



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.⁷The 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?
- **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:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: People at the time of Noah were very wicked and God decided to destroy them by a flood.

1. God told Noah to build an ark and take on it two of every kind of unclean animal and seven of every clean.
2. God told Noah to enter the ark with his family to escape the flood.
3. Noah was obedient and did everything God said.

- ★ **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

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Myth or True Account

Many people consider the story of Noah and the flood to be a myth. What is a myth? A myth is defined as a traditional story about heroes or supernatural beings, often attempting to explain the origins of natural phenomena or aspects of human behavior. It can also be defined as a widely held but mistaken belief.

What does the Bible say about myths? The Bible warns against believing myths that are made up by men. (Colossians 2:8)

Why would some people consider the story of Noah and the flood to be a myth?

Many people discount the truth of the Bible. They don't want to accept it as the word of God and just consider it made up stories. The Jews, through whom the Old Testament was passed down, considered the Old Testament of the Bible the sacred word of God. Those who lived close to the time it was written never doubted its truth and accuracy.

The Bible over time has been challenged but it continues to stand. Although it contains passages that are hard to understand, it has never been proven to be wrong. Jesus himself referred to Scripture as the truth. Jesus also referred to the flood at the time of Noah when he talked about what the end times would be like. (Matthew 24:37-39)

What are some questions that people would ask to challenge the biblical account of Noah and the flood? Let the student list ideas and then discuss the possible answers to those challenges. A few are briefly addressed below. The ideas for these answers come from the article, "Was There Really a Noah's Ark and Flood?" by Ken Ham and Tim Lovett at www.answersingenesis.org. You should go to that website and www.icr.org for more information and encourage the students and their families to do the same.

Explain to the students that we will never know for sure the answers to the questions as the description in the Bible of the ark and the flood is very brief. We can, however, think through ideas and try to come up with some feasible possibilities. **(picture 29-3)**

- o How did Noah build the ark? Remember that we have already studied that the ancients were very sophisticated and had a lot of knowledge most of which has been lost over time. Their knowledge in many areas surpassed our own. Consider how the pyramids around the world were made. They also had metal tools. It is possible that metal was even incorporated into the structure of the ark.
- o How did Noah collect all the animals? The Bible says that the animals came to Noah. Animals migrate by instinct and it is possible that God moved in them in some way so that they went where he wanted them to go.
- o How did all those animals fit on the ark? Noah probably wouldn't have take the largest animals on the ark, he most likely took younger ones that were smaller and would need less food and take up less space. The ark didn't carry every known species of animals it only carried kinds. Depending on how "kinds" is defined the different kinds of animals have been estimated at being around 16,000 in number. After the flood, these kinds separated and migrated to different areas of the world. Animals in isolation from others of their own kind undergo small changes within the kind that eventually make them different from other animals of their same kind. Consider the great variation among dogs. Kinds don't change into different kinds as evolution proposes but variation within a kind does occur.
- o How did Noah and all those animals survive on the ark? Many animals under adverse conditions go into hibernation. Since God has given animals the ability to hibernate it would be a real possibility that many of the animals on the ark went into hibernation. God also told Noah to take food so he could feed them. The design of the ark must have been such that the feeding could have been done by eight people.
- o What is faith in terms of the story of Noah and the flood? Faith means that we believe it was a real event even though we may not understand how it happened or everything about it.
- o What would happen if you were to doubt the truth of the flood? If we doubt one part of the Bible then we will begin to doubt or challenge any part we don't like or want to believe. Doubting God's word means that we think we are smarter than God and can pick and choose what to believe. We may not fully understand God's word but it is critical to our faith to believe that it is all true.

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What happens when we walk by faith?

Reading 1: Hebrews 11:1-7 By faith we believe in what we can't see with our eyes. According to verse 1 what is faith? What does that mean? By faith what do we understand about the universe? What did Abel do by faith? What did Enoch do by faith? What did Noah do by faith? Why can't we please God without faith?

Reading 2: Isaiah 26:1-11 By faith we experience God's perfect peace. What does God do for those who trust in him? How does a person of faith relate to God? How does a wicked person relate to God?

Reading 3: Ezekiel 14:12-23 By faith we understand that God has a purpose for everything. In all the circumstances God describes, why could the people only save themselves? Why would God bring those kinds of disasters on the land? What do we need to recognize about God and have faith in?

Reading 4: 2 Corinthians 13:5-10 By faith we stand for the truth and do what is right. What is the test we shouldn't fail?

Reading 5: Romans 5:6-10 By faith we know the best is ahead. What is it we should recognize about life? What should be our goal? Why?

Reading 6: Matthew 24:8-13 Reflecting on Faith
Reflect on what it means to have faith. Think about what challenges our faith today. Research the answers to any questions you have about Noah's ark by going to the websites of Answers in Genesis (www.answersingenesis.org) or Institute for Creation Research (www.icr.org).