



# 2

## God Saves Noah

### Key Themes

- God must judge sin.
- God rewards faith and obedience.

### Key Passages

- Genesis 7:1–12, 7:16, 7:21–23, 8:6–12

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify who/what was destroyed or preserved in the Flood.
- Identify the length of time Noah was on the Ark and how he knew the Flood was over.



## 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

God told Noah to build an Ark to save his family and preserve a remnant of animals. The animals God sent, along with Noah and his family, entered the Ark. Every air-breathing, land-dwelling animal and every person not on the Ark was destroyed. But God watched over the Ark and its passengers.



### Activity 1: Shem’s Report

page 9

Students will make sound effects as Reporter Shem gives several reports from the site of the Ark.



### Activity 2: My Year Aboard the Ark

page 10

Students will finish filling in a journal written by someone during his year on board the Ark.

# 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.
- Preview the "Flood Initiation" video clip (1:49) on the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- "Flood Initiation" video clip from the Resource DVD-ROM
- Sticky notes for memory verse review
- TV and DVD player or computer



### SHEM'S REPORT

- Print two Reporter Shem scripts from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one each of the 9 Ark Sound Effects cue sheets from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Two Reporter Shem scripts
- Ark Sound Effects cue sheets
- Optional: Microphone or hair brush for the reporter to use



### MY YEAR ABOARD THE ARK

- Print one Flood Journal activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Flood Journal activity sheet for each student
- Pencils



## 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

To prepare to teach this lesson, read and meditate on Genesis 6–9; 2 Peter 2:5; and Hebrews 11:7.

Even though Noah was a “preacher of righteousness,” calling people to repent for nearly 75 years, no one but his family came into the Ark with him. The people who heard Noah’s message of imminent judgment refused to believe. When the Flood came, Noah and his family were safe in the Ark, but every other person and air-breathing, land-dwelling animal on the earth was destroyed: all flesh died that moved on the earth (Genesis 7:21), every man (Genesis 7:21), all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life (Genesis 7:22), all that was on the dry land died (Genesis 7:22), So He destroyed all living things (Genesis 7:23), they were destroyed from the earth (Genesis 7:23), only Noah and those who were with him in the Ark remained alive (Genesis 7:23). God was faithful to His promise that He would provide and protect in the midst of this severe judgment (Genesis 6:18).

God revealed His patience with the people of Noah’s day by allowing them time to repent, but because of His nature—His holiness and justice—He finally had to punish the wicked and those who were suppressing the truth. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

While the rest of the world was being destroyed outside, Noah and his family were safe in the Ark. God mercifully rewarded Noah’s faith and obedience by saving him and his family from the Flood. God continues to demonstrate that mercy to all of us through Jesus Christ. We can think of the Ark as an example of how we can be saved from God’s judgment on our sin. Just as Noah entered the door of the Ark to be saved, so we are saved if we repent, turn from our sins, and in faith and obedience trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation.

## APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The Bible is very specific about the timeline of the Flood. Although biblical skeptics arbitrarily dismiss this account as pure mythology, Christians stand on the Word of God, our Creator who was there, rather than the opinions of fallible men who were not.

The Flood came in the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month. Scripture records that on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open (Genesis 7:11). And the waters prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days (Genesis 7:24). As we examine the Flood account in Genesis 6–8, we can determine the overall progression of the year-long global Flood. The table below summarizes the timing of the Flood based on Scripture.

Timeline of the Flood	Description	Bible reference
Day 0	The fountains of the great deep broke apart and the windows of heaven were opened; it began to rain.	Genesis 7:11
Day 150 (Includes the 40 days and nights in Genesis 7:12)	The water rose to its highest level (covering the whole earth) sometime between the 40th and 150th day. On the 150th day, the springs of the great deep were shut off, the rain from above ceased, and the water began continually receding. The Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.	Genesis 7:11–12 Genesis 7:17–20 Genesis 7:24–8:5
Day 224	The tops of the mountains became visible on the first day of the tenth month.	Genesis 8:5
Day 264	After 40 more days, Noah sent out a raven.	Genesis 8:6–7
Day 271	After seven days the dove was sent out after the raven. It had no resting place and returned to Noah.  * Note: Gen. 8:10 says, “After another seven days” or “He waited seven more days.” In the Hebrew this implies that there was a previous period of seven days, which must be between the raven and first dove, though there is some debate on this.	Genesis 8:8–9

<b>Timeline of the Flood</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Bible reference</b>
Day 278	After seven more days, Noah sent out the dove again. It returned again but this time with an olive leaf in its beak.	Genesis 8:10–11
Day 285	After seven more days, Noah sent out the dove again, and it did not return.	Genesis 8:12
Day 314	Noah removed the cover of the Ark on the first day of the first month. The surface of the earth was dried up and Noah could verify this to the extent of what he could see.	Genesis 8:13
Day 371	The earth was dry and God commanded Noah's family and the animals to come out of the Ark.	Genesis 8:14–17

The Flood was a real event, specifically recorded in God's Word. It was a catastrophic judgment by God on man's wickedness that lasted over one year.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Because the Bible is the true history book of the universe you can be confident that the Flood was a real event—and it occurred just as the Bible tells us. Many people wonder how Noah could have possibly built an Ark of this proportion, even in 75 years! Although the biblical record is not specific about this, we do know a few things.

When God created Adam, he was perfect and perfectly intelligent. Noah and the people of his day were

fairly recent descendants of Adam—probably maintaining much of the intelligence God originally blessed man with.

Building the Ark was a huge task—one that had never been accomplished before. And, although the Bible doesn't record much information about the world before the Flood, we know the people of this time were very intelligent. Genesis gives us insight into these folks and what they were capable of. For instance, they built cities (Genesis 4:17), raised and cared for livestock (Genesis 4:20), made and played musical instruments (Genesis 4:21), and were metalworkers in bronze and iron (Genesis 4:22).

Many people dismiss this historical event as impossible—both the Flood and the Ark that survived it—but with God's guidance, Noah's faith, and the intelligence of man, it was accomplished in God's timing according to God's purpose.

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



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Thank you, Lord, that you are merciful and patient. Help me to convey to the class that though you are patient, your patience is not forever. Due to your very character, your amazing holiness, you must eventually judge all wickedness and sin. I pray that the children in this class will one day see how serious their sin is, repent of it, trust Jesus Christ as Savior, and be saved. Forgive me for my own unrighteousness and disobedience against you. Give me a clean heart and wisdom to express your truth clearly as I teach the class this week.



## 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.

Let's also review our memory verse. We're going to say the verse together as a class. Make sure you're in a spot where you can see the Memory Verse poster. I'll let you read along the first time. Every time after that, I'm going to put sticky notes over some of the words. Then we'll say it again, trying to remember what words are under the paper.

**Don't forget to say the reference.** *Say 2 Peter 2:5 together with the class several times. Add sticky notes to the Memory Verse poster covering more words each time, until all of the words are covered. Congratulate the students for doing their best to memorize God's Word.*



# Studying God's Word

## READ THE WORD

Turn to the book of Genesis. We are going to be looking at chapter seven to start. We'll be reading several different passages right around there.

Let's start in Genesis 7, verses 1–12. I'd like someone to read please. *Assign a reader or readers.*

Genesis 7:1-12

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Now let's answer some questions about this passage.

## Observe the Text

Genesis is a historical account. It is not a “story” made up to teach a lesson like a parable, for example. We know this because the details are so specific. In fact, there are so many details in Genesis 7 and 8, that we can construct an accurate timeline of what happened during the Flood. Let’s see what we can learn from the text.

- ? **Why was Noah saved? We talked about it last time and God mentions it again here.** *Genesis 7:1. Noah was righteous before God.*
- ? **What animals did God command Noah to take?** *Genesis 7:2–3. Seven each of clean animals—male and female. Two each of unclean animals—male and female.*
- ? **Who knows the difference between clean and unclean animals? Anyone?** *Allow for answers. Clean animals were animals Noah needed for sacrifice to God. That is why he needed seven of those. These would be animals like cows, sheep, goats, rams. The unclean animals were not sacrificed to God, so Noah only needed two each.*
- ? **Why did God command Noah to bring a male and a female animal?** *Genesis 7:3. To keep the species alive on the earth.*

God was thinking. He knew that the earth would need to be repopulated with animals so He sent males and females of each type to the Ark. And, God did send the animals to Noah. There is no way Noah could have rounded up all those animals. This was God’s show and God managed all of it.

- ? **How long did God intend to send the rain?** *Genesis 7:4. Forty days.*
- ? **How old was Noah by this time? It is amazing!** *Genesis 7:6. 600 years old!*
- ? **Who went on the Ark with Noah?** *Genesis 7:7. Noah’s wife, his three sons, and his sons’ wives.*
- ? **How many people is that altogether?** *Eight.*
- ? **Let’s take a closer look at the animals. What did God send onto the Ark?** *Genesis 7:8. Birds, creeping animals, clean, unclean.*
- ? **There were birds with Noah? Why would Noah need to take birds if they could fly?** *The Flood covered the whole world and the birds would have no place to land, nowhere to live, and nothing to eat.*
- ? **Ok. Did you notice God didn’t mention anything about sea creatures? Why do you think that was?** *Allow for answers. Sea creatures would survive a flood since they live in water.*
- ? **Well, all the animals are on the Ark. Noah and his family—eight people in all—are on the Ark. And then God started the Flood in two ways. Both of those ways are mentioned in Genesis 7:11. What did God do?** *The fountains of the great deep were broken up; the windows of heaven were opened.*

? That is beautiful language. But what does it mean? Anyone know? *Allow for answers.*

The earth opened up and water began bursting forth with a lot of power. And, the windows of heaven opened and rain began to POUR on the earth. I think it was unlike anything we have ever experienced and more powerful than anything we could imagine. It was the beginning of the worldwide Flood!

## Discover the Truth

I mentioned earlier that this was God's plan. God was running the show. God warned the people. God gave Noah instructions for the Ark. God sent the animals to the Ark. God started the rain and opened up the earth to start the Flood. There is one more thing God did that no one else could have done. Turn to Genesis 7:16 in your Bibles. I'd like someone to read it for us. *Assign a reader.*

Genesis 7:16

? What does verse 16 say? *Allow for discussion. Everything entered as God commanded. And then God shut them in.*

The Bible says that God shut the door to the Ark Himself. God's judgment had begun.

? At this point who and what were inside the Ark, behind the closed door? *Noah, his family, and the animals.*

? Who and what were outside the Ark? *Everyone else in the whole world, and all the rest of the animals.*

And it was too late for anyone else to come into the Ark once God shut the door. Noah and his family were probably filled with mixed emotions when God shut that door. Even though they were grateful to God for providing the Ark—it would have been very difficult knowing that so many others were going to die. But God was in control. God had to pass His judgment. God must punish all sin.



## READ THE WORD

We are going to read a couple more verses about this. Turn to Genesis 7:21–23. I'd like three volunteers to read. *Assign readers.*

Genesis 7:21–23

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

What died on the earth? **Genesis 7:21.** *All flesh died that moved on the earth. Birds, cattle, beasts, every creeping thing, and every man.*

And just in case we didn't get that, what does **Genesis 7:23** say? *God destroyed all living things; man, cattle, creeping thing, bird. All destroyed from the earth.*



Who was saved? *Only Noah and those with him in the Ark.*

## Discover the Truth

We serve a God who must be feared. He did in fact judge the entire earth. We are going to watch a short video clip about the Flood. This will give all of us a better understanding at how terrible God's judgment can be. *Show the video clip "Flood Initiation" from the Resource DVD-ROM.*

- ? So, what do you think about that video? Did it help you get a grasp on how devastating the Flood would have been? *Give the students a chance to discuss their reactions if they have any. This film is very dramatic and depicts the Flood quite realistically.*

I think that video helps us see what a huge catastrophe the Flood was. It gave us a visual glimpse of what it may have looked like as God's judgment covered the whole earth.

God must punish sin because He hates sin. And this doesn't look too good for us, does it? That Flood was a real Catastrophe. But, remember in our last lesson, we said that just as God provided safety for Noah in the Ark, He also provides a way for us to be saved. *Refer to the Lesson Theme poster from last week.*

- ? Who remembers what that way is? *Jesus.*

Yes, God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to die on the Cross and be raised from the dead so that all who believe in Him, trust Him, and repent from their sins will be saved from God's judgment.

Let me quickly review something with you. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster as you review the meaning of these attributes.*

Because God is holy He cannot tolerate any sin and all sin must be punished. He must punish the sin because He is just. But, He is also merciful. And He has provided someone to take the punishment we deserve for our sins. Jesus Christ, who is God, died in the place of all sinners who would one day turn to Him in real repentance and with sincere faith and trust in all of His promises.



## READ THE WORD

Genesis 8:6-12

Well, there is still more to learn about Noah and the Flood. Can you imagine being on the Ark over a year? Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 8. Who will read verses 6-12? *Choose volunteers to read the passage.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Who opened the window? *Genesis 8:6. Noah.*

HOLY  
JUST  
MERCIFUL

*(Refer to Attributes poster)*



? He sent out two animals. What were they? *Genesis 8:7–8. Raven, dove.*

The raven was sent out, and a dove was sent out a week later. What happened to the dove? *Genesis 8:9. It returned. It could find no resting place. The earth was still covered with water.*

? What did Noah do another seven days later? *Genesis 8:10–11. He sent the dove out again. It returned with an olive leaf in its mouth.*

? When he saw the leaf, Noah knew that the water was starting to go down. Still another seven days later he sent out the dove again. Did it return this time? *Genesis 8:12. No.*

He knew it would soon be safe to leave the Ark since the dove had found a place to land.

## Discover the Truth

God took care of Noah and the animals all through the Flood. He did not let them leave until the earth was safe again. Noah's family lived for over a year on the Ark waiting for a sign from God that it was time to leave. God used the raven and the dove to let Noah know that the Flood had finally ended. God spared Noah because of his faith and obedience.



## Shem's Report

### MATERIALS

- Two Reporter Shem scripts
- Ark Sound Effects cue sheets
- Toy microphone or hair brush

### INSTRUCTIONS

We are going to have fun with a one man skit. Pay close attention as Shem, one of Noah's three sons, reports to us from the site of the Ark. Your job will be to provide the sound effects. *Have the class practice the sound effects before the skit begins. Explain to the students that they should only make the sound effects while the sign is being displayed.*

*Have an adult or teen volunteer read the part of Shem. Encourage the actor to use his best reporter voice. Provide something for him to hold as a microphone. Have student volunteers walk across in front of Reporter Shem every time*

*a sound effect is required, holding the proper cue sheet. Encourage the class to participate by making the sound effects called for on the cue sheet, as the student walks across. You should stand to the side with the cue sheets, following along in the script, so you can send the students across at the proper time.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible is the history book of the universe. Everything in it is true. Noah and his family were on board the Ark for over a year and had to live and work together all that time. The Flood caused death and destruction on the earth—but Noah and his family were all saved. God used the Ark to save Noah and his family from the Flood because Noah believed in God and obeyed Him.





# My Year Aboard the Ark

## MATERIALS

- Flood Journal activity sheet for each student
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Hand out a Flood Journal activity sheet to each student along with a pen or pencil. Have students circle the character they want to be. Read aloud each timeline entry to the students, one at a time. Explain to them that this is a partially filled out journal. It's their job to finish recording the personal part. Read each entry, pausing in between to allow students to write their part. You should start by noting the day and then reading what is listed in the Weather, Sighting, and Events column out loud. Ask students to record one emotion about how each event would make them feel and a word or two that tells what they may have been doing to pass the time in the Ark.*

Noah and his family stayed on the Ark for over a year waiting for the Flood waters to go down.

? What do you think Noah and his family may have been doing on the Ark? Keep in mind that there are no specific Scripture verses that tell what went on, but we can assume that there were jobs that needed to be done. After all, they were on the Ark for over a year! Allow answers. Animal care, cleaning, eating, praying, journaling, and so on.

I've given you a journal sheet to record what you think Noah's family may have been thinking or doing during their long stay in the Ark. Choose and circle one of the eight names at the top of the journal. Pretend you are this person on the Ark.

Your journal is already started. It's your job to finish it, filling in some personal details.

Let me show you how this is going to work. I'm going to read the first entry. It's Day 0.  
*Read entry.*

The details I just read came right from the Bible. Entry one has been done already. The people felt amazed and they may have been praying to pass the time.

Get it? Let's continue. Fill in column two after I read the first part of each entry. Let's try the next one. *Continue reading and having the students fill in their part of the journal.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God was very specific about letting us know all the details of the Flood. He wanted us to know exactly what happened. Every word of God is true and we can believe all the history that He has recorded in His Word. Noah was on the Ark over a year. God used the birds—first the raven and then the dove—to let Noah know when the Flood was over.

We know God had to bring judgment on the world because of its wickedness. But He was faithful to protect Noah and his family and they landed safely after the Flood. The Flood is not just a story, but a true historical event.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Flood was a terrible catastrophe that covered the whole world! It killed everyone on the earth. God's judgment had come. God was in complete control of this catastrophe. God warned the people. God gave Noah instructions for the Ark. God sent the animals to the Ark. God shut the door to the Ark. God started the rain and opened up the earth to start the Flood. God stopped the rain when the right time had come.

Only Noah and his family—eight people—were saved from the Flood. Only two of each kind of land animal (and seven of some) were saved. Everything else was destroyed!

All of these people and animals were on the Ark for over a year—371 days! And Noah knew the Flood was finally ended when the dove did not return to the Ark but had found a safe place to land.

God must judge sin because He is holy and just. That is why He had to destroy the world with the Flood. But God shows us through Noah that He is merciful, and that He rewards faith and obedience. God showed His mercy by providing a way for Noah to be saved. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster.*

HOLY  
JUST  
MERCIFUL

*(Refer to Attributes poster.)*

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

All of God's Word is true from the very first verse. God wants us to know it and learn from it. You might hear people say that Noah was made up, not a real person. Maybe they will tell you the Bible isn't true. But we know that God's Word is true. We know that the account of Noah is real history—we have an eyewitness who can be trusted and believed. That eyewitness is the Creator Himself—our holy God!



➤ 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 showing His justice and His mercy in the account of Noah.
- Pray that God will show you how to be faithful and obedient to Him according to His Word.

