

Bible Story 4: NOAH AND THE FLOOD

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 6:5-22; 7:1-17, 23-24; 8:1-22; 9:12-17

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 11:28

BIBLE STORY:

Many, many years have passed since Cain fought against his brother Abel. God was very sad when he looked at the earth and saw that the way the people thought and acted was wicked and violent. God only approved of one man, Noah. He was a righteous man and obeyed God. Noah walked in favor with God.

One day, God informed Noah that he would destroy the earth with a flood. God told him to build an ark, a large boat, out of cypress wood, like this:

THE BOAT:

√ ... 450 feet long	√ ... a roof
√ ... 75 feet wide	√ ... 3 floors
√ ... 45 feet high	√ ... 1 door

God told Noah to take inside the boat a pair, male and female, of every kind of creature: animals, birds, etc. Also he was to take food for them and for his family. Noah obeyed and did everything according to God's directions. Noah announced the word of God to the people while he built the boat, but the people did not listen. Noah finished the ark. God told him to take his wife, their three sons (Shem, Ham and

Japheth) and his three daughters-in-law and enter into the boat with the animals. Noah obeyed. Then God closed the door.

Noah was 600 years old when the flood-rains came. For 40 days water poured from the sky and, finally, the rain stopped. For 150 days, the water flooded and covered the earth. Then little by little the waters receded and the peaks of the mountains began to appear. Thinking that the earth was dry, Noah opened the window and sent out a raven that flew back and forth. Then he sent a dove, but it didn't find a place to land either and returned to the ark. After 7 days, Noah let the dove out again and it returned, carrying an olive leaf in its beak. After seven days more, Noah again let the dove out the window and, this time, it didn't return. The earth was dry. God told Noah that they could leave the ark. Noah, his family and the animals left the ark. They had been inside the boat for 370 days.

What was the first thing that Noah did? He and his family built an altar to thank God for giving them protection. God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky as a sign that there would never again be another flood to destroy the earth.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. There was a great flood because of the violence and disobedience to God. The laws of God protect our lives. But disobedience to God brings problems. (An example: A law is "not to steal." Somebody that steals brings sadness to the person he steals from and, also, brings bad consequences upon himself.)
2. Noah was a righteous man who walked in favor with God. He obeyed God and built the ark. Be like Noah and obey God.
3. As soon as they left the ark, Noah and his family built an altar and worshiped God. Worship God. How? Go to church, pray, sing praises to God, etc.
4. Noah and his family trusted God for their salvation and protection from the flood. Trust God for your salvation and protection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God decide to destroy the earth with a flood?
2. Why did God choose Noah to build the ark?
3. Do you think Noah was courageous to build a boat in the desert? Why? The Bible doesn't say it, but do you think the people ridiculed Noah because he was building a great boat in the desert? How do you think Noah felt?
4. Has anyone ever criticized you because you were going to church? Because you didn't participate with them in doing something wrong, such as taking drugs? How did you feel? What did you do?
5. What should you do when someone is criticizing you?
6. Do you think Noah and his family had a tough task being in a boat with all the animals for 370 days? Why?
7. Does God ask people to do unpleasant tasks for Him today? Give some examples.
8. What was the first thing that Noah's family did when they left the boat?
9. How can we worship God?
10. What are some things that you can thank the Lord for that He did for you personally?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

WHILE TELLING THE STORY:

- Option 1: Ahead of time, use a chalk on cement, a stick on sand or dirt or masking tape on a rug, to draw the outline of a boat. Have the group sit inside the boat while you tell the story.
- Option 2: Make a boat out of a large box. Sit inside the boat while you tell the story.
- Option 3: Cover your heads with umbrellas during the part of the rain coming down.

GAME: "NOAH'S TRIP"

- Make a circle with the group. One person begins by saying: "Noah took two elephants (or any animal) into the boat." (If he wants, speak the name of the animal and also make a gesture/sound that represents the animal.) The person on his right side continues by saying: "Noah took two elephants and two giraffes (or any other animal) into the boat." When someone forgets an animal, the others help, making the gestures/sounds of the animal. Continue like this, repeating the names (and gestures) of the animals and finishing when the last person in the circle repeats everything. You may begin a new series of animals.
- Option: Instead of animals, name other items, such as clothing, tools, etc. Say, "Noah took a coat into the boat."

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Option 1: Invite someone to come and talk about the weather (storms, tornado, hurricane, etc.) and safety measures to protect themselves.
- Option 2: Invite a veterinarian to come speak about different animals, how to hold or observe them, and how to take care of them. (Emphasize that it is important not to play with any strange animals that they do not know personally.)
- Option 3: Invite someone who owns a boat, a captain of a boat or someone in the Navy to come and talk about his/her boat and some of his/her experiences while traveling.

SEEING-EYE DOG:

- Talk about animals that help people, such as a seeing-eye dog that helps blind people. If possible, have a blind person come and bring his seeing-eye dog, talking about how the animal helps him/her and how he/she cares for his/her dog.

PETS:

- Display an animal, such as a little bird in a cage, fish in an aquarium, a rabbit, a kitten, a puppy or another animal from your area. If possible, let each one feed or pet the animal. Talk about how to treat and take care of different kinds of animals.

OUTING:

- Option 1: Plan an outing to a park, farm, zoo or pet store. Observe God's creation and especially talk about all the animals, their sounds, their unique characteristics, food, etc.
- Option 2: Tour a large ship or even ride on a boat or canoe.
- Suggestion: Tell the story during the outing.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Genesis 6:5-22; 7:1-17, 23-24; 8:1-22; 9:12-17

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Genesis 6:5-8	Genesis 6:9-17	Genesis 6:18-22	Genesis 7:1-17, 23-24	Genesis 8:1-17	Genesis 8:18-22	Genesis 9:12-17