



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

Children will color the Ark and Animals coloring sheet.
Children will play with Ark toys.



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: Comparing Arks

page 8

Children will tell the class why cartoon pictures of the ark couldn't be the real Ark.



Activity 2: Animal Kinds

page 11

Children will match animal pictures and discuss that they are the same kind.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Ark and Animals coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Gather several different Ark toys together.

- Ark and Animals coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Ark toys



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Illustration pages from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Dinosaur Kinds sheet or pictures of dinosaurs from dinosaur books
- Dog Kinds sheet or pictures of various dogs
- Bathtub Ark picture



COMPARING ARKS

- Bring your own collection of Noah's Ark toys or pictures. You can find unrealistic cartoon ark pictures from various sources: books, children's Bibles, online, etc.
- Be sure you have enough toys or pictures so each student can have one.

- Toys or pictures of cartoon arks (anything you can find with the unrealistic, cartoon, bathtub ark depicted)



ANIMAL KINDS

- Print and cut out one set of the Animal Kinds pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Place each set of pictures in a small plastic bag or envelope.

- Animal Kinds pictures for each student in a plastic bag or envelope



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, go to 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 . . .

- Color the Ark and Animals coloring sheet.
- Play with the Ark toys that you have provided for today's lesson.



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



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.

Let's review our memory verse again. 2 Peter 2:5. *Take some time here and play a memory verse game, or have the children who know the verse say it for the class.*

- ? **So why did God bring the Flood?** *Because the people were wicked, sinning, and ungodly.*
- ? **Why were Noah and his family saved?** *They were righteous in God's eyes.*
- ? **What does it mean that Noah was righteous?** *Noah believed in God, wanted to please or honor God, and obeyed God.*

That is really great! Let's say the verse again. God is pleased when we study and remember His Word. It is important to hide God's Word in our hearts.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Let's take our Bibles and go to Genesis again. We are getting pretty familiar with Genesis, aren't we?

The book of Genesis is real history telling us what happened in the past.

Today we are going to look at Genesis 6:14–16. Turn there in your Bibles and listen carefully while I read. When I'm finished reading, I will want you to tell me how big the Ark was, what it was made of, and how many stories it had. *Before reading the passage, be sure all the children have found it in their Bibles. Have children help each other. Walk around the class ensuring they have the place. Read the passage, giving special emphasis to the answers to these questions.*

Genesis 6:14–16

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Do not answer for the children. If they do not answer correctly, re-read the Scriptures until someone gets the answer.

Cubit:
ancient form of
measurement—
about 20 inches

? What was the Ark made of? *Gopherwood. Genesis 6:14.*

No one is quite sure today what kind of wood this is, but do you think Noah knew? It was probably a kind of tree that was very common around where Noah lived, because he would need lots of it.

? How long was the Ark? How high? How wide? *300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. Genesis 6:15.*

? Does anyone know what a cubit is? *Allow children to guess or answer.*

A cubit is the distance from the elbow of a person to the tips of his fingers. This is different for everyone, isn't it? *You might want to measure a few arms including your own, or have the children compare their "cubits" with others in the class.*

In Noah's day, the cubit 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.

That is hard to imagine, isn't it? 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.*

? How many animals could you fit on just one school bus? *Lots!*

Now imagine that you have 480 buses all in a row. That would be a lot of animals. The Ark was so big it could have carried 125,000 sheep on it! Of course, Noah didn't need all of those sheep. But the Ark was a huge ship.

I'm going to read Genesis 6:16 again. Find it in your Bible and listen carefully. Tell me what you hear. *Read this one verse very slowly, emphasizing the words "door," "window," and "decks."*

? What things were included as part of the Ark? *A door, window, and three decks.*

? Do you think the door on the Ark looked like our door here and this window? *Point out the door and a window in your room.*

Could you imagine an elephant coming in this door? Even a baby elephant wouldn't fit. I'm pretty sure the door on the Ark was bigger than any door I have ever seen!

And I don't see any windows like this on this Ark. *Point to the window in the room and show them the picture again.*

No, this was a very special Ark, made for a very special purpose. God knew exactly what Noah needed because God knew exactly what was going to happen. When we talk about God knowing everything—we say that God is omniscient.

Genesis 6:16

Say that with me. *Have the children repeat the word a few times. Omniscient.*

Omniscience is an attribute of God. *Point to the Attributes of God poster. Give the children a minute to find the word.*

? Who can tell me what omniscient means? *Allow the children to read the definition from the poster.*

Let's read this together. Omniscient means that God knows everything—past, present, and future. *This might be a good time to talk briefly about what this and some of the other attributes tell us about God, particularly the attributes you have already seen throughout your lessons.*

OMNISCIENT
(Refer to Attributes poster)

Discover the Truth

Very good! So far we have learned that God provided instructions for Noah to build the Ark, and that it would be plenty big for all the animals, for Noah, and for his family. God is omniscient—He knows everything! He knew exactly what Noah would need to survive the Flood.

And one more thing. Everything we read about Noah, the Ark, the rainbow, the Flood—it all points to one very important truth about God. He was faithful to His promise that He would save Noah and his family.

God makes us a very important promise, too. He promises to save us from the punishment we deserve because of our sin if we repent (are sorry for our sin and turn from it) and trust Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son, who died so that everyone who would believe in Him would be saved.

? Now, do you think this is a picture of the real Noah's Ark? *Hold up the Bathtub Ark picture. No.*

? Do you think this is a picture of the real Ark Noah built? *Hold up the Lesson Theme poster of the more realistic Noah's Ark. Kids will say yes, but you need to explain that no one has an actual picture of the Ark.*

I think this is more like the real Ark. But we don't know for sure what the Ark looked like. Noah didn't have a camera! We do know what the Bible tells us and we know the Bible account of the Ark is true. The Bible tells us how big it was, so we know that this is the right size. And the Bible tells us it had a door and a window. We know the Flood was a terrible catastrophe and that the Ark had to be strong and seaworthy. We know for sure that this little play ark would never survive a Flood like the one we read about in the Bible. This little ark would tip over in a minute. And the animals? They would soon be swimming if this were the ark. *Show the Bathtub Ark picture or hold up one of the bathtub ark toys.*

This Ark model was put together by people who study ships and know a lot about them. *Show the Lesson Theme poster of the Ark or another picture of the Ark as depicted on the Lesson Theme poster.*

These people read God's Word and thought about Noah, all the animals, the Flood, the wind, the rain, and all the details of the Flood, and they came up with this model using ancient building techniques and ship design.

They put on their biblical glasses, looking first at what God said and then adding what they knew from their studies. This is an important thing to do when we are trying to figure things out or answer questions. We need to start with God's Word. What God says in His Word is more important than what anyone else says or thinks.



Comparing Arks

Now let's see whether you have been listening!

MATERIALS

- Toys or pictures of cartoon arks (anything you can find with the unrealistic, cartoon, bathtub ark depicted)

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass a picture or toy to each child. Have children explain for the class how the ark they have could not be the Ark that survived the global Flood. Answers should be similar to these: too small, too easy to tip over, too many windows, no big door, too crowded, animals would fall out. Help the children come up with these answers. You can make a list on the board as the children determine why these arks would never withstand the Flood.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God gave Noah almost 75 years to build the Ark. All this time was needed because of how large the Ark was. It was not a little cartoon boat with animals falling out the side. It was a massive vessel designed to protect everything inside from a global catastrophe. The Flood was not a fun event. It was a terrible time of God's judgment on the whole world because of sin.

When you see a silly play ark that looks like a bathtub, remember that an ark like this could never withstand the Flood of Noah's day. And remember that this ark is not what the Bible tells us the Ark looked like. We need to have biblical glasses when we look at arks like this, and start from God's Word.



READ THE WORD

Genesis 6:19–20

We still have more to explore here. Let's look back in Genesis to see what God says about the animals that came to the Ark. Listen carefully as I read Genesis 6:19–20. *Again, help the children find the passage. Read Genesis 6:19–20, emphasizing two of every sort, male and female, after their kind. You may want to write these verses on the board to refer to as you study them.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What was special about the animals that came to the Ark? How many came? *Two each, one male and one female. You might mention that Genesis 7:2–3 tells us that there were seven of the birds and clean animals on the Ark. Genesis 6:19.*

This verse tells us that two of every sort of animal came into the Ark. They were male and female (boys and girls).

- ? Why is this information so important? *Allow kids to consider this.*

Well, this tells us that God was providing everything necessary to ensure that the earth would once again be filled with animals. When the Flood was over, they would be able to leave the Ark and start their families.

- ? Now what do you think it means when God says every sort of animal? *It means every sort of animal, just like it says!*

So representatives of all the animals that walked on the earth and breathed air had to go into the Ark to be safe.

- ? What is a dinosaur? *Allow children to answer. A land-dwelling, air-breathing animal! Use the Dinosaur Kinds sheet while discussing this section. Bring in some picture books about dinosaurs to generate more interest.*

That's right!

- ? Who remembers when God created dinosaurs? *Day Six of creation.*

- ? How long ago was that? *About 6,000 years ago. Refer to the Seven C's Timeline to remind them when God created—it wasn't millions of years ago!*

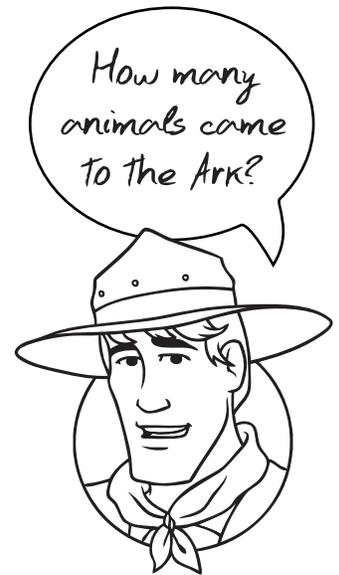
Very good! Dinosaurs were part of the land animals created on Day Six. God's Word tells us that every sort of animal came onto the Ark.

- ? So were dinosaurs on the Ark? *Yes! Dinosaurs had to be on the Ark.*

We know there were dinosaurs on the earth at the time of Noah (they were created on Day Six), and God protected them on the Ark like all the other air-breathing animals! They are not millions of years old. They are just as old as all the other animals, created by God on Day Six about 6,000 years ago. But there is one more thing that is really important here in our verse.

Remember, our verse says there were birds after their kind, animals after their kind, and every creeping thing after its kind.

- ? Let's think about what the word *kind* means in the Bible. Let's just think about dogs. We know that God created the dog kind. Every sort of dog we can imagine is in the dog "family." They don't always look alike, do they? *No.*



? What kinds of dogs do you have or have you seen? What do they look like? Allow for answers. Write down some of the various kinds of dogs the children mention. Be sure to include non-domesticated dogs like the wolf, dingo, coyote, fox, etc. Show the Dog Kinds sheet.

Wow! There are a lot of different types of dogs. But you know what? We know they are all dogs. And dogs will always be dogs.

Remember, there were two dogs from the dog kind, male and female, on the Ark. God did it this way so those two dogs could start families—when they got off the Ark—and the world would one day have lots and lots of dogs with lots and lots of differences! Point to the board where you have written the varieties of dogs the children discussed earlier. Also refer to the Dog Kinds sheet.

And God didn't just do this with the dog kind. He did it with the cat kind, the elephant kind, the horse kind, and all the different kinds of animals—even the various dinosaur kinds. God saw to it that the world was filled with animals once again after the Flood.

Discover the Truth

Use the lesson visuals as you review—Lesson Theme poster, Dinosaur Kinds sheet, Dog Kinds sheet.

What does all this tell us? Well, this is all very important stuff. 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 animals God brought to the Ark.

We have talked about dinosaurs being on the Ark; we know they were there 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 all the different kinds of animals, and that God brought two of each kind of animal—male and female—so after the Flood they could start their families and the earth could be full of animals again. All of this we know because it is in God's Word. Don't believe everything you hear about these things from books or TV. Remember, we can't believe what men say over what God's Word says.





Animal Kinds

MATERIALS

- Animal Kinds pictures for each student in a plastic bag or envelope

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the bags with pictures of animals from various kinds to each student. Students will sort the animal pictures into groups of similar kinds.

You are going to divide your animals into “kind” categories. You’ll have to decide which animals are part of the same kind.

When I say “Go,” put the pictures into piles of like kinds. Raise your hand when you think you have your pictures separated correctly into kind categories. Ready? Go!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

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 still see those same kinds of animals today! There are a lot of animal kinds or families. Within each family of animal, like dogs, there are a lot of varieties. God made each family (kind) of animal totally different from any other family. 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.

We know this is true because God’s Word tells us it is true. We have seen it in the book of Genesis. God created the different animals, including dinosaurs, according to their kinds, and He created them only 6,000 years ago—just like the Bible says.



Applying God’s Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This has been another exciting journey in God’s Word. We have learned so much today and talked about so many different things. Let me try to sum it up for you. First of all we saw the importance of wearing biblical glasses—using the Bible first to get answers to all of our questions. Whenever we talk about the size of the Ark, and dinosaurs, and animal kinds, let’s try to remember that God’s Word is true and that what we hear on TV or read in books may not be true. There really was a global Flood; there really was a huge Ark (not a silly play ark that would never survive the Flood); there really were dinosaurs on that Ark; the animals that were on the Ark really did start their “families” and fill the earth with animals again when the Flood was over; God really did create the dinosaur kinds and all kinds of other land animals on Day Six of the Creation Week.

Once again we are reminded of the faithfulness of God. God makes 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. 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 children to practice the memory verse this week.

Children, please don't let people fool you when they say things 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." "There is no way dinosaurs could ever be on the Ark." "We know that dinosaurs died out millions of years ago and never lived with man." "God didn't create animals, they all evolved from slime." We don't believe those things. We believe that God's Word is true. And we know the answers. They are in the book of Genesis. God's Word is always our starting point.



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.