



2

God Saves Noah

Key Themes

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

Key Passages

- Genesis 6:20, 7:1–3, 7:6–12, 7:16, 7:21–23, 8:1, 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

Children will color the God Remembered Noah coloring sheet.
Children will play with plastic animals, animal cards, or animal pictures, trying to find matches.



Studying God's Word

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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: Inside the Ark

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Children will pretend they are members of Noah's family on the Ark. They will act out various tasks that might have been done during the voyage on the Ark.



Activity 2: Flood Events

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Children will number several events in the proper order according to when they occurred during the Flood account.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one God Remembered Noah coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Animal cards, plastic animals, or animal pictures
- ☐ God Remembered Noah coloring sheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons



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.
- ☐ Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ "Flood Initiation" video clip from the Resource DVD-ROM
- ☐ TV and DVD player or computer
- ☐ Lesson Board Work outline



INSIDE THE ARK

- ☐ Print and cut out the eight people cards and the chore cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Gather some props if desired: rags, animal straw, broom, kitchen spoon or pan, tools, etc.

- ☐ People cards
- ☐ Chore cards
- ☐ Two jars, bags, or containers—one for the people cards and one for the chore cards
- ☐ Props to act out various chores (optional)



FLOOD EVENTS

- ☐ Print one Flood Events activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Flood Events activity sheet for each student
- ☐ Flood Events answer key



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 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 water began 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
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

Timeline of the Flood	Description	Bible reference
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 . . .

- They will sort through the collection of small plastic animals, pictures of animals, or animal cards on the table. Instruct the children to find as many pairs of each animal as they can.
- Color the God Remembered Noah coloring sheet.



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.

The memory verse we started working on mentioned Noah.

- ? **Who remembers what our memory verse is?** *2 Peter 2:5. Refer to the Memory Verse poster.*
- ? **Is 2 Peter found in the Old Testament or the New Testament?** *It's OK to look at our Books of the Bible poster. New Testament.*
- ? **Someone tell me what book comes before 2 Peter and what book comes after 2 Peter.** *1 Peter is before the book and 1 John is right after.*

2 Peter was written by the Apostle Peter. Peter lived at the same time as Jesus and they were very good friends. The verse talks about Noah but was written a long, long time after Noah lived. *Point to the Seven C's Timeline and indicate how much time passed between the Flood and the time of Jesus.*

The book of Genesis was actually written over 1,400 years before 2 Peter—yet both books talk about Noah and the Flood.

Let's see if we can say the verse together. 2 Peter 2:5. *Refer to the Memory Verse poster. Have the children take turns saying the verse or saying a part of the verse. You may want to review the section from last week's lesson that teaches what this verse means.*





Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

We are going to read from Genesis again today.

? Where is Genesis found in the Bible? *The Old Testament, the first book of the Bible.*

Genesis 7:6–12

Turn to Genesis 7:6–12. I am going to read it. As I read, I want you to listen very carefully. We are going to answer some questions when I am finished.

Read Genesis 7:6–12 from your Bible after the children have found the verses in their Bibles.

EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. How well were you listening? I have some questions for you.

Observe the Text

? Who went on the Ark with Noah? *Noah's wife, his three sons, and his sons' wives. Genesis 7:7.*

? How many people were on the Ark? Look at our memory verse for a clue. *Eight—Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives. Write on the board, "Noah; Noah's wife; Noah's sons and their wives—Ham & Mrs. Ham, Shem & Mrs. Shem, Japheth and Mrs. Japheth." After you write their names, have the children say the names and count with you how many people there were.*

? How old was Noah when the Ark was finally finished and the Flood began? *600 years old. Genesis 7:6, 7:11.*

Very good. Now let's read verses 1–3. *Read Genesis 7:1–3 or have someone in the class read it.*

Genesis 7:1–3

? Why did God provide a way for Noah and his family to survive the Flood? It's in verse 1. *Because God saw that Noah was righteous—Noah had faith in God and obeyed Him.*

That's right. God was merciful to Noah for his faith and obedience.

? What about the animals? What do verses 2 and 3 say? How many of each kind of animal did Noah take on the Ark with him? *Noah was to take two of every kind of unclean land animal and seven of every kind of clean land animal, including birds.*

Do you think Noah had to go around and try to find all the animals? Let's read Genesis 6:20. *Have the children find this verse and read it.*

Genesis 6:20

? Who brought the animals to Noah? *God brought the animals to Noah.*

Right. God brought the animals to Noah! Noah just helped them into the Ark. Remember—there were two of most animals and seven of some. Noah needed seven of some—he used them for work and for sacrifice to God after the Flood.

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

- ? There were birds with Noah, too! Why would Noah need to take birds if they could fly? *Allow for answers. The Flood covered the whole world and the birds would have no place to land, nowhere to live, and nothing to eat.*
- ? So what about whales? Did whales need to go into the Ark? *Allow for answers. No, because they could survive outside the Ark. They live in the water.*
- ? What are some other animals that could have survived the Flood? *Dolphins, fish, stingrays, clams, lobsters, etc.*

Remember—Noah was a preacher of righteousness. It is very likely he was telling people about the Flood that was coming. He was probably begging them to repent, to trust God’s words, and be ready to get on the Ark when the rain started. But they wouldn’t listen.

- ? Why didn’t anyone else go on the Ark with Noah and his family? *They would not believe what Noah preached—that God would destroy them for their wickedness.*

When the rain started and Noah and his family boarded the Ark, who do you think shut the door? Listen carefully while I read Genesis 7:16—you are going to hear the answer. *Read Genesis 7:16 or have one of the children read it.*

Genesis 7:16

- ? So who shut the door? *The Lord.*

The Bible says that God shut the door to the Ark. God’s judgment had begun. Where were Noah and his family when God shut the door? *Inside the Ark.*

- ? Where were the rest of the people and animals? *Outside the Ark.*

And it was too late for anyone else to come into the Ark. After the door was shut, the waters shot up from under the ground and the rain started pouring down from the sky. The Ark was the only safe place on the earth.

Noah and his family were probably very sad when God shut that door. Just think, they had lots of other family and friends who refused to come on the Ark. So even though they were grateful to God for providing the Ark, it was also hard knowing that all their loved ones were going to die.

We are going to watch this video about the Flood. *Show the video clip “Flood Initiation” from the Resource DVD-ROM.*

► Show video clip, “Flood Initiation.”

- ? So, what do you think about that Flood? *Give the children a chance to discuss their reactions if they have any. This film is very dramatic and depicts the Flood quite realistically.*

This was really a catastrophe. God’s judgment covered the whole earth. I want you to hear what God’s Word says about this catastrophe. I’m going to read Genesis 7:21–23. *Read the passage.*

Genesis 7:21–23

- ? What happened to everything on the earth? *Every person and every animal on the earth not in the Ark was destroyed in the Flood.*

The water covered everything! But Noah and his family were safe inside the Ark.

HOLY JUST MERCIFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster).

God's judgment had come. God had waited a long time. Remember—it took Noah around 75 years to build the Ark. God rewarded Noah because Noah had faith in God and was obedient to Him. But the other people would not listen; they kept on sinning, and they were not saved.

God must punish sin because He is holy and just. He hates all sin—even ours. But He provides a way for us to be saved, too! He 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 of their sins would be saved from God's judgment.

This account of Noah teaches us some very important things about God. He is holy—He hates our sin. He is just—He must punish sin. He is merciful—He shows kindness to us in our misery (in our sinfulness), and He withholds the punishment we deserve. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster as you review the meaning of these attributes of God.*

Genesis 8:1

? Do you think this verse means that God had forgotten Noah? God got so busy with the Flood that for a minute He forgot all about Noah? And then He said, "Oh no! Where are Noah and the Ark?" *Of course not!*

When the Bible says that "God remembered Noah" it means that He was taking care of Noah. God was keeping His promise to protect him. The world was being judged, and all the people and animals left on the land were dying. But Noah, his family, and the animals on the Ark were saved from God's judgment.

Discover the Truth

God is merciful. He provided a way for the people to be saved through Noah and the Ark. But everyone except Noah's family loved their sin more than God and would not join Noah. God saved Noah because of his faith in God and his obedience to do all that God told him. God could not let the sin of the people continue. Sin makes God very sad, and He must punish wickedness because He is holy. He destroyed every living thing on the earth except the people and the animals in the Ark.





Inside the Ark

MATERIALS

- ☐ People cards
- ☐ Chore cards
- ☐ Two jars, bags, or containers—one for the people cards and one for the chore cards
- ☐ Props to act out various chores (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Put the people cards and chore cards printed from the Resource DVD-ROM in separate stacks or containers. Have the children pick one of the names and one of the chores. They will take turns and act out the chore to see if the other children can guess who it is and what they are doing! Chores include praying, cooking dinner, feeding the animals, cleaning up after the animals, collecting water, comforting a scared animal, checking the food supply, checking for leaks, wiping up water that blows in, etc. If desired, you could bring props for each task: broom, rags, kitchen utensils, animal food, etc. Refer to the list on the board of the people on the Ark.

What do you think Noah and his family may have been doing on the Ark? *Let the children say what they think might have been going on. There is no specific Scripture that tells what went on, but*

we can assume there were jobs that needed to be done since they were on the Ark for over a year!

I want you to act out some of the jobs Noah and his family may have been doing. And we are going to guess who you are and what it is you are doing. OK? *Call on children to pick one of each card and do the best they can at acting out the part.*

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 Mrs. Noah, Shem and Mrs. Shem, Ham and Mrs. Ham, and Japheth and Mrs. Japheth were saved. God used the Ark to save Noah and his family from the Flood because Noah believed in God and obeyed Him.



READ THE WORD

Can you imagine being on the Ark for more than a year? I want you to turn in your Bibles to Genesis 8. Listen carefully as I read this. *Read Genesis 8:6–12*

Genesis 8:6–12

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Re-read the verses to help the children determine the answers for themselves.

- ? **Who opened the window?** *Noah. Genesis 8:6.*
- ? **What animals did Noah release out the window?** *Raven and dove. Genesis 8:7–8.*
- Noah sent out a raven, and it did not return. The raven must have found food to eat. Then Noah sent out a dove.
- ? **Did it come back?** *Yes, the earth was still flooded. Genesis 8:9.*

- ? Seven days later he sent the dove out again. What did it bring back? *It came back with a green olive leaf. Genesis 8:11.*
- ? Noah then knew that the water was starting to go down. Seven days later he sent out the dove again. Did it return this time? *No. Genesis 8:12.*
- He knew it would soon be safe to leave the Ark since the dove had found a place to land.
- ? How many times did he send out the raven? *Once.*
- ? How many times did he send the dove out? *Three times.*

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. They lived 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.



Flood Events

MATERIALS

- ☐ Flood Events activity sheet for each student
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Flood Events answer key

INSTRUCTIONS

God gave us a lot of details about the worldwide Flood. This sheet tells us about things that happened during the Flood. But it is not in order! Take a look at the pictures and let's put them in the proper order. Who can tell me which picture happened first? Put a 1 in the little circle next to that picture. *Continue until all pictures are put in order. You can talk through each event or let the children complete this on their own.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God is very specific about letting us know all the details of the Flood. He wants 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 one year. He knew it was safe to get off. 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. We have seen that Noah and his family—only eight people—were saved from the Flood. There were also two of each kind of animal (and seven of some) saved when God brought them to the Ark before closing the door.

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

God must judge sin because He is holy, just, and merciful. That is why He had to destroy the world with the Flood. But God shows us through Noah 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 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 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.

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