



4

How Large Was the Ark?

Key Themes

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

Key Passages

- Genesis 6:14–15, 6:19–20

Lesson Focus

- God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Children will play with a variety of toy animals and blocks, and will look at pictures of animals that were on the Ark.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear that the Ark was as big as the Bible says it was. God's instructions for the Ark were exactly what Noah needed to survive the Flood. God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink, and he did. The little silly cute arks we sometimes see would never have lasted in the big Flood. They would have sunk!

Song—Children move, clap, or march around the room while singing the song, "Noah and the Ark."



Activity 1: Noah's Ark Connect the Dots

Children will connect the dots to form Noah's Ark and color the picture.



Activity 2: Animal Parade

Children will march around the room acting out different animals that Noah brought on the Ark.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Measuring tape
- Paper bag



COME ON IN

- Arrange toy blocks in the shape of the real Ark, before children arrive. Line up a variety of toy animals marching toward the Ark.
- Set out pictures of a variety of animals that were on the Ark, for children to see and talk about.

- Toy blocks
- Toy animals
- Pictures of animals



CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Bring a measuring tape in a paper bag.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal
- Flip Chart
- Measuring tape inside a paper bag



NOAH'S ARK CONNECT THE DOTS

- Print one copy of the Noah's Ark Connect the Dots coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Noah's Ark Connect the Dots coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



ANIMAL PARADE

- Children will march around the room acting out the animals that were on the Ark.

- Creativity and energy as you lead the children in a fun parade around the room acting like different animals
- List of animals that children can act out



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



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 children arrive . . .

- They will play with animals and blocks and look at animal pictures. Set out blocks on a table in the shape of the Ark. Make it as large as possible. Set animals and/or pictures of animals around the Ark for the children to look at.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, 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 pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Bible, Flip Chart, stuffed animal, tape measure in paper bag, and any other props you have for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

Begin prayer time after the children are situated in the circle.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer Page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of Supplication—and ask God to help us with what we need.

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. I know God can help me with what I need so I am going to ask Him. Dear God, please help me to learn more about you. Help me to know what pleases you and what makes you sad. In Jesus name. Amen.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer asking God for help.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? What is in this Bible?** *God's holy Word!*
- ? What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*
- ? And all God's Words in this Bible are what?** *True!*

Invite a child to help you with a demonstration. Show the children the bag you brought in and tell them that you have a special tool inside the bag that you are going to show them. (Child's name) is going to help us learn about this special tool. Do you want to see what it is? It's a measuring tape! This tool can show me how long or wide things are by stretching it out along the object. Let's see how long this chair is! Let's see how wide the chair is. Let's see how tall some of you are! Measure some of the children. Now let's see how long the measuring tape is. Have a student take the end of the tape as far as he can slowly. Wow that's really long. Did you know Noah's Ark was long too? Even longer than this tape, longer than this whole room! Today we are going to learn about how God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink.

Noah's Ark survived the biggest Catastrophe the world has ever seen. This could not have happened apart from the sovereignty of God. Noah built the Ark according to the measurements given to him by God. We must accurately teach this truth to our children. Noah's Ark is not a story, but a true account in history! As we convey the biblical truth of Noah's Ark, we are equipping our children to discern the difference between the lies of the world and what God's Word tells us.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart lesson picture. Look at the picture. What do you see?** *Let the children answer. Different arks!*
- ? What did God send to the Ark before the Flood?** *Animals! Two of every kind.*

► Display the Flip Chart lesson page.

? How many animals? Who can tell me? *Allow for answers.*

Two of every kind of animal that God made! The Ark had to be very big for all of those animals to fit.

? Which of these arks look like it could be big enough for all of those animals? Which of these arks looks like the real Noah's Ark? *Ask a child to come and point to the real Noah's Ark.*

Refer to the various arks as you discuss this. Look at this ark; it looks like the animals are about to fall out! This one would probably sink right down in a bad storm, and Noah would drown. Point to the arks as you talk about them.

? What is going to happen to this ark? There is a big wave coming! *It's going to tip over!*

Noah's Ark didn't tip over! God is faithful to His promises! Listen carefully as I read from God's Word. God told Noah EXACTLY what to do.

Read Genesis 6:14–15 from your Bible. As you ask questions re-read the verse emphasizing the answers to the questions you are asking.

Genesis 6:14–15

? What did God say to make the Ark out of? *Re-read the verse. Gopherwood.*

Have you ever heard of Gopherwood? It is not a wood we know much about. But God knew about it. And so did Noah!

God told Noah to make rooms, put a window on top, put a door on the side, and exactly how big the Ark was to be. Let me read this to you again!

Re-read the dimensions of the Ark and refer to the Flip Chart.

This Ark was not Noah's idea, but God's! God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink! And it was big enough for all the animals God brought to the Ark before the Flood.

Noah obeyed God. He did just as God commanded him. He made the Ark out of Gopherwood, he put the window in, and the door . . . and he built it the exact size God told him to build it. Noah's Ark was HUGE; it was a ship that would NOT sink in terrible weather—even a Flood that covered the whole world. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

God gave Noah everything he needed to build the Ark. This Ark would not sink. It would not tip. The animals and Noah would be safe in this Ark . . . not like all these other arks!

? Did Noah build the Ark like this? *Point to a cartoon ark on the Flip Chart.*

No! This was way too small. This boat would have sunk. God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink!

Noah was a righteous man. He trusted God and obeyed God. He did just as God commanded him.

? You saw some animal pictures and animal toys when you came in. What animals did you all see? *Let the children answer. Refer again to the pictures you brought in.*

God brought two of every kind of animal to the Ark to go with Noah, including dinosaurs! Let's see what God said to Noah about the animals.

Read Genesis 6:19-20 from your Bible.

Two of EVERY living creature? Birds, animals, and creeping things came to the Ark. And YES, God even sent dinosaurs. Because He said ALL animals. If Noah's Ark looked like one of these, none of these animals would have survived the Flood! Remember, we just read that God told Noah how long, how high, and how wide the Ark was to be.

? Could Noah's Ark hold two of EVERY land animal? *Yes!*

God told Noah to build an Ark that would not sink! It was plenty big for ALL the land animals God brought to the Ark.

Hold up your Bible. All of God's Word is true. We know what Noah's Ark looked like because the Bible tells us. The real Ark was large enough to hold EVERY land animal and not sink when the storm raged outside, when the earth broke open, and when the waves crashed against it! God told Noah how to build the Ark. God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink.

SONG

OK! Everybody up! We are going to sing the Noah and the Ark Song. Let's sing it together; it is really fun. *You can also sing the Seven C's Song if time allows.*

The lyrics to the songs are on the Flip Chart Song page and can also be found on the Song sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Sing the song while doing the "London Bridge Game." Have two children be the "bridge" by standing across from each other holding each other's hands high in the air. Have the other children walk through the "bridge" around in a circle while singing. At the end of each second line the bridge should drop on a child and hold him/her for a second then let go. The kids go round and round as they learn the song. Teacher should demonstrate the first round showing the children how the bridge comes down.

OK. We learned some very important things today. God gave Noah instructions on how to build an Ark that would not sink—an Ark that was big enough to fit all the land animals. Let's quietly go back to our tables and we are going to see about drawing an Ark like Noah's.

► Oversee an orderly way to get the children back to their seats especially if the chairs were moved for circle time.



Noah's Ark Connect the Dots

We have a special picture today. Connect the dots and trace over the line to make an Ark. Then color the Ark. This is more like the Ark that God told Noah to build. This Ark would not sink in a really bad storm and flood.

MATERIALS

- Noah's Ark Connect the Dots coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Show the children the Noah's Ark Connect the Dots page. Show them a completed page and supervise them as they connect/trace between the dots to make the Ark.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God gave Noah specific instructions on how to build the Ark. The real Ark was very large—it would not sink in the terrible Flood. It was not like one of those cartoon arks. It was so large that two of EVERY animal fit on the Ark. God knew exactly how to build the Ark so it would not sink!



Animal Parade

MATERIALS

- List of animals that the children can act out as you march around the classroom.

INSTRUCTIONS

The Ark was large enough for all the animals God wanted Noah to take on the Ark. Let's have an animal parade and pretend we are the animals going onto the Ark.

Line the children up to march around the room. Ask them to name an animal that was on the Ark. Use your list if they need help. Elephants, dogs, cats, ducks, dinosaurs, giraffes,

etc. March around the room acting like that animal. Lead the children around several times, going slow and fast and loud and soft depending on the animal.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Ark was plenty big to hold all the animals God brought to Noah. God knew exactly how to build the Ark so that it would not sink. He gave all the instructions to Noah! Noah obeyed and he, his family, and all the animals survived the Flood.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

2 Peter 2:5 [God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people.

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on his/her own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

All of God's words are true! We can trust that the Ark was as big as the Bible says it was. There was only one real Ark on the Flip Chart; the rest of the pictures were not real. Those little, silly cute arks would never have lasted in the big Flood. They would have sunk! God's instructions for the Ark were exactly what Noah needed to survive the Flood. God told Noah to build a boat that would not sink. And he did! We are so thankful for God's true Word!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Remember. When you see silly arks like some of the ones on our Flip Chart, they are not like Noah's Ark. Remember those arks would have sunk to the bottom of the sea; they would have tipped right over in the first big wave, and all the animals, Noah, and his family would have fallen right out! But God gave Noah instructions to build a big Ark that would not sink. God knows what is best!

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice their memory verse.



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 for showing us the real Ark and His promise to us that if we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we will be saved.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

NOAH AND THE ARK

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

The sins of man grew in God's sight;
(London Bridge is falling down,)

They loved sin more than God,
(Falling down, falling down.)

Because they loved sin more than God,
(London Bridge is falling down,)

God would judge them.
(My fair lady!)

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!

SEVEN C'S OF HISTORY

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

Creation, God made it all.
(This old man, he played one,)

Corruption, sin made man fall.
(He played knick-knack on my thumb,)

There's **Catastrophe**,
(With a knick-knack paddywhack,)

A worldwide flood;
(Give a dog a bone.)

Dinosaurs buried in the mud.
(This old man came rolling home.)

Man 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, there's **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.

