

## GOD CHOOSES NOAH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 6:5-22



*God's grace and mercy provide salvation for Noah and his family*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**Apart from the grace of God, sin will reign in the lives of men** – People called on the name of the Lord at the end of Genesis chapter four but by the end of ten generations later the people and all the inclinations of their hearts were only evil (Genesis 6:5). Apart from God's restraining grace, people are full of sin, and this sin will express itself in the way they live. From the time Adam and Eve chose to disregard God's warning not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to this very day, people follow their own ways.

**God's judgment against sin in sinful man is just** – The just punishment for sin is death. God promised Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed Him they would die. The fact that God did not immediately kill Adam and Eve was an expression of His grace and mercy at the beginning of His plan of redemption. In this passage of Scripture God was totally just in killing those who had turned away from Him. In His mercy God rescued Noah. It was through Noah that Adam's lineage was preserved and it was from Noah's offspring that the Christ came.

**God established a covenant with Noah and this covenant extended through him to all generations** – Noah did not offer a covenant to God but God offered His covenant to Noah. Notice that God took the initiative, not man. It is clear that once again we did not choose God but God chose us. God had no obligation to save Noah. He could have destroyed the whole earth. It was because of God's mercy that He spared Noah and his family.

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### Where Is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Noah's life is a foreshadowing of Christ. Noah was a righteous man, who, with his family, passed safely through the waters of God's wrath and judgment. Though the earth was flooded because of sin, God spared the man and his family. These waters of judgment, Peter tells us, symbolize our baptism into Christ.

...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)



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# ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

**Bible Passage: Psalm 2:6-7**

### Connecting the passage to Christ:

Matthew records that as soon as Jesus came up out of the waters of baptism a voice came from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). In Psalm 2, we see an earlier declaration that God's king, the one who will receive the nations as an inheritance is none other than the Son of God, Jesus. Here we read that Jesus is the decreed Son, and His possession shall be the ends of the earth. Jesus would redeem the earth and the nations from the power of Satan. Be aware that "son of God" is a kingship and angelic term in the Old Testament – that does not overly (in and of itself) have deity implications.

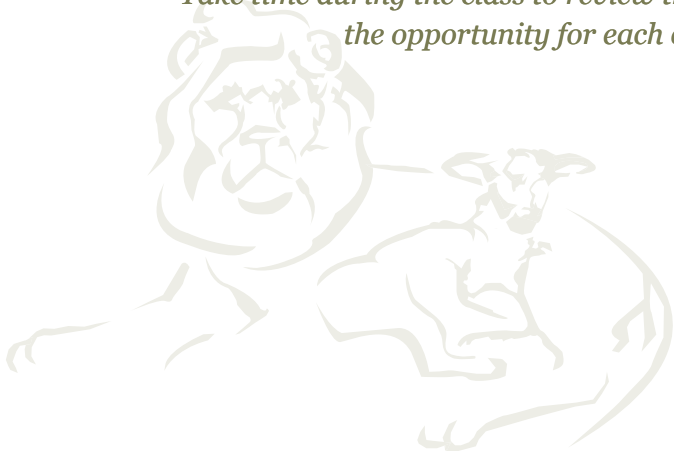
### Questions for reflection:

- What in Psalm 2:6-7 makes it sound like they are talking about Jesus? (Jesus is a king, He is also God's Son.)
- What would Jesus do to make the nations His heritage (inheritance, reward)? (Jesus would purchase back people by paying the price for their sin. His life, given up on the cross, would pay the penalty for their sin and remove Satan's claim upon them. No longer would they be bound to the death that came through the sin of Adam and Eve. Instead, with the penalty paid, all those who trust in Christ will be a people for His possession and dwell as His subjects in heaven with Him forever.)

## SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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



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### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

#### ONLY EVIL ALL THE TIME

##### Supplies:

- one dozen eggs
- twelve sheets of colored tissue paper 12 inches square
- a black marker
- one drop cloth
- one hand towel or roll of paper towels

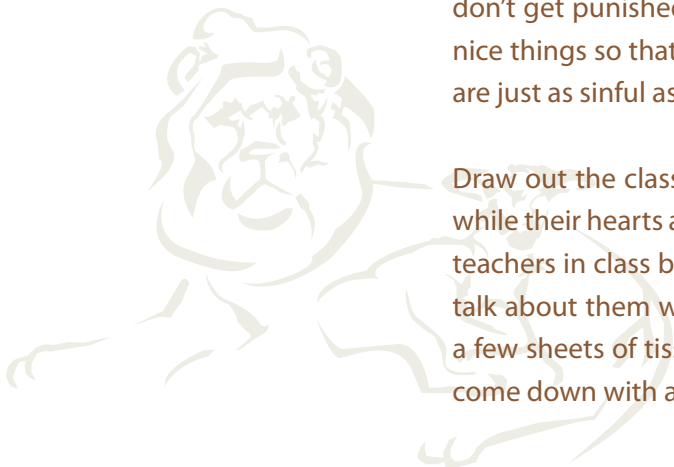
The object of this activity is to help the children understand and remember the pervasive nature of sin in our lives. In Genesis 6:5 (ESV) we read: "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The eggs in this illustration represent the sinful heart and the colored tissue represents the sometimes good works we can do to clothe our sinful actions.

Prior to class, hard boil one of the eggs and mark it so that you know which one it is. Prior to class, set up a drop cloth in the front center of the room. (Use something you can just throw away and do not need to wash.)

Explain to the class that apart from grace we would always sin. Read them Genesis 6:5 and explain that the fall of man into sin is without exception just like the certainty of gravity. 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, then pick up the dripping mess and hold it high for everyone to see.

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, and we drive within the speed limit to avoid 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.

Draw out the class and ask them 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 crash.



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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 upon 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, then peel it. Explain to the children that God is the only answer to the sin in our hearts. Take a bite of the egg for drama and tell the children that God's grace transforms our life so that we are changed, "Just like this egg was changed when I boiled it this morning."

### HOW BIG WAS THE ARK?

**Supplies:**

- White Board
- markers
- tape measure

The Ark is described as being 450 feet long by 45 feet high in our measurements. 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 x 5.6 inches high. Draw a rectangle 56 inches long and 5 5/8 inches high. Draw a four-foot-tall person next to the ark. (That 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 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 it actually happened. The flooding was a worldwide flood that did indeed destroy the unprotected 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 which are: the picture for vessel, the picture for eight, and the picture for mouth. The eight members of Noah's family, the "eight mouths" are said to be represented. What is more, the Chinese word for flood is another collection of pictures. The pictures represented in the word flood are 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.



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### READ THE TRUE STORY OF NOAH'S ARK

**Supplies:**

- The True Story of Noah's Ark by Tom Dooley, Master Books

Have the children sit around you as you read through the story as presented by Tom Dooley. This book contains wonderful scaled illustrations to show just how big the ark was compared to common objects like a football field.

## PRAYER

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

## IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. The older children can draw a picture of Noah building the Ark.



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### FOR OLDER GRADES

Use the following activity for practical application and discovery of this lesson.

Materials: prize for the best skit, (A small bag of chocolate miniatures can provide a great motivation, but be sure to consider any special dietary needs of your children.)

Break the class into groups of 5-7. Give the children 10 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 said and that they needed to build the ark.
3. People calling out to come into the closed Ark because the flooding had begun.

Present the skits to the class then award a prize for the best skit.

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Total Depravity** – The term theologians use to describe how sin affects every area of fallen mankind's life. Genesis 6:5 (ESV) 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. That does not mean we never do any good or that unbelievers only do evil things. The verse is looking at the heart, the place where motives originate. Though we do good things, in our sin we do them for our own pleasure and selfish desires.

God is clear 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 do so, with all our heart. Our hearts are totally depraved, seeking their own good, not the righteousness of Christ.

