

NOAH'S ARK & THE GREAT FLOOD GENESIS 6-9 To help children understand that sin deserves to be punished, but God always GOAL provides deliverance. CHARACTERS Noah: He was a righteous man whom God chose to build an ark and be rescued from the flood. Noah's family: They served alongside Noah and were rescued from the flood. MEMORY Genesis 6:9: Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. VERSE OVERVIEW Read Genesis 6-9: The Fall was in full force, and the earth was an incredibly wicked, violent place. One man, however, was blameless. God chose Noah to build an ark. God judged the earth with a flood, but saved Noah and his family.





SUGGESTIONS

Far from being a tale of judgment and carnage, the story of Noah is a story about grace. God, in his grace, gave all humankind a chance to repent. Noah preached to them for years, yet they still resisted. Eventually, God, in his grace, spared Noah and his family.

To highlight Noah as the hero of the story would be a mistake. You should discuss his righteousness and character, but more importantly, the God whom he served, obeyed, and walked with. God's holiness, justice, and grace are the true highlights of the story.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Animal Pair Hunt | Supplies: pairs of stuffed or plastic animals, two large baskets.

Hide several pairs of animals around the room. Divide the class into two teams and assign each team to an ark (large basket) in the front of the room. When students find a matching pair, they can put them in their team's ark at the front of the room. The team with the most pairs of animals wins.

MEMORY VERSE MEANING **Genesis 6:9:** Noah followed God, which made him righteous and blameless, qualities that were very rare during his time. These qualities were what brought God to save Noah and his family when He caused the great flood. Being righteous and blameless stem from walking with God.

POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

Pin the Animals | Supplies: cut out shapes of animals and a large image of a boat.

Play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey," but pin animals to the ark.





Out of every single person on the planet, God found Noah to be the only one worth saving. While Jesus has already saved us, we still want to live in a way that is pleasing to God. How can we live a life like Noah?

- 1. Be righteous: We are righteous when we do what is right. Following God and avoiding sin will result in righteousness.
- **2. Be blameless:** If we are following God and behaving righteously, then no one can honestly blame us for any wrongdoing.
- **3. Walk with God:** When we live every day with God on our minds and in our hearts, we are better able to hear the Holy Spirit guide us.







Q1a: Why were all the people so sinful?

A1: The people were sinful because Adam and Eve sinned.

Q1b: If left out in the middle of nowhere without a compass, how would you find your way home?

TN: Well, we can use the position of the sun to determine a rough idea of direction, but it wouldn't be very accurate. By night, we could use the stars if we understand how that is done. Without a compass, it would be very difficult to determine accurately where we are going. God and His laws are a sort of moral compass. God's laws help us to see what is right and what is wrong. The people living at this time did not follow God, so they were living without something that helped to distinguish between right and wrong. As they continued to make bad decisions they got further from the truth and God.



Q2a: Who were some of the only people who remained faithful to God?

A2: Noah and his family were the only people who remained faithful to God.

Q2b: If everyone at your school decided to shave their heads, would you do it?

TN: A shaved head isn't a good look for everyone. Not following this trend would make us stand out and might leave us open to teasing. Shaving our heads to fit in so we won't get teased would mean going against our own better judgment. It could have been so easy for Noah and his family to stop following God to fit in with the rest of the people living at the time, but that would have gone against their beliefs and faith in God. They did not fit in with the rest of society, but, by continuing to do what was right, God singled them out to be saved from the coming judgment.







Q3a: What task did God give to Noah?

A3: God told Noah to build an ark.

Q3b: Have you ever made an ice sculpture?

TN: It's unlikely that any of us has ever made an ice sculpture. So if God asked us to do it, but we have no experience making ice sculptures, how would we even get started? God asked a man who lived in a desert to build a giant boat—Noah hadn't ever built a row boat let alone an ark! God didn't just tell Noah to build a boat and then left him to figure it out for himself. God gave Noah very specific instructions on how to make the boat so it would be easy for Noah to accomplish this giant task.



Q4a: How did Noah respond to people laughing at him for building the ark?

A4: Noah preached to the people and told them to repent of their evil ways.

Q4b: Has anyone ever made fun of you for doing what is right?

TN: It is not fun to be made fun of, but there is absolutely nothing wrong with following God. Scripture tells us that we will face ridicule for doing as God commands. Sometimes, God asks His followers to do seemingly crazy things, like build an ark in the desert—the only crazy thing would be not following God's direction. When God tells us to do something, it is for our best interest to do it. Imagine if Noah hadn't done this crazy thing God asked him to do—he would have died with the rest of the people in the flood. God's instructions don't always make sense, but they are always the right thing to do in every situation.







Q5a: How many of every animal did God send to the ark?

A5: God sent two of every animal to the ark.

Q5b: Do you think the flood is why unicorns don't exist today?

TN: There are lots of jokes that the reason many mythical creatures don't exist now is because they missed the boat. More than likely, mythical creatures have always been just that: mythical. However, the flood would have been an opportunity to remove certain creatures from existence. We'll have to wait until we get to Heaven to ask God this question to find out for sure!



Q6a: How did God flood the earth?

A6: God caused huge rain storms and fountains underneath the ground to flood the earth.

Q6b: Why didn't some of the animals attack other animals while on the ark?

TN: The Bible doesn't explain this specifically, but animals are part of creation, so God has control of them. Much like God was able to command the weather to rain so much that it flooded the entire earth. He could command the animals to not attack each other.







Q7a: What did the dove bring back to Noah?

A7: The dove brought back a leaf.

Q7b: If you were trapped on a boat filled with animals for 40 days and 40 nights, what would you do to pass the time?

TN: Maybe we'd spend the time reading. Maybe we'd use the time to get to know all of the animals on the ark. Maybe we'd spend the time praying and preparing for life after the flood. Noah and his family were on the boat for a long time, so they had plenty of time to think about how blessed they were to have been spared from the flood.



Q8a: Where did the ark come to rest?

A8: The ark came to rest on a mountainside.

Q8b: Has the ark been discovered?

TN: The Bible mentions a specific mountain where the ark came to rest. While many people have searched this mountain range and claimed to have found it, no one has been able to provide conclusive evidence.





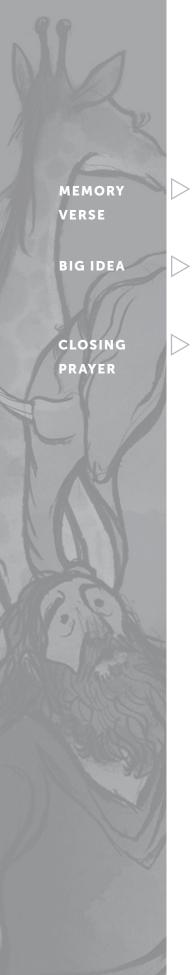


Q9a: What was the first thing Noah and his family did when they got off the ark?

A9: Noah and his family built an altar and made a sacrifice to God.

Q9b: Why did God decide that He would never again wipe out humanity with a flood?

TN: There would be no need to do this again. Yes, people are sinful, and the world would become filled with evil people again, but God wouldn't need to wipe out everyone again because He was going to send us a Savior. God would never have to judge everyone like this again, because He was going to offer them forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ.





Genesis 6:9: Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with Goo
God delivers the faithful from His judgment.
Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son to forgive our sins. Help us to be righteous through
Jesus Christ. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.





LESSON TRANSCRIPT



After creation, after Adam and Eve, and after Cain and Abel, more people started to populate the earth. The more people there were, the worse things got. Adam and Eve had sinned, and now everyone was born sinful. People became wicked and evil, forgetting about God.



There was at least one family who followed God's way: Noah, his wife, and their three sons. They were faithful to God. Instead of being wicked and evil and giving themselves over to the pleasures of the world, they served God.



One day, God spoke to Noah and gave him an incredible task. God told Noah that He would punish the world because of its sin by sending a great flood, which would cover the entire earth. God told Noah that He would spare him and his family and that Noah had to build a big boat, called an ark. God told them exactly how to make it. They were to leave room for themselves as well as a lot of animals from all over the earth.





They began construction on the ark right away. It was hard work. They had to do it all by themselves, and it was a huge boat that was going to be hundreds of feet long. The people thought Noah was crazy. They laughed and made fun of him, but Noah preached to them, telling them to repent of their sins and obey God. The ark was almost done. As Noah and his sons put the finishing touches on it, the people continued in their wicked ways and paid no attention to God's warning.





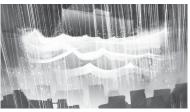
LESSON TRANSCRIPT





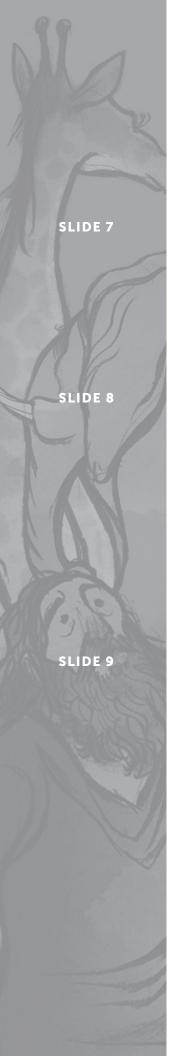
When the time came and the Ark was complete, God sent two of every animal in existence to the ark. It was incredible. Noah, his family, and all their animals were to stay on this big boat until the flood was over. Two of every animal had a place on the ark. Two-by-two, they got onto the ark—giraffes, elephants, lions, cats, turtles, worms, bears, birds, and everything else.







Then, the flood came. As the first sprinkles of rain splashed onto the ground, the people knew they were doomed. The ark's door was closed. Noah and his family were safe. Huge fountains underneath the earth opened, and a torrent of rain gushed from the sky. Puddles grew into ponds. Streams formed into rivers. Rivers roared into the lakes. The lakes rose and connected to form an ocean that covered the whole world. Everything was underwater. All the people who rejected God and made fun of Noah were dead. Only Noah's little family and his floating zoo were alive.





LESSON TRANSCRIPT



They sailed on the vast ocean for many months as rain kept falling. Then, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a bird to see if it could find someplace to land, but the bird came back. Many days later, Noah sent out a dove, and it returned with a leaf. This told Noah that the water had gone down and trees were starting to appear.



Eventually, the ark came to rest on a mountainside. The flood was over. It was time to open the doors and let the animals out. As the doors opened, the birds fluttered out into freedom. The animals stepped onto the firm ground and went to find their way in the new world. Noah and his family stepped out and breathed a sigh of thankfulness to God.





The first thing that Noah and his family did was build an altar to God. They sacrificed to Him, and thanked Him for protecting their family through the flood. God made a covenant with Noah. Then they saw it—a huge rainbow spread across the sky, painted in the most brilliant and beautiful colors that they had ever seen.