

# Noah

Today's Bible story is about someone who loved and obeyed God by building a big boat and gathering pairs of animals. God gave Noah a command that all of his neighbors thought was silly – even ridiculous. Prior to the flood, the earth was very different than it was today. At this point in history, God's people had never experienced rain, let alone flooding. To them, this boat must have seemed really bizarre.

## The Story

Throughout the Old Testament we see a repeated pattern. First there is a sin (For example, Cain murdering his brother Abel). Then there is a consequence for that sin (For Cain, banishment and crops that wouldn't grow). Despite the sin and consequence, God then has a "Rescue Plan" and a promise. (God put a mark on Cain's forehead to show that he was under God's protection and that anyone who killed Cain would be punished seven times more for what they did.) As you review and discuss today's story, look for each element of this pattern.

### *Sin*

Read Genesis 6:1-8, 11-12

- How bad things had things gotten?
- How much had sin corrupted the world?
- How it must have felt for God to see his hard work turned so ugly?

### *Consequence*

Read Genesis 6:13; 7:4, 17, 21-23

Discuss:

- What were the consequences to this sin?
- How long did it rain? How long did the water cover the earth?
- What died in the flood?
- Have you ever worked hard on something, only to see it fail to the point that you want to start all over again? The sin at this time was so great that God had to wipe out his creation and start fresh.

### *Rescue Plan*

Discuss:

- Did God destroy everything on earth? Our God is a gracious God, and for the sake of one righteous man, he preserved human life.

Read Genesis 6:9, 13-16, 18-22; 7:1-3, 5

Discuss:

- What was God's rescue plan for mankind?
- Why did he choose to save Noah, his family, and the animals?
- Why do you think he didn't just destroy all living things and wash his hands of the sinful humans?
- How does this rescue plan compare to the rescue plan found in Jesus?

*Promise*

Read Genesis 7:23b, 8:1-4, 16-22, 9:1, 11-17

Discuss:

- What does the word "covenant" mean?
- What promise did God make to Noah and his family?
- Does God ever break a promise?

Activity

For older children:

Some people do not believe in the story of Noah, the ark, and the flood. There is a great struggle between this story and the theory of evolution. Because of this, people like the Answers in Genesis group have spent a great deal of time studying this particular period in history. Those who do not want to believe in God or the Bible often try to distract us with arguments intended to cause doubt.

Doubts and false teachings about God are not a new thing. We see this in the early church (e.g., 1 Timothy, Hebrews 2, 2 Peter 2, etc.) as false prophets and teachers tried to distract people from the truth of the Gospel.

What does God tell us to do in 1 Peter 3:15b? How can we be prepared to make a defense to someone who might raise the following doubts about the ark?

- I've seen the ark in story books, there is no way all the animals could have fit in there.
- Noah could have never built the ark in time... he wasn't even a ship builder.
- People during Noah's time weren't "evolved" enough to have built something so massive.
- The number of animals alone makes this story impossible.
- God couldn't have flooded the entire earth, it must have just been a local flood that seemed that bad.

Review the fact sheets about the ark found on the website. Look for interesting information about the ark, the flood, the animals, etc. that would make a good defense for any of the sample objections above.