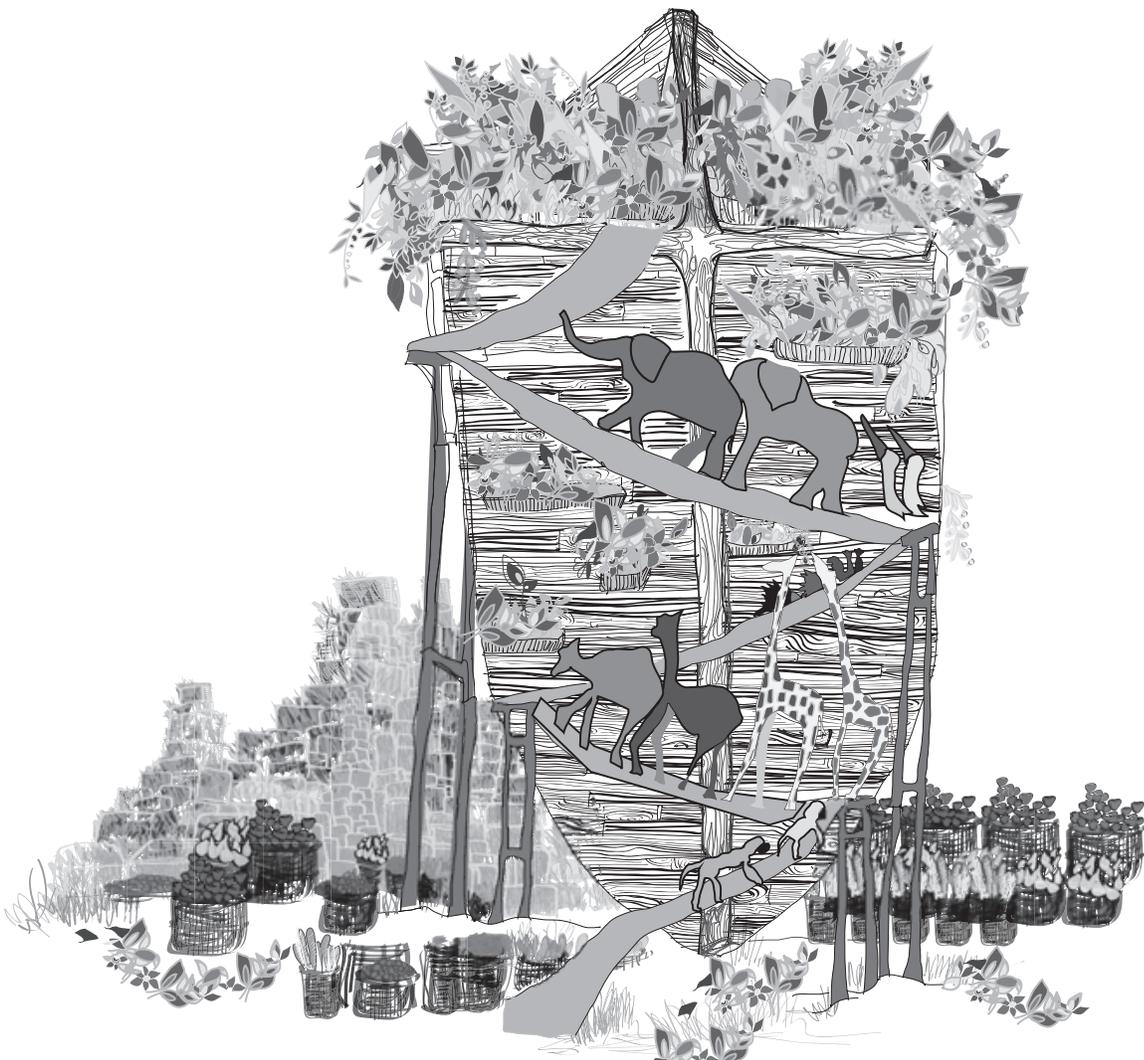


LESSON 5

God Chooses Noah

GENESIS 6–7



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY PROVIDE SALVATION FOR NOAH AND HIS FAMILY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Genesis 6:11–22 from the Scriptures or read story 5, “God Chooses Noah,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Only Evil All the Time
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ one dozen eggs (one hard-boiled)
 - ✓ twelve sheets of colored tissue paper twelve-inches square
 - ✓ a black marker
 - ✓ one disposable drop cloth
 - ✓ one hand towel or roll of paper towels
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
How Big Was the Ark?
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers
 - ✓ tape measure
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 20 MIN**
Playing It Out
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN**
I Am a Sinner Too
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ paper and pencils/pens
 - ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Apart from God’s grace, sin controls our lives—At the end of Genesis 4, people began to trust in God. But by Genesis 6, which was ten generations later, no one trusted God anymore because “every intention of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

People are full of sin. Adam and Eve chose to eat fruit from the forbidden tree, and ever since then people follow their own ways. Apart from the grace of God, sin will control everyone’s life.

Even in God’s judgment, he is merciful to sinful man—It was God’s idea to reach out to Noah, give him instructions, and offer him the opportunity to be saved from the flood. This is one of many ways the Bible shows us that we do not choose God, but God chooses us.

Also, God did not have to save Noah—he could have destroyed the whole earth. It was because of God’s mercy that he spared Noah and his family.

God’s judgment is just—In Genesis 7, God was totally just in killing those who had turned away from him. At the same time, in his mercy God rescued Noah and the rest of his family. It was through Noah that mankind was preserved, and it was from Noah’s offspring that Jesus was born.

God is gracious and patient about the sins of mankind. But he does eventually punish all sin. In his mercy, however, God provided a way for Noah to be saved. Later in the New Testament, Jesus warned that those who rebel against God will be judged and go to a fiery place called hell (Matthew 5:22).

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Total depravity

Total depravity is the term theologians use to describe how sin affects every area of fallen mankind’s life.

Genesis 6:5 has one of the clearest descriptions of the depravity of man: “every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” This verse leaves no room for righteousness

apart from the grace of God. Like the people in Noah's day, apart from God we are full of sin. Indeed, every intention of our thoughts is only evil all the time. This does not mean that we never do any good, nor does it mean that unbelievers only do evil. The verse is looking at the heart, the place where motives originate. Though we do good things, they are tainted by our own pleasure and selfish desires—our sin.

God states clearly that we are to love him with all our heart, soul, and strength; anything less is sin. We are not able, even in one area of our lives, to love him the way we are called to—with all our heart. Our hearts are totally depraved, seeking their own good instead of the righteousness of Christ.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 1 Peter 3:20–22.

In the flood, God did finally judge the world for its sin. Peter tells us that the floodwater is a symbol of our baptism in Christ because the water of baptism covers our sin just as the floodwater covered the sinful world.

Also, Noah's ark was a symbol of God's salvation in Jesus. There was only one way to be saved from the floodwater. You had to go through the door and live in the ark. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the gate or door through which we must go for salvation.

God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.
(1 Peter 3:20–22 NIV)

So, reading about Noah and the flood should make us think of Jesus and his salvation.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW

5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read Genesis 6:11–22 from the Scriptures or read story 5, “God Chooses Noah,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1

10 MIN

Only Evil All the Time

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one dozen eggs (one hard-boiled)
- ✓ twelve sheets of colored tissue paper twelve-inches square
- ✓ a black marker
- ✓ one disposable drop cloth
- ✓ one hand towel or roll of paper towels

The object of this activity is to help the children understand and remember the pervasive nature of sin in our lives. In Genesis 6:5 we read: “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” The eggs in this illustration represent the sinful heart, and the colored tissue represents the good works we sometimes attempt to use to cover our sinful actions.

Prior to class, hard-boil one of the eggs and mark it so that you know which one it is. Spread out a disposable drop cloth in front of the room.

Explain to the class that apart from grace we would always sin. Read Genesis 6:5 and explain that the fall of man applies to everyone just like gravity applies to everyone. Ask the children what will happen if you drop an egg (show them the egg) onto the floor. Just as they are about to answer, drop the egg, and then pick up the dripping mess and hold it high for everyone to see. Inform them that the egg is like sin.

Wipe off your hands then pick up the colored tissue. Take another raw egg and wrap it in the colored tissue explaining that sometimes we think we are doing good, but apart from the grace

of God even the good things that we do are done from selfish motives. We love so that others will love us in return; we clean our rooms so we don't get punished; we drive within the speed limit to avoid getting a ticket; we say nice things so that others will like us. But inside (drop the tissue-covered egg) we are just as sinful as can be.

Ask the class what kind of outward behavior kids can put on while their hearts are far from God. (Dress up in nice clothes for church, respect their teachers in class but gossip outside of class, say nice things to someone's face but talk about them when they are not there, etc.) Write down these suggestions on a few sheets of tissue then in dramatic form, toss the eggs in the air and let them come down with a splat.

Explain to the children that in the midst of all the wickedness in the earth, God changed Noah's heart and poured out his grace on him. Take the hard-boiled egg, place it in a tissue, toss it up, and let it hit the floor. Pick it back up, wipe it off, and then peel it. Explain to the children that God is the only answer to the sin in our hearts. Tell the children that God's grace transforms our lives so that we are changed, "Just like this egg was changed when I boiled it this morning."

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

How Big Was the Ark?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers
- ✓ tape measure

The dimensions of Noah's ark were 450 feet long by 45 feet high. If you make a scale drawing for the class where 1/8 inch equals one foot the dimensions of the ark would be roughly 56 inches long by 5 5/8 inches high. Draw a rectangle 56 inches long and 5 5/8 inches high. Draw a 4-foot-tall person next to the ark (he would be only 1/2 inch tall).

Read through God's instructions to Noah, and have volunteers draw the different components of the ark: the door, the middle, and the upper decks. Then ask for volunteers to draw the animals around the ark. Keep in mind, 1/8 inch equals a foot. So, a 12-foot-high elephant would only be 1 1/4 inches high.

The point of this exercise is to help the children see just how big the ark was. Remind the children that the story of Noah is not a fable but actually happened. The flooding was a worldwide flood that did indeed destroy land, animals, and people and radically changed the face of the earth.

The story of Noah is portrayed in the folklore of cultures outside the record of Genesis. For example, the Chinese word for “boat” is made up of three pictures: the picture for vessel, the picture for eight, and the picture for mouth. The eight mouths are said to represent the eight members of Noah’s family. What is more, the Chinese word for “flood” is another collection of pictures: eight, united, earth, and water. Since the Chinese people can be traced back to the descendants of Noah, it is reasonable to assume that such a dramatic event as a worldwide flood would have influenced their understanding of words like “boat” and “flood.” If there is a person in your congregation that can write Chinese, ask them to come and demonstrate.

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 20 MIN

Playing It Out

Break up the class into groups of five to seven children. Give the children ten minutes to practice one of the following short skits:

1. People mocking Noah and his family for building the ark.
2. Noah explaining to his family what God told him to do.
3. People crying out in desperation to be allowed into the closed ark to escape the flood.

Present the skits to the class.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

I Am a Sinner Too

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils/pens
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Ask the children to give you examples of sins that children their age commit. Record the list of sins they give you on your classroom whiteboard. Once you complete the list, have the children copy down on their own papers each sin that they know they have committed themselves. As they write, help them identify with the sinful people in the story, and help them to see that if they were alive in Noah's day they would have been judged by God outside the ark, just as the other people were. Explain that today as in Noah's day there are people "outside the ark." Today being outside the ark means not to believe and trust in Jesus and his death on the cross for sin. When we trust in Jesus and what he has done for us, we can be sure that even if we die, we will not go to hell but go to heaven to be with Jesus.