



#30 - The Flood

Genesis 7:11-24

PICTURES NEEDED

- 28-3 Adam's line chart
- 30-1 Ark floating in turbulent floodwaters

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) What did God command Noah to do? How did Noah respond to God's commands?
- **The Big Question Review:** What does it take to please God? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** 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.

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 last lesson ended when Noah and his family entered the ark along with all the animals. This lesson describes what happened in the flood. How old was Noah when the flood occurred? Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood.

Using the dates given in the genealogy in Genesis, the flood would have occurred 1,656 years after Adam and Eve were created, which was probably about 2,300-2,500 years before the birth of Jesus. **(picture 28-3)**

Before we read and think about what happened in the flood, we should review what we know about the environment of the earth at the time of Noah. What was the earth like when God created it? God had created the earth very good and although sin had corrupted people, the earth itself must have been pretty much the way God had created it.

In the beginning, there was no rain on the earth. Do you remember how the earth was watered? Water came up from the ground and watered the surface. Many creation scientists think that at that time there was a canopy of water vapor surrounding the earth above the atmosphere. That canopy would have protected the earth from the harmful rays of the sun and kept it at a perfect temperature, rather like a greenhouse. Because of that protection and the presence of more oxygen in the atmosphere there would have been an abundance of plant life. Plants and animals would have lived a lot longer and have been bigger and healthier than now.

The mountains at that time were probably more like rolling hills since the Bible doesn't describe any catastrophic events before the Flood.

Genesis 7:11-24 relates the story of what happened in the flood:

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month--on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. ²¹Every living thing that moved on the earth perished--birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was

left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

What two things happened to cause the flood? (picture 30-1) The flood occurred when the water under the ground burst forth and the floodgates of heaven were opened. For water to burst out from the ground there must have been massive earthquakes and volcanic activity. That would have caused the ocean floor to have been pushed up and spilled water over the land.

Remember this was not an ordinary flood. The floodgates of heaven opening was no ordinary rain. The vapor canopy above the earth must have condensed causing a torrential rainfall that lasted for forty days and forty nights. There was a huge amount of water.

What happens when floodgates from a dam are opened or a dam bursts? When floodgates are opened water pours forth in a torrent that tears away the ground and takes down and carries away whatever is in its path. What it carries with it is buried under mud as it moves along. The same thing happens in a torrential rain.

How deep was the water during the flood? The Bible says that the flood covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet, about the height of a two-story house. If the earth were a smooth sphere without mountains or basins for the oceans, there is enough water in the oceans to cover the earth with water to a depth of about 8,500 feet, which would be more than 1 ½ miles deep. That is a lot of water and during the flood, that massive amount of water changed the face of the earth.

What do you think the ride in the ark at that time would have been like? The trip on the ark was not an easy ocean cruise. Everything was in turmoil. When God created the earth, it had been an idyllic place to live. In the flood, he was destroying wickedness and the earth was in turmoil. The flood was a catastrophic event.

What does catastrophic mean? Catastrophic means a violent and sudden change. The earth would never again be the same as it was in the beginning. The face of it and much about it was changed, all because people wouldn't submit to the God who created and provided for them.

What is God's response to evil? Evil is contrary to the nature of God and it will be judged by him. God warns people of the consequences of their evil. God is long-suffering but that doesn't mean that he tolerates evil forever. Psalm 37:1-2 says, *¹Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; ²for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.*

What should we learn from Noah and the flood? We need to remember that God hates evil. Like Noah, we should strive to live rightly with God. Evil people will die away but those who love God will spend eternity with him.

How is it that we can live rightly with God? We are all inclined to do wrong. It is only through coming to believe in Jesus and submitting ourselves to him that our inclination to do wrong can be changed. If we devote ourselves to the one, true, Creator God as Noah did, God will watch over and protect us.

How could the flood have been a good thing for the people who were destroyed by it? Anytime something bad happens to us that we can't control, it can cause us to humble ourselves and seek God. When we turn to God, he accepts us so that we aren't separated from him for all eternity. If in the midst of recognizing they were going to be destroyed the people cried out to God, then the flood would have been a good thing in their lives.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Where did the water that flooded the earth come from? For how long did it flood? How much water covered the earth? What happened to life on earth?
- **Thought Questions:** Why would a loving God wipe out everything on earth? What can be learned from the flood?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that although he is loving and merciful he is also a just judge. Thank him that although you are guilty of sin and doing evil he has made a way through Jesus to pay the penalty for your sin. Pray that you would want to live rightly and please God and be truly devoted to him.
- **The Big Question: What will happen to evil men?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Psalm 37:1-2** Evil men will die away.

¹Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; ²for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

Questions: What will happen to evil men? What happens to men who love 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.
- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.
Evil men will die away.
- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

★ **Activity Page:** Acrostic Poem

Have the children write an acrostic poem with the letters in the word "flood." Brainstorm ideas as a group. An example is below.

F – Fossils formed, flow of water over earth

L – Lasted 40 days, left nothing alive

O – Over the whole earth

O – Only those on the ark saved

D – Destroyed everything not on the ark, devastation of earth

• **Craft:** Make a boat

As a reminder that Noah built the boat God commanded and because of that he, his family and the animals were kept safe, design a boat.

Instructions: Talk about how pictures of the ark vary. Have the children give ideas about what it may have looked like and then have them design their own ark drawing it on paper or molding one out of a material such as clay, play dough, foil, newspaper, etc.

• **Alternative Craft:** Make a Fossil

As a reminder that the flood carried away and buried every living thing, make a fossil.

Materials: 1 paper plate for each child, modeling clay, objects to make molds of (dried chicken bones, sea shells, leaves, etc.), petroleum jelly, plaster of paris, water, paper cup, plastic spoon.

Preparation: Soften up the modeling clay.

Step-by-step instructions:

1. Write your name on the paper plate.
2. Take a lump of modeling clay and press it out flat on the paper plate a little larger than the object you will be making a mold of.
3. Rub the object with petroleum jelly.
4. Press the object into the clay to make an impression and then remove it.
5. In the paper cup, mix four spoonfuls of plaster with 2 spoonfuls of water.
6. Pour the plaster mixture into the impression.
7. Let the plaster harden. When hard carefully separate the clay from the plaster.

• **Game:** Row, Row, Row Your Boat

As a reminder that Noah and his family and the animals were kept safe on the ark during the flood, play a boat relay race.

Instructions: Divide the group into teams. Have the children sit on their rear ends and push themselves backwards across the room and back like they were rowing. Once one rower gets back to the team the next child can go. To make it harder you can even have them sing "Row, row, row your boat."

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.