

Noah Builds The Ark

Genesis 5:28-6:22

MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 11:7a

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household...”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Animal templates provided with curriculum, cardboard, glue, markers or crayons and string.

As many paper boat models provided as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Would I Obey?

Ask for three volunteers to do a very hard task. Tell them that you will have them leave the room; and when they return, you will give them instructions. When the volunteers have stepped outside the room, instruct the rest of the class to jeer and mock and generally discourage your volunteers from the task you will give them. For example, they can say things like, “Why are you doing that?” “That’s a silly thing to do,” or “You’re wasting your time.”

When all of the volunteers re-enter the room, give them each a task--like touching their noses, waving to the class, patting their heads, or rubbing their tummies; no matter what it is, they must complete the task until you excuse them.

After they have finished, have a class discussion about how it feels to do something while others are making fun of you. Ask the class to share any experiences they may have had where other children have made fun of them. Discuss how Noah probably felt while building the ark with such opposition from the people. **God wants us to be faithful.**

LESSON TIME!

This week we are going to learn about a very great man of God. He loved the Lord even when everyone else in the world was turning away from Him and following after sin. God gave Noah an interesting job to do. It was something that the people of his day thought was awfully silly, but Noah hung in there and did what God told him. There is much we can learn about faithfulness from this man named Noah. **God wants us to be faithful.**

GENESIS 5:28-32

Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and begot a son.

And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."

After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and begot sons and daughters.

So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

In this passage of scripture, we meet the son of Methuselah, Lamech. When Lamech was 282 years old, he had a son whom he named Noah, saying "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."

It appears that Lamech was a man of faith because he attributed his "toil" and the condition of the ground to the Lord's curse. The name Noah means "to rest and to bring rest, to comfort." Noah's father not only felt the burden of his work upon the ground, but also looked forward to the time when things would change for the better.

Also in these verses, we meet Noah and his family. We learn that Noah was 500 years old when he had his children, Shem, Ham and Japheth. It is interesting to note that people lived much longer prior to the flood than they did after the flood. One reason may be due to the curse of sin and the process of deterioration and death that occurred as a result. Another reason may be that the nature of earth's atmosphere changed after the flood. (We will consider this more later.)

GENESIS 6:1-7

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them.

Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

The condition of the world at the time that Noah lived was terrible. In verse five it says, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." We see that "God saw." God always sees; He sees the good, but He also sees the bad. Nothing escapes the Almighty. As God saw this condition, His heart was grieved. What a sad thing--the creation that God breathed life into, the creation that He had said was good, now grieved His heart.

Just as God saw the hearts of man in the time of Noah, God sees the hearts of man today. There are many bad things that happen in the world, today. It does not happen apart from God knowing and caring. One day He will bring judgment on all those who give their lives to sin in this world and hurt others in the process. How we need to acknowledge God in our lives and serve Him faithfully all of our days, even in the midst of an evil world. **God wants us to be faithful.**

The result of man doing whatever he wanted to do was destruction—destruction of his own life and the lives of others. So God decided that He would put an end to the misery in this world and would now destroy man and beast, the creeping things, and the fowl of the air. How sad that the creation that God loved so much would now have to be destroyed. May we never have to stand before God in judgment because we refuse to follow Him!

It is interesting that Jesus used this time in history to describe what life would be like in the last days. Jesus said in Matthew 24:37-38, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark." These are the characteristics of the day in which Jesus will return. Again, man will bring destruction upon himself; but in the dark background of this picture, we see a glimmer of grace.

GENESIS 6:8-13

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Verse eight tells us, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." What did God see when He looked at Noah? Hebrews 11:7 tells us, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Noah was a just man, and (as was said of Enoch), he walked with God. Although the whole world turned away from God, Noah stood as a man who would give his life to serving the Lord. Because God had a relationship with Noah, He favored him and poured out His grace upon him. Grace, the undeserved favor of God, is the foundation of every life that is well pleasing to God. Grace is the source from which every blessing we receive comes. It is in the grace of God that we stand. Isn't it just like our God to reveal His grace in such a dark time? Noah, a man of faith, was warned of God. He found grace in the sight of the Lord and was protected from God's judgment.

We find out a few things about Noah's character in these verses. We see that he was a just man. Does that mean he never made mistakes? No, it means that he was mature in his walk with the Lord. He made up his mind that he would serve the Lord no matter what and then carried it out. How we need to have that kind of character in our lives today. In the midst of a world that has turned away from God, we need to stand up for what is just and right. Noah walked with God in an evil time. We need to do the exact same thing! **God wants us to be faithful.**

Here, also, we see a contrast. A contrast is kind of like a comparison, except the two things compared are very different, not alike. A picture is painted of a very evil world filled with sin and violence. People were hurting and killing one another. It grieved the heart of God. On the other hand, there is a family that stands out as a very different group of people. They were righteous and served the Lord.

So the Lord came to Noah and began to speak to his heart. He shared with Noah that because of the sin of the world, He would destroy man and the entire world. How do you suppose Noah felt to receive that news? It might have been pretty scary. But, Noah put his trust in the Lord and knew that He had everything under control. Not only did God have things under control, God would use Noah for a very special mission--to prepare an ark to preserve the human race and the animals.

God can also use our lives when we remain faithful to Him. It is not always easy to remain faithful to the Lord when others are not or when we are laughed at because we obey Jesus. But, we can be encouraged by Noah's life because he stayed faithful through it all and was used greatly by the Lord. What great things God can do with our lives when we remain faithful! **God wants us to be faithful.**

GENESIS 6:14-22

“Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

“ And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

“You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

“And behold, I Myself am bringing the flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; and everything that is on the earth shall die.

“But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

“And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

“Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.

“And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Race to the Ark

Make cardboard animals from the models provided. Tie three strings to a chair or table leg and thread the strings through each of the animals (the hole must be big enough that the string can pass through easily), and let the children race them to the ark.

Ask for three volunteers to help the animals “race” to the ark. With the animals on the opposite end of the string from where they are tied to the leg, start with the strings loosely held so that the animals lay flat to the ground. Say, “Go!” and have the children pull up on their strings. The animals will stand up. As the children pull and loosen the strings the animals will stand and fall forward, eventually inching toward the end of the string. The first one to reach the end wins.

Have several groups of children try so that everyone gets a chance.

Now, in obedience, Noah builds the ark the Lord told him to build. When God tells us to do something, He does not just tell us to do it and then leave us to accomplish the task on our own. God gave Noah very specific instructions. Noah was to build the ark from gopher wood and pitch it within and without with pitch. The ark would be watertight, a perfect shelter, a perfect place of refuge. No matter how hard or much it rained, they were secure in the ark.

The size of the ark, on the basis of a cubit as 18 inches, was 450 feet long with a beam of 75 feet and a depth of 45 feet, with 3 decks. Scholars have calculated that a vessel of this size could hold more than 43,000 tons. The only door in the ark, making one way in and one way out, was set in the side. A window was placed above; Noah and his family were not to watch the scene of destruction happening around them. They were to only look up.

In verse eighteen, God gave Noah the promise that he and his family would be preserved. Then He gave Noah the responsibility to keep the animals from complete extinction. He was to take two of every sort, male and female, and provide shelter for them in the ark. In order that they would not have difficulty gathering the animals together and getting them into the ark, God said they "will come to you." Noah was to provide food for them, that they might not starve; and Noah did "all that God commanded him." **God wants us to be faithful.**

In spite of the darkness of mankind, God had Noah prepare a place of refuge for him and his family from the judgment to come upon that evil and wicked generation. Noah found grace in God's sight, and he walked with God. As God was Noah's place of refuge and protection, God is our place of refuge and protection (Psalm 91); let us walk with God and in obedience to Him. "For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). **God wants us to be faithful.**

A Paper Ark

Have your students make paper boats from the model provided.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's provision. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity.





