



4

How Large Was the Ark?

Key Themes

- God is faithful to His promises.
- God's Word is true.

Key Passages

- Genesis 6:14–16, 6:19–20

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that cartoon drawings and other pictures of the Ark could never have withstood a global Flood.
- Identify that different kinds of animals were taken on the Ark—including dinosaurs.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

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



Studying God's Word

page 5

Noah's Ark was large enough to hold all the animals that God sent to be preserved. It was a seaworthy vessel. Two of each kind of air-breathing land animal (and seven of some) came on the Ark, including dinosaurs.



Activity 1: Was the Ark Seaworthy?

page 8

Students will watch a video clip describing the seaworthiness of the real Noah's Ark.



Activity 2: Two by Two

page 11

Students will match animal pairs and review the memory verse as they learn about kinds.

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.
- Print one Cute Ark image from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Cute Ark image
- Lesson Board Work outline



WAS THE ARK SEAWORTHY?

- Preview the Noah's Ark video clip (3.33) on the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Noah's Ark video clip on the Resource DVD-ROM
- DVD player and TV or computer



TWO BY TWO

- Print and cut out Two by Two cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each team of 3–4 students. Put them in envelopes or plastic bags.

- One set of Two by Two cards for each team of 3–4 students in envelopes or plastic bags



Memory Verse

2 Peter 2:5 [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 for this week's lesson, read Genesis 6:14–20.

The account of Noah and the Ark is often taken as a mere fairytale. The Bible, however, is the true history book of the universe, and in that light we can have confidence in what it says about the Ark. Scripture reveals the basic dimensions of Noah's Ark—the length, width, and height. According to God's Word, it was massive—300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high (approximately 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high based on a cubit of 20.4 inches). This is not like the whimsical drawings that depict the Ark as an overgrown houseboat with giraffes and other animals hanging on and sticking out the top.

In addition to its size, God gave other specific information about the Ark in Genesis 6:14–16. His instructions to Noah include the type of wood—gopherwood; a pitch coating—cover it inside and outside with pitch; a window—you shall make a window for the Ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; three decks—make it with lower, second, and third decks; and a door—set the door of the Ark in its side. The specificity in Scripture gives us confidence that this was, in fact, a ship ordained by God to withstand the watery judgment soon to cover the entire earth.

However, a detailed design of the ship's hull is not given. Biblical creationists have historically depicted the Ark as a simple rectangular box. You will notice that the Ark shown in *Answers Bible Curriculum* goes beyond that rectangular configuration. This particular model was considered after much study and the determination that the Ark had to have been equipped to handle rough seas. This design was made by a mechanical engineer who studied the Flood and the Ark for nearly 13 years before rendering this design.

The rough seas confronting the Ark during the Flood are alluded to in Scripture.

- Genesis 6:15—The Ark had the proportions of a seagoing vessel built for waves.
- Genesis 7:19—A mountain-covering, global Flood would not be dead calm.
- Genesis 7:18—The Ark moved about on the surface of the waters.
- Genesis 8:1—God made a wind to pass over the earth.

- Psalm 104:8 (NAS)—The earth's landmasses were shifting during the Flood. This would cause tremendous turbulence in the waters as they receded.

By wearing our biblical glasses, considering the full counsel of God's Word, and in view of historical information, we can be certain that the Ark commissioned by God Himself was large enough to withstand a global Flood and had room for all the animals God intended to be saved.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

For centuries scoffers have mocked the account of Noah and the Flood by arguing that it would have been impossible for the Ark to hold two of every species of animal. This supposition leads to the conclusion that the Flood account was not inspired by God—thus casting doubt on all of God's Word.

There are some serious misconceptions here that need to be clarified. First of all, God did not send representatives of all the "species" of animals to Noah—but the "kinds" of animals (Genesis 8:19). For example, Noah would not have had two African elephants, two Asian elephants, along with two mastodons, two mammoths, and two stegodons (these last three are now extinct). He would have only needed two representatives of the elephant kind. Then after the Flood, when the animals spread out over all the earth, different species resulted from the tremendous amount of information God had designed into the genes of each of these animals, as they adapted to their environment. Noah didn't need the number of animals many people think he did. There was plenty of room!

People think that most land animals are very large like elephants and giraffes. But actually only about 11% of land animals are larger than a sheep. So the average size of the animals on the Ark would have been smaller than the size of a sheep.

Something else we often hear is that there is no way all the dinosaurs could have fit on the Ark. But though there are about 700 names of dinosaurs, all of them fall into approximately 50 different kinds of dinosaurs. And not all dinosaurs were huge like the brachiosaurus—many were much smaller. And even these larger animals were probably young when they boarded the Ark, thus taking up less room and still having their reproductive lives ahead of them as they left the Ark to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

The study of created kinds, called *baraminology*, is dependent on biblical truth. One of the tenets of this

science is that the various kinds created by God do not interbreed with other kinds. Genesis clearly states that animals reproduce after their kind. And this is what real science shows—dogs produce dogs, cats produce cats, horses produce horses, etc. Secular scientists, however, continue to defend their belief that all life has common ancestry even though observable science has never recorded any “kind” changing into another “kind.”

As Christians, we must continue to stand on the authority of God’s Word, answering questions using our biblical glasses. As we continue to do that, our confidence in the infallibility of the Word of God can only strengthen.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is difficult to speak historically about Noah’s Ark. The only true account we have of it is given through God in the book of Genesis. However, as discussed in a previous lesson (Lesson 3, “Was the Flood Global?”), we have record of more than 200 stories of a global Flood from all around the world. Native Americans, Hawaiians, Australian Aborigines, Inuit, and more—all have flood stories passed down from their ancestors that sound a lot like Noah’s Flood as recorded in Genesis.

We can also pursue history when researching the Ark’s size, shape, and construction. Some say no wooden ship of this size would hold together. One of the greatest challenges to the construction of large wooden ships is finding a way to lay planks around the outside that will ensure little or no leaking. Recently, however, marine archaeologists have discovered a method of planking used on ancient Greek ships that had been lost for centuries. This discovery raises

the idea that this may have been the method handed down for years—even from Noah’s day!

It is important to remember—and repeat to your students—that we have the history book of the universe—the Bible. And we have an eyewitness to the account of Noah’s Flood and the judgment it brought. That eyewitness is God, our Creator; the source is the Bible, His infallible Word.

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



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, this lesson is completely opposed to what these children hear from the secular world. Give me clarity of mind and help me to communicate in a way that the children will understand. Help me to reinforce that the earth is young, that dinosaurs did not live millions of years ago, the Ark was real, and your Word can always be trusted. Help me, Lord, to encourage the children to trust your Word implicitly and give me a heart and attitude that clearly show them that I trust you. If it would be your will Lord, allow these precious children to take these truths to their families and friends with confidence in your Word as their foundation. How I appreciate the weightiness of what you have called me to. I thank you for the privilege, and I pray for your wisdom in teaching your Word.



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

Let's take our Bibles and turn to Genesis 6:14–16. The book of Genesis is our history. It tells us what happened in the past. Today we're going to study the Ark. We want to know how big it was, if it was seaworthy, what it looked like, and if all the animals would have fit on it.

Some of our answers will be found in Genesis 6:14–16. *Choose a volunteer to read the passage.*

Genesis 6:14–16

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who is speaking in this passage? Look in Genesis 6:13. *God said to Noah.*
- ? What was the Ark made of? *Genesis 6:14. Gopherwood.*
- ? What is Gopherwood? Anyone know? *Allow for answers.*

Actually, no one is quite sure today what kind of wood this is. It was probably a kind of tree that was common around where Noah lived because he would need lots of it.

- ? What other details do we get about the Ark from the rest of verse 14? *It had rooms. Noah covered the wood with pitch, inside and out.*

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

Cubit: ancient form of measurement—about 20 inches

? And what is pitch? Any ideas? *Allow for answers.*

? How long was the Ark? How high? How wide? *Genesis 6:15. Draw a rectangular box on the board. Label the measurements according to the verse. Write on the board, "Height: 30 cubits," "Length: 300 cubits," "Width: 50 cubits."*

A cubit is the distance from the elbow of a person to the tips of his fingers.

In Noah's day, the cubit probably measured about 20 inches long. That would make the Ark longer than one and one half football fields. It was about 510 feet long! It was 85 feet wide and 51 feet high. *On the board, write how many feet each of the cubit measurements equals. Write: "Height: 30 cubits=51 feet," "Length: 300 cubits=510 feet," "Width: 50 cubits=85 feet."*

That size is hard to imagine, isn't it? *Refer to the drawing on the board.*

But look at this picture of the Ark compared to school buses. Noah could have fit 480 buses on the Ark. *Show the Lesson Theme poster comparing the Ark to school buses.*

Can you imagine a line of almost 12 school buses outside your school? That is about how long the Ark was. And if you stack four school buses on top of each other, that's how tall it was. Are you starting to get an idea of just how big the Ark really was? Noah could have fit 480 buses on the Ark—inside it! That is big.

? Did any of you ever consider how big the Ark may have been? Did you consider it this big, bigger, smaller—or maybe you really never considered it. *Allow for answers.*

? Let's look at some more details about the design of the Ark. What structural features are listed for us in Genesis 6:16? *Door, window, and three decks.*

From that verse we learn that the Ark had a door in its side, a window, and three decks.

? We can also guess something about the size of the Ark's door. What size do you think it was? *Large.*

? Why do you think it had to be large? *So the animals could walk on when the time came.*

Could you imagine an elephant coming in an average size door? The door on the Ark had to have been huge.

The Ark was designed by God. And God knew exactly what Noah needed because God knew exactly what was going to happen.

? Which attribute of God means God knows everything? *Refer to the Attributes of God poster. Omniscient.*

? Will a volunteer please read the definition of omniscient for me from the Attributes poster? *Choose a volunteer to read the definition from the poster.*

OMNISCIENT
(Refer to Attributes poster)

God knows everything—past, present, and future, so He was able to give Noah the perfect plans to build a ship that was seaworthy and large enough to house all the animals that needed to be saved. Plus there was plenty of room left over for Noah and his family and all the provisions they would need for the year-long stay.

Discover the Truth

? Did you know that the account of Noah and the Ark is often mistaken for a mere fairy tale? *Yes/no.*

Sure. Think about all the toys and pictures that you've seen before of cute little Arks with animals sticking out the top. Like this. *Show Cute Ark lesson image.*

? What kind of Ark does this look like? Real or pretend? *Pretend. Keep holding up the Cute Ark lesson image.*

Sadly, because this is what comes to mind when people think about Noah and the Ark, most people don't think the historical account we find in the Bible is true. But since we know that the Bible is the true history book of the universe, we can be sure what it says about the Ark is all true.

We've just learned the dimensions of the Ark, the type of wood it was made out of, that it was covered with pitch, it had a window, and a very large door.

? How many decks did it have? *Genesis 6:16. It had three decks.*

? Is the real Ark anything like the whimsical drawings that depict the Ark with animals popping out the top? *No!*

The detail in Scripture gives us confidence that the Ark was, in fact, a sturdy vessel, ordained by God to withstand the watery judgment soon to cover the entire earth. Because a detailed design of the ship's hull is not given in Scripture, in the past, biblical creationists have depicted the Ark as a simple rectangular box, like what I drew on the board.

? You may have noticed that the Ark shown on our Lesson Theme poster has a different shape. It's not a plain rectangle, is it? Are you curious to know how the mechanical engineer came up with this particular design? *Refer again to the Lesson Theme poster. Yes.*

Well, for one thing, he studied Scripture and found out that the seas would have been very rough during the time the Ark was on the water. After all, the water rose so deep that the mountains were covered. The Ark was floating on top of some very rough seas, for sure.

So, with that in mind, the engineer studied the Flood and the Ark for nearly 13 years before coming up with this design that would make the Ark both sturdy and comfortable. We don't know exactly what the Ark

looked like. But it may have looked similar to this. *Refer to the Ark on the Lesson Theme poster.*

Nothing in this new design seen on our Lesson Theme poster contradicts Scripture, even though it may be different from more traditional designs. This design shows us a practical, stable, comfortable, and seaworthy vessel that would be capable of holding all the animals, people and provisions. Plus it would be able to withstand waves and rough seas—all the requirements stated in Scripture.

The designer of this Ark put on his biblical glasses, looking first at what God said and then adding what he knew from his studies. That sounds just like what we try to do!



Was the Ark Seaworthy?

MATERIALS

- Noah's Ark video clip (3:33) on the Resource DVD-ROM
- DVD Player and TV or computer

INSTRUCTIONS

We are going to watch a short video clip about the Ark. I think you'll find it very interesting and informative. These experts studied what Scripture says about the Ark and came up with a real working model of what the Ark would have looked like. One of these men is the expert that designed the version of the Ark we have on our Lesson Theme poster. *Play video clip.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Was Noah's Ark anything like the cute little toy arks that children play with? *No.*

That video clip helps us see that Noah's Ark was a massive ship. It was not a little cartoon boat with animals falling out the side. It was an enormous vessel designed to protect everything inside from a global catastrophe. Noah was a very wise, capable builder. He was able to follow God's directions to make a comfortable, watertight home that would withstand the wind and waves of the judgment to come. God's design was perfect.

When you see a silly play ark that looks like a bathtub, remember that an ark like that could never withstand the Flood of Noah's day. We need to have biblical glasses when we look at any event that is recorded in the Bible. The Bible contains truth that we can trust above the ideas of any human.



READ THE WORD

Let's look back in Genesis to see what God says about the animals that came to the Ark. Let's read Genesis 6:19–20. *Choose a volunteer to read verses.*

Genesis 6:19–20

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What does verse 19 say about the animals? *Every sort came by twos, one male and one female.*
- ? Remember that Genesis tells us that there were seven of some of the animals. Why did God instruct Noah to bring seven of some animals? Who remembers? We talked about it a couple weeks ago. *Some animals were clean. The clean animals would be used for sacrifices made to God so Noah needed seven of those. He only needed two each of the unclean animals.*
- ? Verse 19 tells us God brought male and female animals into the Ark. Why did God do that? Why was that important? *Allow for answers.*

God was providing everything necessary to ensure that the earth would once again be filled with animals. When the Flood was over, the animals would be able to leave the Ark and multiply. Every pair needed to have one male and one female.

When God says every sort of animal, it means representatives of all the animals that walked on the earth and breathed air had to go into the Ark to be saved.

- ? Well, what is a dinosaur? *An animal.*
- ? Who remembers when God created dinosaurs? *Day Six of creation.*
- ? That's right. And what does Genesis 6:19 tell us? Which animals did God send to the Ark? *Two of every sort of animal.*
- ? So, would that include dinosaurs, since they are animals? Did dinosaurs go into the Ark to be saved? *Yes!*

Dinosaurs were part of the land animals created on Day Six, about 6,000 years ago. And God's Word tells us that every sort of animal came onto the Ark.

We just put on our biblical glasses to determine that dinosaurs were on the Ark. We started with what the Bible said about creation not what man says about dinosaurs.

- ? Now observe what Genesis 6:20 says about the animals. What phrase does this verse keep repeating? *According to their/its kind.*
- ? Do you remember what the word "kind" means in the Bible? *Allow answers.*

Kinds are like an animal's family. Breeding is possible within kinds. That's one way we can tell if two different animals belong to an animal kind.

- ? Can two very different types of dogs breed together and have puppies—say a wolf and a beagle? *Yes. Because different dog breeds are still all part of the dog kind.*
- ? Can two very different types of horses breed together—say a large Clydesdale work horse and a dainty Shetland pony? *Yes. Because different horse breeds are still all part of the horse kind.*
- ? So when God said to bring the animals into the Ark according to their kind, he knew there would be enough room for them. *How? Allow answers.*

Because instead of two black bears, two cave bears, two polar bears, two giant pandas, and two grizzly bears, Noah would only need two animals from the bear kind. It would be the same with every kind: the cat kind, the elephant kind, the horse kind, and all the different kinds of animals—even the various dinosaur kinds. After the Flood, the males and females of each kind multiplied and great variety developed. God saw to it that the world was filled with animals once again after the Flood.

Discover the Truth

God thought of everything when it came to saving Noah and his family and when it came to saving the animals. The animals came in male and female pairs so they could multiply and fill the earth after the Flood. All the animal kinds were represented.—even the dinosaur kinds! The Ark was a safe place to stay for over a year. God was faithful to keep His promise.

Remember what we talked about a couple of weeks ago? Just like God provided only one way for the animals and Noah to be saved from the judgment of the Flood, God in His mercy provides only one way for us to be saved from the judgment we deserve. It's through Jesus. God promises to save us if we repent and trust Jesus Christ, God's only Son. He took our punishment when He died, so that everyone who believes in Him would be saved.





Two by Two

MATERIALS

- One set of Two by Two cards for each team of 3–4 students

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into teams of 3–4. Pass out one set of Two by Two cards, prepared earlier, to each team. Have the teams place the cards face down in front of them. When you give the signal to start, have each team work together to match the male/female kinds. Then, while keeping the pairs of kinds together, students must put the memory verse in order. The words to the memory verse are also on the cards. As soon as they have done that, the team should stand and immediately start saying the memory verse together. Wait until all teams have finished. Congratulate the class for completing the activity successfully.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God had Noah bring male and female pairs into the Ark so that the animals would be able to multiply after the Flood was over.

He saved these animals and only eight people when He brought the Flood on the world of the ungodly. You did a great job matching your male and female pairs. We know that the Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth, and He created animals according to their kinds (Genesis 1:24–25). We don't really know what the original kinds looked like. They would have been similar to the animals on your Two by Two cards, but not exactly the same.

All of the “families” we see today came from the “kinds” of animals that God brought to Noah's Ark before the Flood. And because there were just two of each kind of animal (and seven of some), they could all easily fit on the Ark.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

What does all this tell us? We've learned that a cute toy ark is nothing like the real Ark. We've talked about the size of the Ark; we know it was massive because of the dimensions given in Scripture. It was a seaworthy design and it was big enough to handle all the pairs of animals that God brought to the Ark. We know dinosaurs were on the Ark; we can be sure they were included because Noah brought all kinds of animals on the

Ark—and God created all kinds of animals on Day Six of Creation Week. So the dinosaurs were right there with all the others!

We talked about what a kind means in the Bible. And that God brought two of each *kind* of animal—male and female—onto the Ark. Why? So that after the Flood they could multiply and the earth could be full of animals again. We know all of this because it is in God’s Word. When we look to God’s Word to find answers we say that we are putting on our biblical glasses. The Bible tells us about what happened in the past. It is the history book of the universe—from beginning to end. *Refer to the Seven C’s Timeline—Creation to Consummation.*

Once again we were reminded of the faithfulness of God. God makes us promises throughout the entire Bible. He promised to save Noah and his family. He promised to save some of the animals. And He promised that there would never be another global Flood like the one Noah lived through. Again, the Bible is full of the promises of God and we can trust them because God does not lie!

GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

I want to stress something really important. Please listen carefully! Be careful not to let people fool you with ideas or statements that are contrary to God’s Word. You will hear people say, “There was never a global Flood.” “There was never an Ark.” “No Ark could ever hold all of those animals; it could not have been large enough.” Don’t believe those things. Believe that God’s Word is true. God’s Word is our starting point. The Word of God is perfect. Man’s word always has mistakes.



MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 2:5 [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 that His Word is true and can be trusted.
- Thank Him that He is always faithful to His promises.
- Thank Him for His promises to Noah, and His promise to us that if we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we will be saved.