



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#29 – Noah Did All that God Commanded Genesis 6:9-7:10

PICTURES NEEDED

29-1 Noah building the ark

29-3 Comparative size of Noah's ark

29-2 Animals going onto the ark

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) Why was God grieved he had made man? What did God decide to do? What was different about Noah from the other men of his time? What does the inclination of the heart determine?
- **The Big Question Review:** What is the problem of the heart?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful and needs a cure.

⁹(The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?) ¹⁰the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

The lesson this week continues with the story of Noah. What were the people like at the time of Noah? Mankind was so wicked in the time of Noah that the Bible states that “every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”

What does it mean that “every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time”? It is a degree of wickedness that is hard to imagine, even in our day. There was nothing good left in people; they had completely given themselves over to evil.

What did God resolve to do because of the people’s wickedness? Because God could not allow the evil of people to continue to corrupt his creation, he resolved to wipe them from the face of the earth. Only Noah found favor in God’s eyes.

Why did Noah find favor with God? Noah was righteous; he feared God and lived according to God’s ways.

What do you think life was like for Noah, living in a wicked age? People probably mocked and ridiculed Noah because he wouldn’t engage in the evil that everyone else was doing. Noah was probably without many friends. His wife and sons and their wives were the ones he had as companions. He had to look to God to sustain him in a difficult time. The Bible says, “Noah walked with God.”

What do you think it means to walk with God? Noah had a relationship with God and talked with him. He heard from and listened to God. He had understanding of God’s mind and wanted to obey him. He had completely given himself over to God.

This lesson covers the account of Noah when God spoke to him and told him to build an ark. **(picture 29-1)** Genesis 6:9-7:10 says:

⁹This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.

¹⁶Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

²²Noah did everything just as God commanded him.⁷¹The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ²Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

⁵And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. **(picture 29-2)**

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

⁸Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

What were the things God told Noah to do? (List them on the board.)

- o Build an ark.
- o Enter the ark with his family.
- o Bring into the ark two of every kind of unclean animal and seven of every clean animal. Note: Clean animals were those that Noah would offer to God as sacrifices, so more of them were needed. Unclean animals were not acceptable as sacrificial offerings and would only need to reproduce.
- o Store every kind of food that was to be eaten.

How did Noah respond to God's commands? The Bible says that Noah did everything that God commanded.

Do you think it was easy for Noah to obey God's commands? (Have the children explain their answers.) Noah was only able to do what God commanded because he walked with God. No one likes being isolated or different from other people. Pleasing God was of greater value to Noah than pleasing or being like by other people. Because Noah was devoted to God and wanted to do God's will, he was able to obey him.

God enabled Noah to do what he was commanded to do. Noah couldn't have collected all the animals. God had to bring them to him as Noah obeyed what he could do, which was to build the ark.

What is faith? Faith is believing in something or someone that can't be seen but is still known. Noah believed God because he knew God and his character. He had a relationship with God and experienced the benefits of that relationship. He knew God was real.

What was the result of Noah's faith? Noah's family was rescued from destruction. Also, all the types of animals were kept alive and the seeds from which food plants grow. Everything that was needed to restore and repopulate the earth was kept alive on the ark.

Being right with God is dependent upon having faith in God. Noah believed God and God was pleased by his faith. If Noah didn't have faith, all of mankind would have been wiped out. Even our existence on the earth today is a result of Noah's faith.

Hebrews 11:6 says, *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* What does this verse say? We can't please God unless we believe him. If we truly believe him, love him and fill our mind with him and his truth then we will trust and obey him.

Why do we have to have faith to please God? Faith is the evidence that we truly believe and trust God. If we don't believe and trust God, we will never please him because we won't love and follow him.

What is the reward we gain when we believe God exists and seek after him? We gain God's favor. We come to know him and enter into a life-giving relationship with him. We gain both eternal life in heaven and abundant life on earth.

Faith is a response to God's revelation of himself. How has God revealed (shown) himself to us? God has shown himself to us through his creation, history, the Bible and Jesus. His Holy Spirit speaks to people. God's word has been tested and proven itself. A person with faith believes that what God has revealed to us is true and trustworthy.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did God command Noah to do? (14, 18-21) How did Noah respond to God's commands? (22, 5)
- **Thought Questions:** What was different about Noah from most other people of any time period? What does it take for a person to have faith like Noah? Can you think of examples of other people in the Bible with that kind of faith? What do people of real faith understand about God?
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- **Prayer:** Thank God for Noah and the faith he had. Pray that you would learn to completely love and obey God regardless of what people around you are doing. Pray that you would keep your eyes on what is eternal, trust in the character of God and experience fully the reality of a personal relationship with him.
- **The Big Question:** **What does it take to please God?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse:** **Hebrews 11:6** A person must have faith to please God.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Questions: Why does a person have to have faith to please God?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle with information from the lesson.

Cypress - The wood Noah was to use to build the ark

Pitch - The material Noah was to coat the ark with

Floodwaters - What God said would he would bring upon the earth

Perish - What would happen to living things

Righteous - The word God used to describe Noah

Forty - The number of days and nights it would rain

Two - The # of unclean animals of each kind brought on the ark

Seven - The # of clean animals of each kind brought on the ark

★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

A person must have faith to please God.

★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

• **Craft:** Faith Puzzle

As a reminder that to please God we must have faith, make a faith sign.

Materials: cover stock paper, scissors, glue sticks

Preparation: Run off craft 29 on cover stock paper.

Instructions: Give each child a set of color strips. Ask them that if you tell them that the strips can be used to spell faith would they believe you. Do they have faith that you are telling them the truth? Have them cut apart the colored strips. Give each child a faith card and let them figure out how to paste the strips on the card to spell faith. After they are done they can fold the card in half so it stands.

• **Game:** Can You Get on the Ark?

As a reminder that Noah took pairs of animals on the ark to save them from the flood, play a variation of "Red Light, Green Light."

Instructions: Pair each child up with a partner and have them hook arms. One child is Noah and stands at the front of the room. When Noah says "go" and turns his back to the group the pairs move forward toward him. When Noah says "stop" and turns back to the group the pairs have to stop moving. Any pair that Noah catches moving has to go back to the starting line. The first pair to reach Noah wins. One of the pair can become Noah to play again.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.