



Catastrophe: the Flood

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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

Children will color the Creation and Corruption coloring sheet. Children will play with plastic animals, animal cards, or animal pictures, trying to find matches of animals.



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: Learn a Song

page 8

Children will sing the Noah and the Ark song and the Seven C's of History song.



Activity 2: Noah and the Ark Coloring Sheet

page 10

Children will color the Noah and the Ark coloring sheet.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Creation and Corruption coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Creation and Corruption coloring sheet for each student
- Plastic animals, animal cards, or animal pictures
- Crayons



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Gather pictures of 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



LEARN A SONG

- Print one Noah and the Ark and the Seven C's of History song sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Noah and the Ark and the Seven C's of History song sheet for each student



NOAH AND THE ARK COLORING SHEET

- Print one Noah and the Ark coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Noah and the Ark coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons or colored pencils



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

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 confirms 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, go to 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 . . .

- They will sort through the collection of small plastic animals, pictures of animals, or animal cards on the table. Instruct them to find as many pairs of each animal as they can.
- They will color the Creation and Corruption coloring sheet.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to the activity.



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



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous 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 display 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.*

Have you ever spilled your milk at the dinner table? Or knocked your bowl of cereal off the table? Your mother or father might look at what happened and say, "What a catastrophe!" They mean, "Oh no, that was a terrible thing!" The catastrophe we are talking about today was much worse than just spilling your milk. In fact, it affected the whole world. It was a real disaster. Sometimes we hear about disasters that happen in other parts of the world.

- ? Can anyone think of something that might be considered a catastrophe or disaster in the world? *Earthquake, hurricane, tsunami, tornado, flood. If you have a class that needs lots of activity have them stand up and make noises like a tornado or hurricane. Show pictures of these disasters.*

These disasters or catastrophes look terrible—but these aren't anything like the catastrophe we will be talking about for the next few weeks.

- ? Have any of you ever been in one of these disasters? *Allow children 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.*

► 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. It's important that the account of Noah and the Flood does not become just another story for the children. They should 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."

- Always encourage the children to bring their Bibles and to look up the passage even if they are not yet reading. Help them find the passage and point to it while you are reading.

Genesis 6:5–9

- Do not answer for the children. If they do not answer correctly, re-read the Scriptures until someone gets the answer.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.

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, much worse. It was as if everyone in the whole world got hit by a hurricane, earthquake, flood, and tsunami all at the same time.

? **What was this catastrophe called?** *Noah's Flood/The Great Flood/The Genesis Flood. Use the Seven C's Timeline to indicate when this Catastrophe occurred in history.*

That's right! But God protected one man and his family during this catastrophe.

Let's read about it right now in God's holy Word. Open your Bibles to Genesis 6. Listen to what the Bible says about Noah.

As I read this account from the Bible, listen for these things: Who is speaking? What is He going to do? Who is going to be safe? Why will that person be protected? I am going to read verses 5 through 9. *Read Genesis 6:5–9 from your Bible. Give special emphasis to the portion of Scripture that will answer the questions below so the children will take note.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Let's see who was listening. *Re-read the verses as you ask these questions, if necessary. Encourage the children to answer on their own.*

? **What did we learn from God's Word? Who was speaking in these verses?** *The Lord. Genesis 6:7.*

? **What was the Lord going to do?** *Destroy man and animals; bring a judgment on the world. Genesis 6:7.*

? **Why was the Lord going to destroy all the people and animals?** *Because everyone was wicked. Genesis 6:5.*

? **One person was going to be safe from the Flood. Who was that?** *Noah. Genesis 6:8.*

? **Why was he going to be safe? It is in Genesis 6:8. Can you find the answer?** *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

? **Do you know what that means?** *Allow for answers.*

It means that Noah believed in God, obeyed Him, and wanted to please Him. Because of that, God showed him grace during the Flood. The Bible says that Noah was righteous. *Write on the board: "Noah was righteous—he believed God; obeyed God; wanted to please God."*

Discover the Truth

The Bible teaches us that at the time Noah lived almost all the people on the earth had become wicked and evil. *Read Genesis 6:5 again, which describes the extent of man's disobedience.*

? Do you know what I mean when I say that men were evil? *Sinful, bad, disobedient.*

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

We all do things that God does not want us to do, and that is called sin. Sin is when we disobey God—sin does not honor God.

Everyone sins. The Bible says we are all sinners. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Sin is disobeying God’s commands.

Look here at our Ten Commandments poster. This gives us a summary of God’s commands to us. *Refer to Ten Commandments poster.*

? Who can read some of these to me? *Have children read a couple commandments quickly.*

? What are some things that children might do that are sin? *Try to get the children to name some things that are sin: disobeying, stealing, hitting someone, being mean. Try to get them to be specific—take a toy, hit my brother, don’t clean my room, etc.*

? That’s right. And the Bible says all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Who knows what *all* means? *It means everybody. You, me, your mommy and daddy, the pastor—everybody.*

Because of sin (or wickedness), everyone deserves to be judged or punished by God. The world in Noah’s time was wicked, evil, corrupt, and violent. God had to punish them.

? How did God punish them? Who remembers? *The Flood. The big Catastrophe.*

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

We all sin. We all deserve God’s judgment because God is holy and hates our sin. God is just. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster.*

But just like God was merciful to Noah and provided him a way to be saved from the Flood, He is also merciful to us; and He provides a way for us to be saved.

? Who knows what God has provided for us? *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, ask Him to forgive us for all our sins, and turn away from our sins, we can be saved from God’s judgment.



Romans 3:23

JUST

MERCIFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster)



Learn a Song

MATERIALS

- Noah and the Ark and the Seven C's of History song sheet for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

Time to stand up and stretch! We are going to sing! *Pass out the song sheets.*

Noah and the Ark

(to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down")

You can have the children line up in two rows, make a bridge, and take turns running through the "bridge" while learning/singing the song.

The sins of man grew in God's sight;
they loved sin more than God.
Because they loved sin more than God,
God would judge them.

Noah was a righteous man;
he loved God, obeyed His plan.
He built the Ark just like God said;
God showed mercy.

God brought the animals two by two;
they marched on board, dinosaurs too!
God shut the door, the rains began;
Noah's Flood.

Just like the Ark in ancient days,
God's Word says, Jesus saves!
Perfect salvation from the grave—
Christ our Redeemer.

The Seven C's of History

(to the tune of "This Old Man")

Creation, God made it all.
Corruption, sin made man fall.
There's Catastrophe, a worldwide Flood;
Dinosaurs buried in the mud!

Men disobeyed, Confusion came.
The way they talked no longer the same.
It's the Seven C's of History—
in God's Word the truth we see.

Next is Christ; He came to give
His life on the Cross that we might live.
Consummation is our final C,
The final C of history.

We'll look to the clouds and see Jesus come;
God is forever the Victorious One!
It's the Seven C's of History—
in God's Word the truth we see.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

After singing the songs, go back through and explain what the songs mean.

Every word of God is true. These songs will help us remember the Seven C's of History and the judgment that came to the world in Noah's day because of sin. God does not like our sin, but Jesus died on the cross so that we might live—just like our song says.



READ THE WORD

2 Peter 2:5

Our memory verse is from 2 Peter. Open your Bibles to 2 Peter.

- ? **Who can find that on our Books of the Bible poster?** *Have someone find 2 Peter. Write out 2 Peter 2:5 on the board. Circle the phrases or words as you are explaining each one to the children. Or use the Memory Verse poster and point out the sections you are discussing.*

Let's all read the verse together. After we read it, I'm going to ask some questions about what it says. *Read the verse from the Memory Verse poster.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who do you think wrote this book? *The Apostle Peter.*
- ? Is this book in the New Testament or Old Testament? Look again at the Books of the Bible poster or look in your own Bible. *New Testament.*
- ? Who was saved in the Flood? *Noah. Refer to the Memory Verse poster.*
- ? How many people were saved altogether? *Eight.*
- ? What were they saved from? *The Flood.*

Very good. Now let's learn a little more about this verse. This verse comes from 2 Peter like we said. And it was written by Peter long after Noah lived—it was about 2,400 years later. The Apostle Peter knew Jesus. He lived at the same time as Jesus and learned from Him. *Refer to the Seven C's timeline.*

This verse talks about Noah and the Flood. Peter believed that the Flood was real.

Our verse actually repeats a lot of what we have just learned. It says, “God did not spare the ancient world.” *Circle these words on the board or point to them on the Memory Verse poster.*

This means that God was not going to save (spare) the world in Noah's day (the ancient world); He was going to destroy it. *Add these definitions above the words spare (save) and the ancient world (the world of Noah's day).*

Then the verse mentions “Noah, one of eight people.” *Circle these words on the board or point to them on the Memory Verse poster.*

- ? How many people were spared or saved? *Eight.*
- ? Who do you think the eight people were? *Noah and his family.*

That's right. It was his family—his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives. And we are going to learn about them next week. But don't forget it. There were eight people saved from the Flood.

Now let's move on in the verse. It says next that Noah was a “preacher of righteousness.” *Circle these words on the board or point to them on the Memory Verse poster.*

- ? Why did God call Noah righteous? Do you remember? *Allow for answers.*

We learned earlier what righteousness means. To believe God, want to please God, and obey God. *Refer to the notes you wrote on the board earlier.*

Great! We are almost finished! Right here it says, “Bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.” *Circle these words on the board or point to them on the Memory Verse poster.*

? So who do you think Peter was talking about here? Who are the ungodly?
The wicked—the people who lived during Noah’s day.

Now let’s learn our verse! *Have the children stand and 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 their assigned phrase. Have contests like which group can say it the loudest, the softest, the fastest, the slowest, etc.*

Discover the Truth

We will have three more weeks to learn this verse. This verse comes from a letter the Apostle Peter wrote a long time after Noah’s Flood. Yet it tells us about the Flood. Peter believed that the Flood was real, and so should we. The Bible is the history book of the universe—it is God’s history—and every word about the Flood is true.



Noah and the Ark Coloring Sheet

MATERIALS

- Noah and the Ark coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons or colored pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the Noah and the Ark coloring sheets. While the children are coloring, review what has been discussed today. Refer to the Seven C’s Timeline and review the

history and timing of the first three C’s—Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

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. Look at our Lesson Theme poster. We see here an Ark. God saved Noah from the terrible judgment of the worldwide Flood through the Ark. God was judging the sin of the world.

God hates all sin and must judge sin because He is holy (that is one of God's attributes). God showed mercy (another important attribute of God) to Noah by providing him and his family safety in the Ark from the Flood. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster.*

Noah was saved because he had faith in God, trusted Him, and wanted to obey Him—he was righteous. God provided Noah safety in the Ark. And God provides safety in Jesus Christ to all who will believe in Him, trust Him, repent of their sins, and follow Him. *Refer to the Cross on the Lesson Theme poster.*

➤ Use the Lesson Theme poster as a visual to remind the children of the lesson.

HOLY

(Refer to Attributes 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 you know that God's Word is all true and you can believe all of it. When people tell you they don't believe you when you talk about God and the Bible, you can tell them that God is our Creator—and He would never lie.



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



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 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.

