

LESSON AIM:

To show how God judged the world through a global flood yet saved Noah and his family by an ark which also preserved two of every kind of land-dwelling animal. Read through **Genesis 6-9:17** to familiarize yourself with the story, and also study the pamphlet from *Answers in Genesis*.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 6-9:17**REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1) What is sin?
- 2) What does the Bible say about sin?
- 3) What was God's rescue plan?
- 4) Review last week's memory verse; have students explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

- There are three important points to be made in the lesson.
 - 1) The telling of the story, emphasizing that this was a real historical event.
 - 2) To address some of the questions that will come up about this story, please see the *Answers in Genesis* pamphlet by Ken Ham.
 - 3) Explain to your students that God must judge sin, but like Noah we can avoid God's judgment if we turn from our sin and invite Jesus into our lives. The ark is a picture of salvation; when God judges the world we will be protected if we trust in Christ.

LESSON:

Because of Adam's sin the entire human race would be born under the curse of sin. Sin is like a deadly disease; it doesn't go away, it only grows worse and worse. Many years went by after Adam and Eve sinned. Their sin took a horrible toll on their first two children, when Cain killed his brother Abel out of anger. The world became more and more wicked. This grieved the heart of God because He hates sin.

By the time we get to Genesis 6 sin had filled the whole earth with violence. (Gen 6:5, 11-13) Because people lived a long time (sometimes over 900 years; Gen 5:20, 26) there was a great population explosion, and there was horrible sin and violence everywhere. God would need to start all over because the sin of the human race was so bad. But there was one exception; a man named Noah. Noah did sin but he wanted to live his life in a way that pleased God. (Gen. 6:9) Let's read what happened!

Read Gen. 6:5-7

Sin can be like a disease that takes over your whole body. Sin had taken over the minds and hearts of men and women. Evil was all they ever thought about.

Read Gen. 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at that time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. This does not mean that Noah never sinned because all have sinned. But Noah felt bad about his sin and asked God to forgive him. Noah was the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Read Gen. 6:11

God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. Everyone on earth was corrupt. They had filled the earth with violence. God would have to start all over again. He would bring a flood upon the earth because man had gone too far in sin.

Read Gen. 6:14-22

God told Noah to build a huge boat to save Noah and anyone who would accept the invitation to come on board. God gave him specific instructions on how to build it. It would be very large; 450 feet long, 75 feet wide. As Noah and his sons built the ark he preached to the people. But apparently the people just laughed at him. They were not sorry for their sins. This went on for a hundred years while Noah and his three sons built the ark. The people had one hundred years to repent from their wicked ways and follow God. (see 1 Peter 3:20)

Read Gen 7:1, 13-16

Finally it was time to get on board. The people, though they were warned, still did not believe. At that time there were probably no oceans, and they had probably never seen a severe rainstorm. At that time the earth was watered by a mist. A flood was unimaginable to them, but when God says something will happen, it will happen! God told Noah to fill the ark with a male and female of every kind of bird, reptile, animal, and food. Noah didn't have to go out and search for the animals, they came to him. **(Gen. 7:15-16)** Noah and his family went inside and God closed the door behind them.

Read Gen 7:17-20

The rains came. It rained and rained and rained for forty days and forty nights. Soon the ground was covered with water and the ark floated away. The whole earth was covered by water, the mountains, the valleys and hills. There was no land at all.

Read Gen. 7:24 – 8:1

It rained a long time and then God remembered Noah. Not that He forgot about Him. The idea is that even though it was dark and the ark had been bobbing around on the open seas, it was now time in God's plan for God to act and to provide dry land so that Noah, his family and all the animals could disembark from the ark. *I wonder if there was ever a time where Noah's family wondered if God had forgotten them? Have you ever thought that God has forgotten you?* God never forgets us. God remembered and watched that ark constantly, even as God watches and remembers you constantly even though we sometimes forget God. We should always remember Jesus and what He did for us by dying on the cross for us.

Then what happened?? It took 150 days for the waters to subside (this is probably when the oceans were formed) and the ark came to rest on Mount Ararat (which is in present day Turkey). God told him it was finally time to come out of the ark. How good it must have felt when everyone including the animals could finally come out of the ark, feel the sun shining on their faces and be standing on the ground rather than on the swaying floor of the ark! Then Noah built an altar and sacrificed animals and birds upon it to thank God for saving his family.

Read Gen 8:21.

God says he will never again destroy every living thing. Turn over to chapter 9 and we will read where God makes this promise to Noah (read vs. 11-16). Whenever you see a rainbow, remember this story of God saving Noah and his family in the ark. God punishes the wicked but saves the righteous.

MEMORY VERSE:

(Every year):

“But, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:8