figure the message out first.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

- ? **Does anyone know what a catastrophe is?** *A big disaster, something terrible that happens, something bad.*
- ? **Can anyone think of something that might be considered a catastrophe or disaster in the world?** *Earthquake, hurricane, tsunami, tornado, flood. Show pictures of these types of disasters.*
- ? **Have any of you ever been in one of these disasters?** *Allow students just a short time to talk about a hurricane or other event that occurred near their home. Perhaps there has been a local disaster recently you can discuss.*

Well, that was a catastrophe for your family and the others who were in it. But the catastrophe we are going to read about in the Bible was much worse than anything that has happened in the world since then. It was as if everyone in the whole world got hit by a hurricane, earthquake, flood, and tsunami all at the same time.

Let's read about it right now in God's holy Word. Open your Bibles to Genesis 6. We are going to read verses 5–9. Follow along in your Bibles. Pay close attention. We are going to answer questions about this passage after we read it. *Choose a volunteer or volunteers to read.*

Genesis 6:5–9

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Do not use the word “story” when talking about the account of Noah and the Ark. “Story” has come to mean a fairytale or something made up. We do not want the account of Noah and the Flood to become just another story for the students. We want them to realize Noah was a real person and this was a real historical event. Try to replace “story” with the words “account,” “record,” “description,” or “history.”

- ? Who was speaking in these verses? **Genesis 6:5.** *The Lord.*
- ? What was the Lord observing in the world? **Genesis 6:5.** *That the wickedness of man was great in the earth. People were evil.*
- ? How did the Lord feel about this wickedness? **Genesis 6:6.** *He was sorry that He had made man. He was grieved.*
- ? What does grieved mean? *It means He was sorry.*
- ? What was the Lord moved to do because of the wickedness and sin on the earth? **Genesis 6:7.** *He was going to destroy man, beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.*
- ? **Genesis 6:7** tells us again how God felt about man and his sin. What does it say? *He was sorry that He had made them.*
- ? What does **Genesis 6:8** say about Noah? *He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Write the heading “Noah” on the board. Underneath the heading write, “found grace in the Lord’s eyes.”*
- ? And what does **Genesis 6:9** say about Noah? *He was a just man and walked with God. Underneath the first statement on the board write, “was a just man” and “walked with God.”*

Discover the Truth

The world during Noah’s day was very wicked and evil. God was sorry He had created it. Yet the man, Noah, found grace in God’s eyes. He was a just, godly man. In fact, we read that he walked with God. Based on Noah’s faith, we will see that God would spare him and his family from the destruction the Lord was planning. That destruction was God’s just punishment on the sins of the world.

- ? God intended to destroy everything. Yet God would show Noah favor. Why? He was a righteous man—he believed God, obeyed God, and wanted to please God. *Underneath the previous statements write on the board, “was righteous,” “believed God,” “obeyed God,” and “wanted to please God.”*
- ? Let’s look at this a little closer. What are some things that come to mind when I say that men were evil? *Sinful, bad, disobedient.*

► Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.

? What do we call it when we do something wrong or evil? *Disobedience, sin.*

When we do things that God does not want us to do, the Bible calls that sin. Sin is when we disobey God—sin does not honor God.

? Will someone look up Romans 3:23 for me and read it? *Assign a reader.*

? What does this verse say about sin? *All have sinned.*

? That's right. What does all mean? *All.*

The Bible says we are all sinners. We all fall short of God's glory. And God does not look lightly on our sin. There is no such thing as just a little sin.

? So, let's get personal here for a second. What are some things that fifth and sixth graders might do that are sin? Take a look at the Ten Commandments poster. Get any hints? *Try to get the students to name some things that are sin: disobeying, stealing, starting fights, gossiping, cheating on tests or homework, lying to parents or teachers, using the Lord's name in vain.*

There is no shortage of ways that we disobey God and His commandments. And this is not good news for us at all because God cannot tolerate sin.

Because of sin (or wickedness) everyone deserves to be judged or punished by God.

But God was merciful to Noah because Noah was righteous, believed God, obeyed God, and wanted his life to please God—Noah was righteous. *Refer to the board work.*

God showed favor to Noah because he was righteous. In His mercy God provided a way to save Noah from the Flood. God is also merciful to us; and He provides a way for us to be saved from the judgment we deserve because of our sin.

? Who knows what God provided to save us from His judgment? *Jesus.*

Yes. Jesus. He came to earth as a man. He lived a perfect life—He never sinned—not even once. And He died on the Cross so that we might be saved. If we believe in Him, repent of our sins, turn away from our sins, and trust Him for forgiveness, we can be saved from God's judgment.



JUST
MERCIFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster)



Bible Drill

MATERIALS

- Bible Drill Scripture sheet

INSTRUCTIONS

Please close your Bibles and put them on the table in front of you. We are going to do a Bible Drill. A Bible Drill is a race to see who can find the Bible passage first. When I call out the Bible reference, you may open your Bible and turn to that passage as quickly as you can. As soon as you find it, put your finger on it and stand. When everyone has found the passage, the person who stood first will read the passage out loud. Don't be afraid to use the table of contents in the front of your Bible, if you aren't sure where a book of the Bible is. Or look at the Books of the Bible poster here. It may help you.

Our verses have a theme. Listen to each verse and try to guess what the theme is. If you figure it out, don't say anything until we are finished. *Call out the verse references found on the Bible Drill Scripture sheet. Verify the verses as the students read them.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? Who thinks they know the theme of this Bible Drill? *Take answers from students.*

The theme of today's Bible Drill is Noah and the Flood. Some people think that Noah

and the Ark is a made up story. Well, let's see who wrote these verses. Two of the verses were written by prophets in the Old Testament, Isaiah 54:9 and Ezekiel 14:14. They both mentioned the Flood as though it were a very real event.

Jesus spoke of the Flood in Matthew 24:37–39. Jesus believed it was a real event!

The writer of Hebrews records Noah as a great man of faith. He believed Noah was a real person and the Flood was a real event—Hebrews 11:7.

And the Apostle Peter talked about Noah and the Flood in 2 Peter 2:5. Peter believed this was a real event.

So you see? Noah isn't just mentioned in the book of Genesis. He is mentioned repeatedly throughout the Bible as a righteous man who was saved, along with his family, from the worldwide Flood which was a judgment from God. If you ever hear someone say they doubt there was a real man named Noah and a real global Flood, you can point them to the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God. The details about Noah and the Flood are recorded in the Old Testament and repeatedly confirmed in the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is a history book. We can trust it to be true!



READ THE WORD

2 Peter 2:5

Let's all open our Bibles to 2 Peter 2:5.

- ? Can a volunteer please find 2 Peter on our Books of the Bible poster?
Choose a volunteer to find 2 Peter. Refer to the Memory Verse poster while discussing this passage with the class.

This is our memory verse for the next several weeks. Let's all read this verse together. If you don't have a New King James version, please read along with me from the Memory Verse poster.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Now we're going to ask some questions about this verse in 2 Peter.

- ? Who wrote this book? *The Apostle Peter.*
- ? Is this book in the New Testament or Old Testament? *New Testament.*
- ? Who did not spare the ancient world? *God.*
- ? What does "ancient world" actually mean in this verse? *The world at the time of Noah. It was a long time ago. Refer to the Seven C's Timeline.*
- ? What does this verse say about Noah? *He was a preacher of righteousness.*
- Yes. Remember we spoke earlier that Noah was righteous, he believed God, he obeyed God, he wanted to please God. *Refer to the board work.*
- ? How many people were saved altogether? *Eight.*
- ? Who were those people who were saved? This verse doesn't say it, but I think you can figure it out. *Noah and his family.*
- ? Who was the Flood sent to punish? Still in 2 Peter 2:5. *The world. The ungodly.*

Discover the Truth

Pretty simple, right? But this is very significant. Why? Because Peter wrote this book of the Bible. He was an apostle of Jesus. He was a special friend and student of Jesus. He was living at the same time as Jesus, way after Noah lived—about 2,400 years after. *Point out Jesus and Noah on the Seven C's Timeline.*

This verse talks about Noah and the Flood. Peter knew the Flood was real, Noah was real, the justice of God on the sin of the world was real. Peter in the New Testament is confirming what God told us in the Old Testament—in Genesis 6, the account we read earlier.

The Bible is the history book of the universe—it is God's history—and every word about the Flood is true. And every word of the Bible can be trusted.





Memory Verse Shout Out

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse poster

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's learn our new memory verse! Have the students stand. Divide them into two to four groups. Then assign each group a phrase from the verse including the reference. Have them repeat the verse, reading it from the Memory Verse poster a few times with each group reciting its assigned phrase. Have contests like which group can say its part the loudest, the softest, in the highest voice, in the lowest voice, while hopping on one

foot, etc. You may want to switch phrases and/or groups around in order to get them to recite the entire verse.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We have three more weeks to learn this verse. It serves as a New Testament reminder that the Old Testament account of Noah and the Flood is true. Every Word of God is true. God called Noah to build the Ark. Noah obeyed and was saved when the Flood came.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God brought a huge catastrophe—a worldwide Flood—as punishment for sin and wickedness. Disobedience—any disobedience—grieves God and leads to His judgment. The Flood was judgment on the sins of the people in Noah's day. But God provided an Ark for Noah and his family. God saved Noah from the terrible judgment of the worldwide Flood through the Ark. Noah was saved because he had faith in God, trusted Him, wanted to obey Him—he was righteous. *Refer to the board work.*

Just like God saved Noah from judgment for sin through the Ark, God has provided us a way to be saved from our sins. That way is Jesus Christ. We must all face God's judgment for our sins. But Jesus has taken the punishment—God's judgment on Himself—for all of those who will repent of their sin, turn away from their sin, and turn to Jesus for forgiveness.

Refer to the Cross on the Lesson Theme poster.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Many people will tell you they don't believe the true account of Noah, the Flood, the Ark, and God's judgment. But if you've been coming to this class for very long, you should know this—all of God's Word is true. You can believe all of it. You can believe Noah was a real person, the Flood covered the entire world, and that God caused the Flood because He must judge sin, just like the Bible says. When people tell you they don't believe you when you talk about God and the Bible, you can tell them that God does not lie. And the Bible is His Word, so it does not lie. That's a reassuring fact!



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 2:5 And [God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for His Word that reveals He is just in judging sin but also merciful in providing a way for us to be saved through Jesus Christ.

