

LESSON 5

NOAH'S ARK

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Noah's Ark

Noah's ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. A vessel of this size would have about 1,396,000 cubic feet of space, easily accommodating 35,000 different kinds of vertebrates along with Noah and his family. In modern-day comparisons, the ark was 90 feet longer than a football field. If the Statue of Liberty was placed on its side, the ark would be about 150 feet longer than it. The proportion of the ark made it an extremely stable design, similar to those of modern cargo ships. The entire vessel was coated with pitch inside and out to make it watertight, and space was left under the roof for light and air.

It was a gigantic task to build the ark, gather the animals, and store the necessary food. Noah and his three sons could not have done it alone. But being the grandson of Methuselah and the great-grandson of Enoch, he may have been a city-king and employed thousands of men in the work. He probably spent at least one hundred years building it. Although he was undoubtedly the object of unceasing ridicule, he held fast to his faith and finished the project. In the end, he and his family were saved from the worst disaster in human history.

Modern Findings

The ark, as recorded in Genesis, settled on Mount Ararat. Today, the mountains of Ararat lie in present-day Turkey. The mountains tower 17,000 feet above sea level. A number of attempts have been made to locate the remains of the ark. While fragments have been found, which some claim are from the ark, such claims have yet to be substantiated. The rough terrain, severe weather, and political tension in the region have prevented a careful survey of the area. The altitude of this mountainous region is significant. In any local flood, the ark would have been swept along toward the sea. Only a cataclysm like that described in Genesis chapters seven to eight could have lifted Noah's ark to such a height.

Noah's Faith and Obedience

In Noah's day, the earth had become so saturated by sin and wickedness that God resolved to destroy the human race (Gen 6:3-7). Noah, because of his faith, was the only person on earth who found favor with the Lord (Gen 6:8). God revealed to Noah His plan to destroy man with a flood (Gen 6:17). Obviously, this type of catastrophe had never occurred on the earth before this time. In fact, Noah had never even seen a flood or rain before (Gen 2:5). When one understands these facts, it becomes clear how difficult it would have been to have the faith necessary to believe God. But Noah did believe God. As Hebrews 11:7 says, he "moved with godly fear." Because Noah feared and respected God, he built the ark as God instructed. This is a key ingredient to our faith.

BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 6

BIBLE TRUTH

God protects those who follow His words and commands.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To trust in God's word.
2. To follow God's commandments.

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

(Proverbs 3:5)

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. Please help us to remember to follow You wholeheartedly. You are the almighty God and You will deliver those who fear You and keep Your commandments. Hallelujah! Amen.

We cannot say we fear and respect God, and then disobey Him.

Noah's faith was so great that he became "heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." Noah did not become righteous because he built the ark. He built the ark because he was righteous. We have already seen that he was the only person on earth who had found favor in the eyes of the Lord (Gen 6:8). Not only that, Noah also proclaimed the righteousness of God in an ungodly world (2 Pet 2:5), obeyed His commandments, and condemned those who refused to believe.

Even in this age, just as in the days of Noah, the earth and mankind wait to be destroyed by the judgment of God (2 Pet 3:3-7). The first judgment was by water, the next will be by fire. Why has the Lord not come yet? Because "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9).

What happened when Noah obeyed God in faith?

When Noah built the ark, salvation was brought to his family (wife, three sons, three daughters-in-law), and they escaped the coming judgment. It is important that we recognize the impact of our faith upon our students and families.

Many of us have trouble sticking to any project, whether or not it is directed by God. It is interesting that the length of Noah's obedience and faith was greater than the lifespan of people today. The only comparable long-term project is our lives. But perhaps this is one great challenge Noah's life gives us—to live, in acceptance of God's grace, an entire lifetime of obedience and gratitude.

To say that Noah was just and perfect does not mean that he never sinned (the Bible records one of his sins in Genesis 9:20-21). Rather it means that he whole-heartedly loved and obeyed God. For a lifetime, he walked step by step in faith as a living example of his generation. Like Noah, we live in a world filled with evil. Are we influencing others or being influenced by them?

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Children of this age probably view promises as things that their parents agree to do no matter what. In reality, sometimes the promises are kept, and sometimes they are not. Even though parents love their children very much, they are still limited as humans and sometimes are unable to fulfill their promises. However, we can help our little ones understand that God has made promises to us and He will keep every single one of them. He is all-powerful, so He is not limited by a lack of ability. He is also just and righteous, so He will not break any of His words.

So what are the promises that the Lord has made to

us? The first and greatest promise is that of eternal life, or a promise of the future. This may be an abstract concept for the students to grasp, but we can explain to them that the Lord has promised that we can go to a wonderful place called heaven one day if we do what He says. Secondly, He has made a promise to us regarding our present lives, which means that we can count on His Spirit now for love, guidance, protection, and mercy, to name a few. Lastly, He has made a promise to us regarding the past, which means that whatever we have done wrong, He is willing to forgive if we ask.

VOCABULARY

- ark:** a chest or box; in Noah's case, the ark was a boat
- destroy:** to put an end to; to do away with
- righteous:** to always think and act in a way that is right and good; morally upright
- pitch:** a dark, sticky substance obtained from tar for waterproofing
- altar:** an area built to worship God

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Do you remember what they did that made God very sad? [Have students turn to their neighbor to share.] They were tempted by the serpent to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because they had disobeyed God, they were driven from the garden and couldn't live there anymore. What kind of life did Adam and Eve live after they left the garden of Eden? [Call on students to answer.] After they left the garden, they led difficult lives. They had to work very hard for their food. Eve had to suffer the pain of childbirth. Life was no longer the peaceful and happy one that they had led in the garden of Eden.

After Adam and Eve left the garden, they had many descendants, but unfortunately, their hearts were becoming very bad. All they thought of were evil things. How do you think this made God feel? [Wait for students' responses.] Yes, God was very unhappy that He had created human beings, and His heart was filled with pain. Because He was their heavenly Father, His children's disobedience and evil deeds made Him sad. He came to a very hard decision. In today's story, we're going to find out what God decided to do, but we won't finish the entire story until next week.

BIBLE STORY

Noah

At the beginning of time, when God first created the world and all that was in it, everything was perfect and beautiful. However, everything changed when Adam and Eve sinned against God. After Adam and Eve died, people became more and more evil. There was only one person on the whole earth who was different from all the others; he was a good and righteous man, and he walked with God. His name was Noah. Do you think Noah had many friends? Would people like Noah if he were the only good person who still obeyed God's words? How would Noah feel about being "different" from all the people around him? [Help students connect to the many challenges that Noah might have faced.] Well, Noah was probably teased by the people around him all the time for being the only person who still worshiped God and obeyed His commands. It must have been hard for Noah, but did he decide to leave God? No. In fact, he did exactly the opposite.

One day, God talked to Noah and told him what He was going to do. He told Noah to talk to as many people as possible and encourage them to repent and return to God, because He was going to destroy the earth and everything in it. How was God going to destroy the world? (With a flood.) However, God made a special promise to Noah to keep his family safe. God also asked Noah to start building an ark, which was a big boat. This ark was going to be so big that there would be enough room for at least two of every kind of animal, one male and one female, in the whole wide world! Wow, this was indeed a big project for Noah!

The Ark

After talking to God, Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, began building the ark. They had to chop down many trees to make smooth boards. They had to put the boards together piece by piece, according to God

instructions. God told Noah to build an ark that was longer than a football field. It would have a lower, middle, and upper deck, a door and a window. [You may wish to invite some students to come up to the board to draw this ark; or students can each be given a piece of scrap paper to draw what they think the ark would have looked like.] They had to make pitch to coat the ark so that it would be waterproof. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It is said that the ark could fit as many as 7,000 different kinds of animals! It was also big enough to store food for Noah's family in addition to all the animals. Now Noah was already 500 years old. How could a 500-year-old man build such a huge ark? What do you think Noah said when God gave him this big job to do? [Let students respond.] Noah didn't argue. Instead, he obeyed God because he knew he could trust God. He knew that God would help him. So Noah relied on God to help him and he started to build the ark. Noah built it exactly according to God's command and instructions. Day after day he continued to work. [Make hammering and sawing noises; invite students to join in.]

The whole time they were building the ark, Noah was also going around urging people to repent and turn back to God. He warned them that if they didn't do so, they would all be destroyed. He also told them it was going to start raining soon, but no one believed him.

Imagine for a second that you are Noah. You work hard to follow God's instructions, but none of your friends help you or believe you. You work on the ark for years and years without any sign of heavy rain or flooding. All of your friends laugh at you. If you think you would feel sad, raise your hand. If you think you would be disappointed, raise your hand. If you think you would stop building the ark, raise your hand. How many of you would continue to have hope in God? How many of you would continue to build the ark?

It took Noah about a hundred years to finish building the ark. By that time, Noah was already six hundred years old. Why was Noah able to do it? (Because he relied on God.) Just after Noah and his sons had pounded in the last nail and made sure the ark was sealed and waterproofed properly, the Lord said to Noah, "Take seven pairs of every kind of clean animal and two pairs of every kind of unclean animal into the ark. Then take your wife, your sons, and their wives into the ark." So Noah did exactly what God told him to. God knew that it would be very hard for Noah to gather every kind of animal that was on the face of the earth, so He caused all of them to go to Noah by themselves. So Noah did it again with God's help. Can you name some animals that went into the ark? [Show some animal cutouts/toys.] Imagine all the noise that the animals made! [Ask students to make some animal noises.] Within seven days, every kind of animal—birds, animals, and crawling creatures, male and female—had entered the ark. Can you picture all the different types of animals going into the ark in pairs? That must have been quite a sight!

Finally, after the animals had gone into the ark, eight

people entered it. Who were these eight people? [Let students respond.] Why were Noah and his family the only ones who could enter? [Let students respond.] Then the Lord shut the door tightly. Now they would be safe in the ark.

As all this was happening, the people outside were probably looking on in amazement. "That old Noah must be out of his mind!" someone must have said. "There is not going to be any rain. I just don't believe it!" another person might have commented. Noah looked at the people sadly. He knew there was nothing he could do to make them believe that God meant what He said.

Even though God had to make the hard decision to destroy the wicked people, we must remember that our God is loving and that He always gives us a chance to do the right thing. When Noah was warning his friends while he was building the ark, they all had a chance to repent, but they didn't. If we do repent, God will forgive us when we admit our wrongdoings. But since the people chose not to listen, we will find out what happened to them in our next lesson.

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 men were so wicked?

He decided to wipe out all of the living things upon the earth with a flood.

3. Who was the one man who was different from all the others? Noah.

4. What did God tell Noah to do?

He told Noah to build an ark, so that he could keep his family and many animals safe during the flood.

5. Who were Noah's helpers in building the ark? His three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. wickedness
2. flood
3. Noah
4. ark
5. Shem, Ham, Japheth
6. repent
7. False; it took him about 100 years.
8. True
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Noah trusted and obeyed God's commands.

- Trust God in all of our daily actions and choices.
- Be a good listener to what God wants us to do in our daily lives.
- Be a living example and bring good influence to other people around us.
- Be courageous about doing what is right, even if you are the only one doing so.
- Be patient, especially when things don't happen immediately.

2. God protects those who trust and obey.

- Remember a time when God protected us and our family.
- Call on God whenever we need help.
- Spend time with other brothers and sisters who set a good example of obedience to God.

ACTIVITIES

1 Obedience Heart

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

Materials

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or pencils
- Glue
- String
- Heart template; one per student

Instructions

1. Pass out one heart template to each student.
2. Cut strips of colored construction paper
3. Arrange strips so that they cover the template lengthwise
4. Glue the strips of paper onto the template
5. Cut out the heart according to the template, trimming the strips as you cut.
6. On each strip, have the students write one thing they can do to be obedient to God (e.g., pray each night, respect my parents, be nice to my sister, etc.). Try to make sure the writing stays inside the heart.
7. Punch a hole near the top of each ark, attach a string, and hang it up somewhere visible in the classroom

2**Noah Says**

Objective: To obey God at all times.

Instructions

1. First, divide the students into three teams: dogs, cats, and ducks.
2. Explain to the teams that they are dogs, cats, or ducks. Dogs **bark** and **beg** (arms raised and hands pointed down as if begging for food); cats **meow** and pretend to **lick** their paws (hands); and ducks **quack** and **waddle** (bend down with hands touching shoulders like wings).
3. Now give commands to the students. You can choose whether or not to say "Noah says" before the commands. The rules are listed below and the commands you can give have been bolded above.

Note: For older students, you can combine commands to make it more difficult. For example: "Noah says, 'Bark and waddle.'" (Everyone barks and waddles.) "Lick and quack." (Only cats lick and only ducks quack.)

Rules**A. All the students have to obey the commands when "Noah" says them.**

For example, when you say, "Noah says 'Bark,'" all the students bark. When you say, "Noah says, 'Be still,'" all the students have to be still.

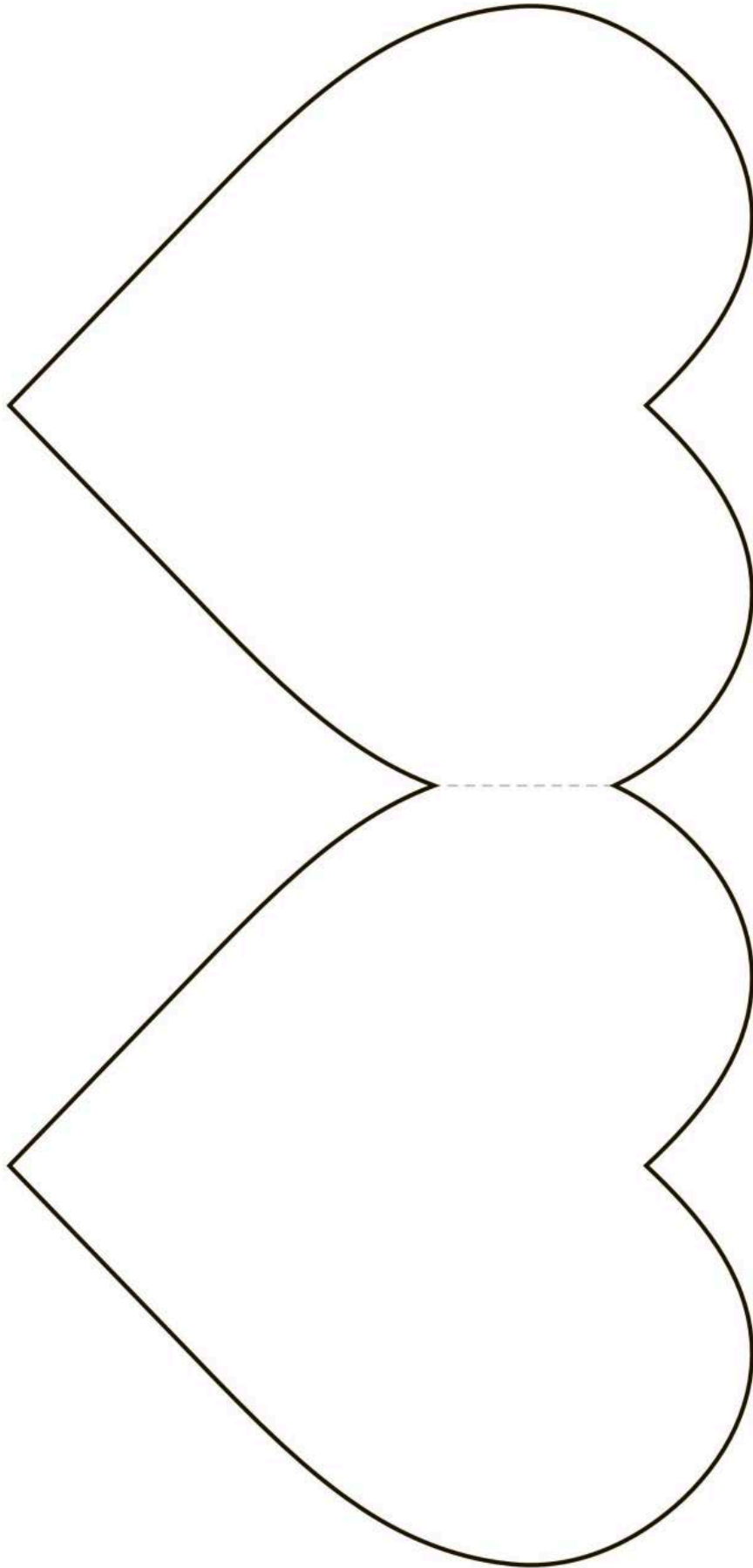
B. Only specific animals have to obey when you give the commands.

For example, when you say, "Bark," only the students that are dogs should be barking. When you say, "Be still," the students should continue to do what they are doing (i.e., barking, quacking, licking, etc.).

- Any student who does not follow a command correctly has to sit out the rest of the game. The team with the last remaining player wins.
- Mix up the teams and play again if time permits.

Concluding Comments

When we follow God, not only do we have fun, but we also please Him. The animals followed Noah into the ark and God gave them His protection. Likewise, God will also give us His protection when we follow Him and trust Him with our life.



E1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 5—Noah's Ark

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God protects those who follow His words and commands.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To trust in God's word.
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.

(Proverbs 3:5)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blanks

(repent Noah ark Shem Ham Japhet flood wickedness)

1. In Noah's time, God was saddened by the _____ of humans.
2. God decided to destroy everything through a great _____.
3. Unlike the people of his time, _____ was righteous.
4. Noah was instructed to build an _____ for his family and for many animals.
5. Noah's three sons, _____, _____, and _____ helped him build the ark.
6. Noah told the people around him to _____, or they would be destroyed.

True or False

7. It took Noah 50 years to build the ark. _____
8. Aside from the many animals, there were eight people in the ark. _____

Life Application

9. Even though the Bible doesn't say exactly what he did, why do you think Noah was such a good man? What kinds of things do you think Noah did that made him such a good person in God's eyes?

10. Noah was a righteous man. He set a good example among all the wicked people of his time. Learning from Noah's story, what are two ways that you can also be a righteous person among your friends and family?
 1. _____

 2. _____

