



2

God Saves Noah

Key Themes

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

Key Passage

- Genesis 6:1–9:19

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify what was destroyed and preserved in the Flood.
- Describe the timing of events surrounding the Flood.
- Relate the salvation of the Ark to the salvation in Christ.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Write on the board, “How do fairy tales begin?” You will draw this out as a point of discussion later in the lesson.



Studying God’s Word

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The account of the Flood is no fairy tale, but a detailed record of how a holy God punished an ungodly world for its sinfulness. Noah and his family alone escaped God’s wrath as they obeyed God and boarded the Ark. The Ark is a picture of salvation in Christ—a refuge for everyone who will take shelter in Him.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Study the Prepare to Share section. | <input type="checkbox"/> Go Before the Throne. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print one Flood Timeline worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare to play audio for Genesis 6–9 from Biblegateway.com. |



Activity: Christ, Our Ark

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Students will compare the salvation found in the Ark to the salvation found in Christ.

- Print one Christ, Our Ark worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.



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, all that was on the dry land, died” (Genesis 7:22). “So He destroyed all living things . . . 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 150 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

Timeline of the Flood	Description	Bible Reference
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
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 more than 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 students 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.

► **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.



Review

In last week's lesson we talked about how Noah was called by God. We made several points of comparison with Noah and others.

- ? **Compared to the world around him, how would we describe Noah's character?** *Noah had faith in God while the rest of the world around him is described as being corrupt and filled with wickedness (Genesis 6:11). Noah's character is described as just and perfect (Genesis 6:9).*
- ? **Why was it necessary for God to judge the sin of the earth?** *God is holy and just and must judge sin. If He did not judge sin, He would not be just. If He did not hate sin, He would not be holy.*
- ? **Was Noah righteous because of his actions, or was there another source?** *Noah found grace*

in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8); his faith in God's power to save (Hebrews 11:7) through the work of the Messiah to come was the source of his righteousness. Noah responded to God's grace by obeying His commands.

When discussing the history in the Bible, avoid calling the events a "story." Stories are not always true, and what we have in the Bible is absolutely true. Use words like account, events, history, and record to emphasize that what is being described is true.

As we move forward in understanding the truths that are found in the account of the Flood, we will look at what the Flood destroyed, examine the timeline of the events of the Flood, and compare the salvation of the Ark to the salvation found in Christ.



➤ Write on the board, "How do fairy tales begin?"

➤ Have students mark Genesis 6:1; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5; and Hebrews 11:7 in their Bibles.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Rather than having you read today, we are going to listen to a reading of Genesis 6:1–9:19. This covers the entire account of the Flood from God's pronouncement of the coming judgment to all of the creatures disembarking the Ark. As we listen, you can follow along in your copy of the Scriptures and this timeline. *Pass out the Flood Timeline sheet.*

This timeline sheet shows the day-by-day timing of the Flood events as well as the biblical references for each event. Remember that we are listening to understand what perished and what survived, as well as to understand the timing of the events in the Flood. Make sure that you bring this sheet for the next several weeks, as we will be using it in the remaining lessons on the Flood.

Play the audio for Genesis 6–9 (approx. 15:00). You can find the audio online at www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/.

Genesis 6:1–9:19

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

Now that we have heard the entire account, let's think about what type of literature this passage represents. Many people suggest that what we just heard never actually happened—it is just a story about a man that can teach us some good moral lessons. It is viewed as a fairy tale, a myth, or, at best, an allegory.

- ? **How do fairy tales begin?** *Once upon a time in a land far away...*
- ? **How is this passage different from a fairy tale or myth?** *It starts with very specific details of Noah's age and the day of the month on which the Flood began (7:11). It also contains very specific details of the size of the Ark, what should be taken, and the specific days that significant events occurred.*

Fairy tales and legends generally do not have specific details and measurements. With all of the detail that is given in the biblical account of the Flood, we can certainly say that the author intended us to understand what he was recording as real events in history—a historical narrative. We will deal with some of the other challenges that skeptics bring against this account in the next few lessons.

- ? **What other elements of what we just heard point to the fact that this is an actual account of what happened?** *Discuss various points including the details of the construction, the promises of God, and others. Emphasize the order of events and the details from the timeline.*
- ? **Based on what we have read in the text, how long did the Flood last, from the perspective of Noah?** *371 days from the beginning of the Flood to the time they got off the Ark.*
- ? **According to the text, what perished or died in the Flood?** *Man, beast, creeping things, birds of the air, all flesh, all flesh in which is the breath of life, living things on the face of the earth. Genesis 6:7, 6:13, 6:17–21; 7:1–4, 7:13–16, 7:21–23.*
- ? **According to the text, what survived the Flood?** *Noah, his wife, his sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth), and the sons' wives, male and female of all flesh, birds, animals (beasts and cattle), creeping things that were on the Ark.*

Discover the Truth

- ? **Based on what we have read in the text, is it accurate to say that every animal that lived on land and breathed air that was not on the Ark died?** *This seems to be an accurate representation: anything living on the land (birds, beasts, cattle, animals, creeping things, and man) that breathed air (had the breath of life in their nostrils) perished in the Flood.*

1 Peter 3:20

2 Peter 2:5

Hebrews 11:7

- ? **Based on this description, did Noah need to prepare an aquarium on the Ark for the dolphins?** *No, since dolphins do not live on the land, they would not have been on the Ark. This will be covered in more detail in Lesson 4. No sea creatures would have been aboard the Ark as they would have been able to survive, to some degree, outside the Ark.*
- ? **What words did you notice in this passage that connect it back to the creation of the animals in Genesis 1?** *The idea of kinds of animals is present in both contexts: 6:20, 7:14.*
- ? **Who was saved on the Ark?** *Noah and his wife, Shem, Ham, Japheth, and their wives.*
- ? **How does 1 Peter 3:20 confirm the account in Genesis 6–9?** *It refers to eight souls being saved on the Ark.*
- ? **How does 2 Peter 2:5 relate to this?** *It also says Noah was one of eight people saved.*
- ? **How does Hebrews 11:7 relate to this?** *It says that the Ark was for Noah and his household.*

So it is clear from the text that every land-dwelling, air-breathing creature that was not on the Ark died in the Flood. This all happened within the year-long Flood event. Every person who was not aboard the Ark died in the Flood—all died but eight!

- ? **Looking at the timeline in light of the text, what interesting things stand out to you? What things surprise you? What things have you thought of in the wrong way in the past?** *Take time to explore the Seven C's Timeline and the supporting text as time allows, making sure you leave time to address the final part of the discussion on comparing Christ and the Ark.*





Christ, Our Ark

MATERIALS

- Christ, Our Ark worksheet for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

You may do this activity in small groups and then compare notes or with the entire class depending on how much time you have available.

Use the text of Genesis 6:1–9:19 to think about the similarities and differences between salvation on the Ark and salvation in Christ.

This activity is intended to help us draw a very important idea out of the text. As we study the Bible, we will find many things in the Old Testament accounts and characters that foreshadow what will be fulfilled in the New Testament—often in Christ Himself. This form of study is called typology.

Today, we are going to compare the salvation from the Flood found in the Ark with the salvation that is found in Christ. To get you started, let's fill in the first comparison and then you can look for others.

In Genesis 6:9 we read that Noah found grace in God's eyes and that he was saved on the Ark through that grace.

- ? How is that reflected in the salvation that is in Christ? What Bible passage supports this? *Every person who has received forgiveness of sins in*

Christ has received that forgiveness by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Think of more comparisons and record them in the table. As always, we want to make sure that we are building our thinking on Scripture. Try to identify references to support your comparisons.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We can certainly see that there are many ways in which salvation in Christ was seen in the account of the Ark. *For example: the Ark had one door and Jesus referred to Himself as the door that leads to salvation (John 10:9); all who were not in the Ark perished just as all who are not in Christ will perish (2 Thessalonians 1:6–9); the judgment of the Flood was decreed by God just as the final judgment of mankind is decreed by God (Acts 17:31); Noah preached righteousness and one way to be saved just as Christ preached righteousness and one way to be saved (John 14:6); God provided the plans for the Ark just as He provided the plan for salvation through Christ (1 Peter 1:17–21).*

Ultimately, it is the mercy of God that saved Noah and his family and the justice of God that brought judgment on the ungodly inhabitants of the earth. Because God is just and holy, He must judge sin. However, He also shows mercy and rewards those who follow Him.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today we have seen a big-picture view of all that is recorded about the Flood. We learned the general timeline of the events of the year-long event.

We saw that the level of detail of the account makes it clear that this is not some fairy tale that was made up to explain some unknown phenomena.

We know that everything that lived on the land and breathed air died unless it was aboard the Ark. Noah took representatives of the various animal kinds along with his wife and his sons and their wives. They were the only eight who survived, and that is confirmed in three references in the New Testament. It was the sinfulness of mankind that led to the judgment from a holy God. Noah's faith and obedience were rewarded as he obeyed God's commands.

We also learned that there are many ways that we can see the work of Christ foreshadowed in the events of the Flood.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Let's think about how we can put some of these truths to practical application. Remember that 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that as we examine Scripture we can trust it to explain doctrines, correct errors in our thinking, give us steps to correct wrong thinking, and help us put the teachings of Scripture into practice in our lives.

- ? **How would you use the text of this passage to respond to someone who thought this account was just a mythical story about a man and a boat?**
Showing the many details present in the text would be one strategy to use. Many people will not have read the actual account and the level of detail might be new to them. This doesn't mean they will be instantly convinced of the truth of Scripture, but using the Bible as an authoritative source is always a good plan.
- ? **Many people have a Noah's Ark theme for their nursery or children's play area. What is the real message of the Flood and is that really appropriate for a nursery?**
The overarching message is one of God's judgment on sin and His grace in providing a way of salvation. Most people don't consider this when they put up the "cute" animal decorations.
- ? **What can we learn about God's character by comparing the salvation of the Ark and the salvation in Christ?**
God is unchanging and His grace has always been the source of salvation. We must turn to Him to find salvation for our sins. Christ has provided that salvation on the Cross.

? How should we approach God knowing that He is holy and will judge mankind for its sinfulness? *We should approach Him with grateful hearts for the salvation He has offered and with reverence for His holy character.*

? We see Noah as an example of faith and obedience in the face of many unknowns. What unknowns are you facing in your life and how can you walk in obedience to God through that? What can you expect from God as you do that? *God will be faithful to His children. Our salvation is secure in Christ and we have no fear of God's wrath (1 John 4:17-19). As we walk in obedience to God, we can expect His blessing on our lives.*



Memory Verse Game

MATERIALS

None needed

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students sit in a circle. Choose one student to begin. Going around the circle, the first student says the first word of the verse, the second student says the second word, the third student the next word, etc. If a student misses a word,

he gets a point. The student(s) with the fewest points at the end are declared winners.

Variations:

- *Have students say the next two words (or three) rather than just one word.*
- *Call out "Reverse" to have the direction around the circle reverse.*
- *Call out "Skip" to skip one student.*



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.

- Praise God that although we have sinned against Him, He has shown mercy through the Cross.
- Thank God for extending His grace toward all mankind.
- Pray for understanding of how to use the Flood account to share the gospel with others.

