

Lesson 5

Noah Builds the Ark

Bible Lesson: Genesis 6 – 8

Memory Verse: It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.
Psalm 118:8

Books of the Bible: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ◆ that God hates sin and must punish it
- ◆ that Noah loved and obeyed God
- ◆ that God sent His Son Jesus to die for our sin
- ◆ that we ought to trust in God rather than man

Prepare Materials

- ◆ stuffed animals
- ◆ cardboard box
- ◆ dolls

- ◆ toy hammer
- ◆ memory verse puzzle from last week's lesson
- ◆ calendar
- ◆ tag board strips for books of the Bible chart with the words Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- ◆ envelope, 1 per child
- ◆ tag board or construction paper (optional)
- ◆ brown construction paper arks (pattern in Teacher Manual) for each word and reference of memory verse (15 total)
- ◆ box of animal crackers (optional)

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Introduction

Many decorative items are available that feature the theme of Noah and the Ark. These items are often beautiful and eye-catching. Their attractiveness may cause us to forget the seriousness of this Bible story. The whole world was affected by this event. There are many lessons to be learned, but it is particularly important to note that there is refuge in God alone.

B. Prayer Preparation

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind your heart of the seriousness of sin.
2. Thank Jesus that He came to die on the cross so that our sins might be forgiven.
3. Pray that the children would understand God's plan of salvation.

C. Bible Study

People often forget that God is great and God is good. They turn away from God and choose to leave Him out of their lives. This is an action with very serious consequences. The Bible tells us that God is not mocked. We are to take Him and His Word seriously.

Noah believed God, and he and his family were saved. How grim is the statement from the lesson, "Every living thing that was on the face of the land died." Our children need to know that God provides refuge from judgment for all who will turn to Him.

The Bible tells us that the earth was corrupt and filled with violence. Humanity had stopped listening to God. God saw Noah alone stood righteous before Him. God explained to Noah how to build an ark for refuge. There was a time provided for others to listen to what Noah was saying. But the world at that time must have disdained his words and work as foolishness, seeing no need to avail themselves of the place of refuge that was offered.

So only Noah and his family, together with a careful inventory of animals to replenish the earth, were loaded aboard the Ark. Then God shut the door. The rains came, the fountains of the deep opened up, the waters rose, and all the unbelieving and unrepentant perished. A corrupt race was swept away; a godly remnant was spared.

Henry J. Morris, a widely respected writer presenting the case for Biblical Creationism, lists seven reasons supporting the teaching of a worldwide flood. (Biblical Creationism, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1992.)

1. The Bible says the waters covered the highest mountains to a depth sufficient for the Ark to float over them.
2. It took twelve months for the waters to subside sufficiently for the Ark people to disembark.
3. The Biblical expression "fountains of the great deep were broken up" points to vast geological disturbances incompatible with a local-flood concept.
4. The Ark size was such that it was far, far larger than something built for a local inundation.
5. Had the flood been local, there would have been plenty of time to escape to higher ground.
6. The Bible says that all men were destroyed by the flood (Luke 17:26-30).
7. The Covenant that God made with Noah after the flood becomes meaningless if only a part of the human race has been involved.

Again Morris and others argue against the evolutionist theory which speaks of a uniform time pattern that has always existed, not allowing for sudden, cataclysmic actions by the Creator and the God in control. So much of modern education is based on an underlying philosophy that makes no allowance for Divine intervention. There is reluctance to believe that great supernatural happenings such as the Flood were sent as a judgment against sin. But ultimately we need to remember: It is God with whom we have to do.

Campbell Morgan in his commentary on Genesis writes:

Godless men of great physical strength were flourishing in material things. There can be no doubt that for material gain they cooperated with Noah in the building of the Ark which they must have held in supreme disdain all the while, by every blow struck, and every foot of work completed, space was given to them to repent, for in addition to the construction of the Ark Noah was a preacher of righteousness. Nevertheless, it would seem as though none

profited, and Noah's carpenters were finally destroyed outside the Ark which they had helped to construct. (Genesis to Esther: The Analyzed Bible, New York, New York: Revell, 1907).

D. What Is God Like?

The account of Noah and the Ark is a powerful reminder of the righteous nature of God who punishes sin and of the graciousness of a compassionate God who provides rescue and deliverance.

1. *"If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared"* (Psalm 130:3-4).
2. *"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him"* (John 3:17).
3. *"As sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 5:21).
4. *"The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

Let each child know that you are happy to see them today. Thank those who have come faithfully to class every Sunday. As you take attendance, have the children tell you their favorite animal and explain why.

Use a Learning Center

ACTIVITY CENTER – NOAH BRINGS THE ANIMALS

SEAT the children on the floor in a circle. INTRODUCE the game "Noah's Ark" by explaining that first you will SAY: "I'm Noah. I'm going on the ark, and I'm taking an alligator" (or name of another animal that begins with "a"). The child sitting next to you will say, "I'm Noah. I'm going on the ark, and I'm taking an alligator and a bear" (add any

animal that begins with "b"). The game continues with each child thinking of another animal for each letter of the alphabet. If a child cannot think of an animal name, allow other children to offer suggestions. Play until all children in the circle have had a chance to think of an animal name. Go around the circle two or three times depending on your time schedule and the ability of the group.

You may want to bring a box of animal crackers and have the children find pairs of animals and name them. Then let the students eat the crackers when you are done.

(Consider using the *Alphabet Ark Learning Puzzle*, which includes names and pictures of 26 different animals starting with each letter of the alphabet, available from AFLC Parish Education and listed on Resource List in the introductory pages to this manual.)

REVIEWING LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Memory Verse

BRING OUT the memory verse puzzle that you used last week. Give the children a few minutes to guess the Bible verse from last

Sunday before allowing them to put it together.

Help them REMEMBER the verse by asking such questions as, "What is the first word of

the verse?" or "Can you tell me the reference of the verse?" **TIME** the children and see if they can put the puzzle together in one minute. Then **READ** the verse together.

Remind the children that Jesus wants to be their Savior from sin and that He loves them very much.

Bible Story

REVIEW the main points from last week's story of Adam and Eve and their fall into sin. **REMIND** the children of God's wonderful plan to send Jesus, and that Jesus loves and cares for each one of them.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

TEACH the second verse of our theme hymn "*We Praise Thee, O God*" p.188 Ambassador Hymnal. **WRITE** the number 188 on the chalkboard. **ASK** each child to find that page number in the Ambassador Hymnal. **HELP** each child find the correct page. Have a child **READ** the title of the hymn.

Now **TELL** each child to find verse 2. Some may need help with this. **READ** the first line of verse two as the children follow along. **ASK:** How do we *worship* God? (by showing respect and reverence when we sing, pray, listen to God's Word, come to church)

TELL the children that the God they love and worship is also the same God that Noah loved, and Moses, and David, and many of our parents and grandparents.

Read the second line of verse 2. **ASK:** What is *trouble*? (problems or hard things in our lives) Then define *tempest* as a violent windstorm frequently accompanied by rain, snow, or hail. It can mean things in our lives that are very hard or scary.

READ lines 3 and 4. **SAY:** When we have these troubles and perils, God will keep us safe. He will watch over us and protect us. With His help, we can overcome the troubles. Then **SAY:** Our story about Noah today will show us just how true these words are!

Sing together verse 2 of this hymn:

*We worship Thee, God of our fathers, we bless Thee;
Thro' trouble and tempest our Guide hast Thou been.
When perils o'ertake us, escape Thou wilt make us,
And with Thy help, O Lord, our battles we win.*

You may want to use the illustrated poster for this hymn that you have created (pattern ideas included in the introductory pages to this manual). Help the children learn to recognize the symbols and let them read the words on the poster as you sing together.

Pray the Message

REMIND the children that we are talking to God when we pray. As you pray, mention each child by name and pray for God's presence with you today. Thank God for the gift of Jesus and for His great love.

Learn the New Words

wicked When people always want to sin and do not want to be forgiven.

destroy To do away with or to put an end to.

flood When water overflows and covers land that is usually dry.

Noah A man who loved God and wanted to obey Him. God saved Noah from the flood.

ark The huge boat that Noah built to protect his family and the animals.

refuge A place or a thing providing shelter or protection from danger.

Introduce the Message

SAY: We have an important number in our story today. **WRITE** the number 40 on the chalkboard. **ASK** for a volunteer to tell you what it is. Take out the calendar you brought with you to class today.

LOOK at the calendar and count out 40 days. **SAY:** This is nearly six weeks; it is more than a month. (State any amount of time that the children could relate to.) Now tell the children to listen carefully to the story to find out why this number is so important.

The flannelgraph pictures of Noah and the Ark from "Creation to Abram" would be a helpful visual as you tell the story today.

Read/Tell the Message

SAY: Open your books to Lesson 5. **READ** the title together. **ASK:** Can anyone tell me why Noah was to build an ark? Give a chance for the children to respond. Then **SAY:** Let's read together and find out what happens.

READ the first two paragraphs while the children listen and follow along in their books.

As you read the third paragraph, place the Noah figure on the flannelboard.

Have a child read the next paragraph. Then **ASK:** So why was Noah to build an ark? (it was God's plan to protect Noah)

Have another child read the next paragraph. Then continue to read to the end of the story, placing the appropriate figures on the flannelboard as you go.

NOAH BUILDS THE ARK

Many, many years went by after Adam and Eve lived on this earth. Many people were born and many people died. As the years went by, the people who lived on the earth forgot about God. They didn't talk to God or listen to Him. They thought only about sinful things and did sinful things.

God saw that people were very wicked. The Bible tells us God was grieved in His

heart, and He said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land." God decided to destroy the people on earth with a flood!

But as God looked over the earth, He found one man who had not forgotten about God. His name was Noah. The Bible tells us that Noah walked with God, listened to God, and obeyed God.

God remembered Noah and his family. God told Noah about His plan. He said, "Noah, I want you and your family to be safe when the flood comes. Build an ark out of gopher wood. Make it three stories high. Put in one window near the top and one door on the side. Take your family into the ark. Bring every living thing, two by two, into the ark to keep them alive."

Noah did everything God told him to do. It took 120 years to build the ark! Noah made the ark even when the land was dry. Noah knew it was right to obey God even though he didn't understand God's plan.

After the ark was complete, Noah, his family, and the animals entered the ark. Then God shut the door. Seven days later, the rain began to fall. The Bible says, "The fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened." The rains fell and fell for forty days and forty nights! The whole earth was covered with water! Every living thing that was on the face of the land died.

Because Noah believed and obeyed God, all that were on the ark were safe. God provided the ark as a refuge for Noah and his family. God does not want people to die because of their sins. God wants people to ask Him to forgive their sins. God promises to bless and keep all people who take refuge in Him.

Reinforce the Message

After finishing the Bible lesson, help the children **ACT OUT** the story:

Gather several different stuffed animals, a cardboard box big enough to be the "ark," a hammer, and two or three dolls.

Include parts of the story such as when God tells Noah what to do, the actual building of the ark, and the gathering of the animals into the ark. Also use sound effects for the falling rain. Get the children involved as much as possible.

Then **ASK** the following questions:

- ◆ What kind of a man was Noah? (Noah loved God and obeyed Him)
- ◆ Why was the number 40 important in our story today? (that was the number of days and nights that it rained)
- ◆ Why did God send rain for 40 days and nights? (the people were wicked and sinful, so God planned to destroy them)
- ◆ How does God feel when you or I sin? (sad)
- ◆ What does God promise? (to forgive our sin when we ask Him to, and to bless and keep all people who take refuge in Him)

God asked Noah to do something very hard, and Noah obeyed God. **ASK:** Can you think

of something that God might want you to do? (help mom and dad around the house, share about Jesus with a friend, invite a friend to Sunday school, share toys, give money to church) Are some of these jobs hard? (Help the children discuss this, and assure them that God will help us to obey Him when we ask Him to.)

SAY: God saved Noah and his family from the flood because Noah loved God. All the other people died because they loved sin. They were wicked. God promises that if we love Him, He will keep us safe and bless us. He will be our refuge. (Help the children say the word *refuge*.)

SING "Noah Was Safe in the Ark" p.22 Salvation Songs Favorites. Hum or play the melody first while the children listen. Then have them hum while you sing the words. Have them repeat the words after you one phrase at a time. Sing the song together several times.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize the Bible Verse

Before class, **TRACE** fifteen arks on brown paper using the pattern included in the Teacher Manual. Then **WRITE** one word of the Bible verse on each ark. Write the reference on the last ark. Hang these on the wall before the class arrives.

SING "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart." This will let the class know that we are going to do our memory work now. Open your Bible and read the memory verse from Psalm 118:8. Then point to the arks on the wall. Have the children each read one word. Now have all the girls read together and then the boys.

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in man.
Psalm 118:8*

ASK: What was the refuge that God had provided for Noah? (the ark) Did Noah trust in God? (yes) How do you know? (because Noah obeyed God even when it was very hard)

Have the children read the verse again. Ask for any volunteers to say the verse alone.

Study the Books of the Bible

Make sure that the wall chart for the books of the Bible is ready before class begins. Also have the tag board strips made for the books Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

SAY: Today we are going to learn the last three **Books of History**. They are Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Have the children say them with you.

SAY: The last three books of history tell the story of how God's people returned to live in their homeland after being captives in another country.

Ezra was a scribe and priest who taught the people God's Word when they had forgotten it. **PLACE** the Ezra strip on the chart. **SPELL** the word Ezra together.

SAY: **Nehemiah** was a cupbearer for the king of Persia. He came back to his homeland and helped the people rebuild the walls around the city of Jerusalem. **ADD** the Nehemiah strip to the chart as you ask the children to **SAY** it with you.

SAY: **Esther** was a beautiful queen. When her husband was tricked into harming her people, she had the courage to ask the king for a favor. The king granted this favor to his queen, and God's people were saved. **ASK** a child to place the strip on the chart and then say the word Esther. **REPEAT** all three books together as a class.

***The above information is from the Books of the Bible flannelgraph.*

SING the "Books of the Bible" song to help review the books learned so far. **SING** it once for the children, then have them join with you.

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 – Noah's Ark

PULL OUT the ark from the center of each student book before class begins. Also tear out the cutout page of Noah and his wife and the animals.

There are many different ways you can use this activity. Here are two options:

Option 1: **GLUE** the ark onto tag board and bend the sides or bottom of the board so that the ark will stand up. After cutting out the figures, **TAPE** a tab made from tag board onto the back of each figure so that they will also be able to stand up.

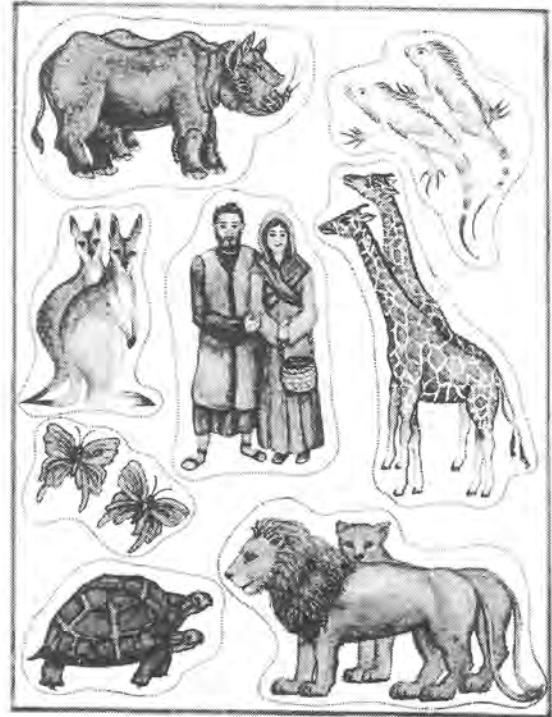
Option 2: Lay the ark page open on the table. **CUT OUT** the figures and **GLUE** onto the page in front of the ark, or keep the figures unattached for the children to play with again in class or at home. Figures could be mounted on construction paper or covered with contact paper to preserve them.

The students can play with the figures as they retell the story of God calling Noah to build the ark and filling it with the animals.

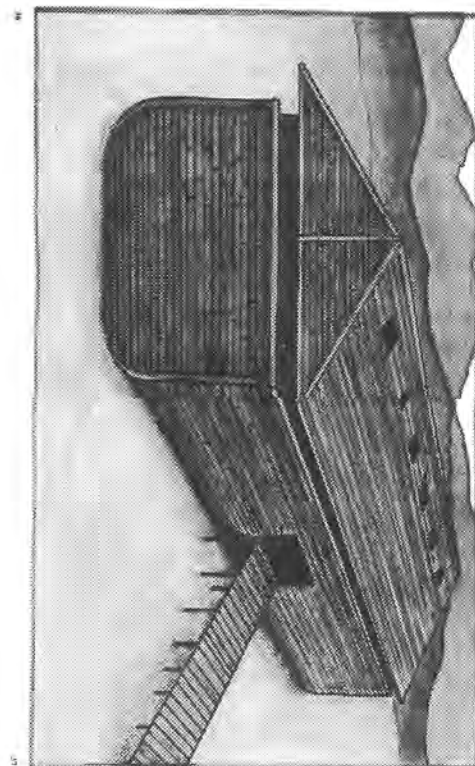
Provide an envelope for students to put the figures into to protect them and keep them from getting lost when they are sent home.

Lesson 5 – Activity 1 – Cutout Page

Noah Builds the Ark



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Lesson 5 – Activity 1 – Noah's Ark

Noah Builds the Ark

ACTIVITY 2 – Story Review

Have each student **FILL IN** the correct number in each raindrop from 1-8. As you **READ** or have one of the students read each sentence, **ASK** which word completes the sentence: *God* or *Noah*. Use this activity to review the story.

1. God
2. God
3. Noah
4. Noah
5. God
6. God
7. Noah, God
8. God

Lesson 5 – Activity 2

God Sends a Rainbow of Promise

God	Noah
1	People who lived on earth forgot about _____.
2	_____ decided to destroy the people on the earth with a flood.
3	God found one man named _____ who had not forgotten about Him.
4	God told _____ to build an ark.
5	_____ told Noah to bring every living thing, two by two, into the ark to keep them alive.
6	_____ shut the door to the ark, and the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and nights.
7	Because _____ obeyed _____, all that were on the ark were safe.
8	_____ promises to bless and keep all people who take refuge in Him.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Teach and Sing

SING the second verse of the hymn "*We Praise Thee, O God*" again. This will enable the children to learn it well today.

Also review "*Noah Was Safe in the Ark.*" Then close by singing "*Jesus Loves Me*" p.369 Ambassador Hymnal.

Pray Together

ASK the children to share any prayer needs they may have. Remind them that we can always trust God to take care of our needs and protect us. He will never leave us. **THANK** God that He is our refuge when things in life are difficult.

Say the memory verse together again:

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in man.
Psalm 118:8*

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Gather and Prepare Materials

- ◆ tempera paints of rainbow colors
- ◆ painting shirts, 1 for each child
- ◆ white 8½" x 11" construction paper or watercolor paper with Psalm 121:7 written at the bottom, 1 sheet per child
- ◆ paintbrushes, 1 for each child
- ◆ containers of water
- ◆ wet wipes
- ◆ building blocks of various kinds to build an ark with
- ◆ stuffed animals
- ◆ My Favorite Bible Stories book
- ◆ arks from last week's memory verse
- ◆ bowl or hat
- ◆ memory verse written on index cards attached to wooden blocks or plastic containers (anything that can stack)
- ◆ tag board strips for books of the Bible chart with the words Job, Psalms, Proverbs

Prepare Lesson 6

Begin your study and preparation with prayer.

Pray for each student daily by name.

Read the Bible text (Genesis 8:1 – 9:17) and student lesson.

Memorize the Bible verse:

The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. Psalm 121:7

Read the Teacher Manual.

Highlight, underline, and write in your own notes to help you teach Lesson 6.

