

# LESSON 6

## THE GREAT FLOOD

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### The "Water Canopy"

It is recorded on the second day of creation that the Lord separated "the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament" (Gen 1:7). Creation scientists who study how science supports the existence of God have ascertained that before the flood, earth was surrounded by a layer of water called a "water canopy." This water canopy caused the earth to become a kind of greenhouse, enabling a mild, warm climate worldwide. Lush vegetation would have covered the earth, and it would have been mildly warm even at the North and South Poles. Geological evidence has supported this interpretation—fossils of palm trees have been found on Greenland, so although it is now covered with snow, at one time Greenland had a climate similar to the Caribbean. The fossil graveyard of duck-billed dinosaurs, found recently on the north shore of Alaska, is evidence that this part of the world enjoyed a much milder climate. This environment allowed the survival of dinosaurs and many other animals that no longer exist.

#### The Great Flood

Without question, the flood during Noah's time was the greatest cataclysm that ever occurred in human history. During the flood, the atmosphere lost most of its water vapor. It states in Genesis 7:11 that "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." The vast amount of water in the canopy allowed rain to fall for forty days and forty nights, covering even the highest mountains. Today, that would never be possible because there is not enough water vapor in the atmosphere. The atmosphere would be bone dry if only one or two inches of rain fell over the entire surface of the earth.

#### Extinction

Because of the loss of the "water canopy," drastic changes in the climate of the earth occurred. The worldwide, uniform mild climate of pre-flood days was replaced by present conditions, with polar zones that include the frigid Arctic and Antarctic, a temperate zone, and a tropical zone.

#### The Order of Events

At the command of God, Noah made an ark 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. He slowly proceeded with this work during a period of one hundred and twenty years (Gen 6:3). At length, the purpose of God began to be carried into effect.

### BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 7-9

### BIBLE TRUTH

God preserves the righteous but punishes the evil.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To rely on God to do what is right.
2. To follow God's commandments.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways."

(Psalm 128:1)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for gathering us here again to worship You and learn more about You. We know that You are a just and righteous God who rewards those who are good and punishes those who are evil. Please help us to be good, so that we will receive our reward in heaven and glorify Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

Here is a list of the events in the order they occurred:

1. In the six hundredth year of his life, Noah is commanded by God to enter the ark, taking with him his wife and his three sons with their wives (Gen 7:1-10).
2. The rain begins on the seventeenth day of the second month (Gen 7:11-17).
3. The rain ceases and the waters prevail fifteen cubits upward (Gen 7:18-24).
4. The ark rests on one of the mountains of Ararat on the seventeenth day of the seventh month, or one hundred and fifty days after the flood began (Gen 8:1-4).
5. The top of the mountains are visible on the first day of the tenth month (Gen 8:5).
6. The raven and dove are sent out forty days after this (Gen 8:6-9).
7. The dove is sent out again seven days afterwards; she returns with an olive leaf in her mouth (Gen 8:10-11).
8. The dove is sent out a third time after an interval of another seven days, and does not return (Gen 8:12).
9. The ground becomes dry on the first day of the first month of the new year (Gen 8:13).
10. Noah leaves the ark on the twenty-seventh day of the second month (Gen 8:14-19).

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Students at this age should be encouraged to rely on God and follow His word. But relying on God, who cannot be seen and felt, can still be an abstract concept for them. We can put reliance on God in more concrete and understandable terms for them. For example, keeping the word of God in our hearts is a good way to always do what is right. That is the main purpose of memory verses; if we don't remember what God wants us to do, how can we do it?

For those who have the Holy Spirit, encourage them to pray often and ask the Holy Spirit to guide them. The Holy

Spirit may not distinctly speak to them in times of need or physically keep them from doing wrong, but it does work in mysterious ways to change a person.

Most importantly, speak from your own personal experiences of success from relying on God. These experiences are invaluable when encouraging your students to trust in God. As the teacher, you show the tangible results of what happens when somebody relies on God. Through you, the students can see and feel the presence and love of God.

### VOCABULARY

- altar:** a special place to worship God  
**offering:** a gift to God  
**raven:** a large black bird with a loud call

## REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how the people of the earth had many children and began to increase in number and fill the earth. But the Lord was not happy with the people. Do you remember why? [The people had forgotten about God and had evil thoughts all the time. They became wicked and did many sinful things, such as hurting one another.] God was very sad that the people had become so mean and that the world had become a terrible place to live in [if a globe is available, use it as a prop and peek down at the “world” with a sad expression]. What did God decide to do because He was so sad about this? (He decided to put a stop to this by destroying every living thing on the face of the earth—every man and animal—with a great flood.) But God saw that there was still one good person who didn’t do the wicked things that everyone else did. Who was the only good person at that time? (Noah.) God was fair and just and wanted to save Noah and his family from the great flood. What did God tell Noah to do? (He told him to build an ark; discuss what the ark was like or ask the students to draw their impressions of what the ark looked like and show them a model or picture of the ark.)

After about a hundred years of hard work and building, the ark was finally finished. When the ark was ready, God said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family.” God told Noah to go into the ark with his wife, his three sons, and their wives. Why? Because seven days from then, God would send rain for forty days and forty nights, and cause a great flood to cover the earth. God also told Noah to bring with him into the ark some other important things. Do you remember what those were? Right! He said to take seven pairs of every clean animal, two pairs of every unclean and seven pairs of each kind of bird. Finally, after the animals and Noah’s family had gone into the ark, God shut the door tightly. Today, we will be learning about what happened after Noah and the animals were safe in the ark.

## BIBLE STORY

### The Flood

Noah, his family, and all the animals spent their first night in the ark. They woke up the next morning, and nothing happened. They might have heard the people outside making fun of them. “Hey, Noah! I thought you said it was going to rain,” they probably said. “Well, it didn’t! You were just wrong!”

The second day passed, and there was no sign of rain. The third day, the fourth day, and the fifth day all went by. Nothing happened. Noah and his family just waited patiently in the ark. They trusted God and knew that He had His own timing. The sixth day was no different. The people outside probably laughed even harder at Noah.

The seventh day started out the same as all the others, but then, all of a sudden, the rain started to fall. It rained and rained. It was not a light shower. It rained very hard. What did Noah’s neighbors do when it started to rain? It was at this time that many people knocked on Noah’s ark. They probably pleaded, “Let us in, let us in, we believe you now. Open the door! We’re going to die.” However, it was too late for anyone else to get into the ark. It rained and rained. But it didn’t rain for only a day, or even a week. It rained for forty days. That is a very long time. Sometimes we see puddles building up after a day or two of heavy rain. But imagine forty days. This was enough to flood the entire earth.

Where did all this rain come from? Water came from deep within the earth, and rain fell from the heavens. There was water everywhere! [Make sound effects with rain sticks, or drop rice into a container. Alternatively, use a spray bottle to spray water into a container.] The rain

came down and the water kept rising. The water rose until it lifted up the ark. It rose and rose until houses were covered, until hills were covered, and finally until the highest mountains were covered. Because of all the water, every living thing on the earth died—birds, farm animals, wild animals, and men. What a great and terrible flood! Where would you want to be if it rained like that? Yes, you would want to be in the ark.

Noah, his family, and all the animals were kept safe in the ark. It rose and floated on top of the waters. The rain kept coming down for forty days and forty nights, and finally, even the tops of the highest mountains couldn’t be seen. Noah and his family were so thankful that God had protected them throughout this harsh rainstorm. On the fortieth day, just as God had said, the rain [pause here for emphasis] stopped. Everyone was so happy to be able to look out the window and not see rain! But they couldn’t leave the ark just yet. As far as they could see, water covered everything.

### The Waters Dry Up

God remembered His promise to Noah. So He sent a wind over the earth to dry up the waters. As the waters went down, the tops of the mountains began to appear. The ark rested on one of these mountains called Mount Ararat.

Noah waited a little longer for the water to dry up some more. Then he opened a window in the ark and sent out a raven [show picture of raven]. Why do you think Noah did this? [Let students answer.] He probably sent out the raven to see if there was still water over the earth. The raven flew and flew around and never came back. It

kept flying around until the water dried up.

Then Noah tried sending out a dove [show picture of dove]. The dove couldn't find any dry place to stop, so it came back to the ark. Noah waited one more week, and sent out the dove again. The dove flew around all day, and when it came back in the evening, it had a freshly picked olive leaf in its beak! This meant that trees and plants were growing again. Noah knew that the waters of the earth had almost dried up. One more week after that, he sent out the dove again, and it didn't come back. Why didn't it come back? [Let students respond.] It had found a new place to live because the earth was no longer covered by water.

### **Noah and His Family Come Out Of the Ark**

By that time, Noah and his family had been living inside the ark with all those animals for a whole year! Imagine being in a boat with so many animals for a whole year. It was like living inside a zoo for a year, having to feed so many animals and having to keep the place clean. But Noah didn't complain; he was grateful that God was keeping him, his family, and the animals alive and safe from the flood.

Then at last, it was time for Noah to leave the ark. Noah took off the covering of the ark and looked outside. The ground was finally completely dry! Noah was probably very excited but he waited for God to tell him what to do next. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives." God also told Noah to bring out all of the animals so they could live on the earth again, have many baby animals and fill the earth with more animals.

So Noah did as the Lord commanded him and happily brought his family, along with all of the animals, out of the ark. They saw that the world was bright and sunny again,

and that there were many beautiful trees and flowers. The birds flew out of the ark into the blue skies and chirped merrily, while the animals left the ark to live on the land.

### **Noah Builds an Altar**

Noah was so thankful to God for saving him, his whole family, and the animals. He decided to show his thanks to God by building an altar, which was a special place to worship God [show a picture of what an altar would have looked like at that time]. He worshiped God by offering a special gift to Him. What was this special gift? He put some fire on the altar, killed some of the clean animals and burned them on the altar as a gift to God. When God smelled the wonderful scent of the burnt offerings, He was very pleased with Noah. So God said to Himself that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. Even if man once again forgot about God, had evil thoughts, or did wicked things, God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again.

### **The Rainbow: A Sign of His Promise**

God gave this promise not only to Noah, but also to us. To remind us of His promise, God put a special sign in the sky. What do you think that special sign could be? That special sign is a rainbow! How many of you have ever seen a rainbow? Where did you see one? How did it make you feel? Usually, a rainbow appears after the rain. Now every time we see a rainbow, we can remember how God saved Noah, his family, and the animals from the great flood. We can think of how Noah pleased God by listening to Him and relying on Him to do the right thing. We can also remember that God keeps His promises and that He will bless those who obey Him. And we can give thanks to God for His promise that He will never destroy the world with water again.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Why was God sad that He had made man?** Man had become very wicked and did many evil things.
2. **What did God decide to do because man had become so wicked?**  
He decided to wipe out all of the living things upon the earth with a flood.
3. **What did God ask Noah to bring into the ark?**  
Seven pairs of every clean animal, two pairs of every unclean animal and seven pairs of each kind of bird.
4. **How long did God send the rain?** Forty days and nights.
5. **What did Noah do when the rain stopped?**  
He first sent out a raven once and then a dove three times to see if the rain had subsided.
6. **Where did the ark come to a rest?** On Mount Ararat.
7. **What did Noah do first when he finally came out of the ark?** He built an altar and made offerings to God.
8. **What was the sign of God's promise that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again?** The rainbow.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.” (Psalm 128:1)**

### SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

#### 1. Rely on God and do what is right.

Think about the last time that your parents asked you to do something. Did you obey or did you argue?

Think about the last time that God asked you to follow a commandment. Did you obey or did you argue? Next time your parents or God ask you to do something, make the decision to obey.

Do you only do what is right when others are watching you? Or do you do it even when no one is watching you? God is everywhere, so He knows everything we think and do, even before we do it! We should always try to do what is good.

One way that we can show our reliance on God is by praying to Him every day. This shows that we trust God to take care of us and our needs.

#### 2. God keeps His promises.

Learn what God promises us in the Bible.

Never take God's promises lightly.

Think of a Bible story or testimony that shows how God fulfilled His promise(s).

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. seven
2. repent
3. Ararat
4. False; God shut the door.
5. True
6. False; Noah sent out the raven first.
7. True
8. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were the only people allowed into the ark.
9. It showed that the ground was dry because plants were starting to grow.
10. Answers may vary.



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## ACTIVITIES

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**1**

### How Can I Please God?

**Objective:** To remind students that they need to please God by obeying Him daily.

#### Materials

- Balloon patterns
- Construction paper

#### Optional Materials

- Stickers
- Colorful wrapping paper or pictures cut from greeting cards
- Glue, paste, or tape
- Yarn

#### Preparation

Before beginning this activity, hold a short discussion on what we can do to please God. Ask the students what they can do to please God at home, at school, and at church. As they suggest ideas, write them up on the board.

#### Instructions

1. Help each student trace and cut two balloons from the construction paper. They may decorate one balloon with pictures cut from greeting cards, with colorful wrapping paper, or with stickers.
2. On the other balloon, write, "I'm pleasing God by...." Children may copy the ideas written on the board from the discussion.
3. Staple the tops of the two balloons together to form a greeting card. Tape a piece of yarn to the bottom of the card to complete the balloon. You may wish to post the cards on a bulletin board.

**2**

### Noah Scene

**Objective:** To make a scene depicting this lesson's Bible story.

#### Materials

- Large sheet of stiff construction paper/cardboard
- Butcher paper/drawing paper
- Crayons, markers, etc.
- Scissors
- Magazine pictures of animals (optional)

#### Instructions

1. Give each student a piece of drawing paper or butcher paper. The students will each be drawing something different to contribute to the final scene. They can choose to draw two of the same animals, the ark, a rainbow, Noah and his family, or anything else that would fit into the scene. (If this is too difficult, you may want to give the students pictures of animals and let them cut them out.)
2. When the students are done drawing and cutting out their pictures, arrange the scene onto the large construction paper. The students can help you glue the pictures on.
3. During the activity, discuss why they think Noah was saved. Ask them to think of reasons. Then, come up with a short title summarizing the scene, like, "Noah Was Saved Because He Trusted and Listened to God" or "Noah Was Saved Because He Was Obedient."
4. Hang up the scene as a reminder of this week's lesson.

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# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God preserves the righteous but punishes the evil.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To rely on God to do what is right.  
2. To follow God’s commandments.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 128:1)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Fill In the Blanks

(Ararat          seven          repent)

1. The rain started \_\_\_\_\_ days after Noah and his family entered the ark.
2. Noah told everyone to \_\_\_\_\_ but they did not listen to him.
3. The ark came to a rest on Mount \_\_\_\_\_.

## True or False

4. Noah shut the door of the ark himself. \_\_\_\_\_
5. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. \_\_\_\_\_
6. After it had stopped raining, Noah first sent out a dove and then a raven. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Noah built an altar to God, and God set up a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise that He would never destroy the world with a flood again. \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

8. God only allowed eight people to enter the ark. Who were the eight people?

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9. When Noah sent out the dove, it returned with an olive leaf in its beak. What did that show?

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## Life Application

10. Think of the last time you were deciding whether or not to do the right thing. Describe the situation. What did you choose in the end? What were the consequences? Do you think you should have acted differently? How?

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