

A 7-Day Bible Study on Noah and the Ark

Noah and the Ark is a beloved Bible story that many children hear in Sunday School. I was not raised in a Christian home, but I learned it long before I placed faith in Jesus. This emphasizes the power of this Bible story, as children *and* adults love to hear of the giant ark, all the animals, and the global flood.

Through this seven-day Bible study, we will take a deeper dive into this wonderful biblical account.

Day 1: The Earth Was Corrupted with Violence

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So 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’” (Genesis 6:11-13).

In the days of Noah, the earth was filled with violence. The only righteous person who loved God was Noah. Because of Noah’s love for God, God gave Noah a warning ahead of time that He was going to destroy the entire world. Mankind had drifted too far away from Him and was filling His beautiful earth with violence. God had had enough of the evil in the world; therefore, He was going to send the flood.

God tells Noah that He is going to put an end to all people because of their violence. What God tells Noah, he takes to heart. Noah also sees the corruption in the world and how everyone has turned away from God. God prepares Noah and allows him to take his wife, their three sons, and their three daughter-in-laws. Noah remains thankful and continues to listen to God’s instructions on building the ark (Genesis 6:14-15).

Challenge Questions:

- The earth was so filled with violence that God was going to destroy it. What do you think the world looked like at this time in history?
- Noah loved God and respected Him. God took notice of this and preserved Noah's life. Do you love and respect God like Noah did?
- If God told you to build an ark, what would you do?

Day 2: Preparing the Ark

"Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I 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. But 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" (Genesis 6:16-18).

Noah never doubts God's instructions concerning the ark. He trusts God and knows that what God says will come to pass. Genesis 6:16-18 details a part of God's instructions on building the ark. The ark was going to have to be massive because it was going to house Noah, his wife, his three sons, his three daughter-in-laws, and all of the animals. God directs Noah to put a door in the side of the ark and to make lower, middle, and upper decks. This alone attests to how massive the ark was going to be.

Through this passage, we are also told that God is going to send the flood to destroy everything on the entire earth. Every human and every creature was going to be destroyed in the flood. However, God says He is going to establish a covenant with Noah. Noah and his entire family were going to be on the ark, and they would repopulate the earth after the flood. This encounter between God and Noah shows God's kindness and righteousness. God's kindness is shown in preserving Noah and his family's life, and God's righteousness is shown through Him ridding the earth of all evil.

Challenge Questions:

- How big do you think the ark was? Do you think you could have built it?
- The floodwaters were coming soon! Do you think Noah was scared?
- God's kindness and righteousness are shown through Genesis 6:16-18. Do you know of any other examples in the Bible that show God's kindness and righteousness working together?

Day 3: Gathering the Animals

"The Lord then said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven 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.' And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him" (Genesis 7:1-5).

From Genesis 7:1-5, we see God telling Noah to take with him seven pairs of every kind of clean animal (a male and a female) and every kind of unclean animal (a male and a female). He also tells Noah to take seven pairs of every kind of bird (male and female). There had to be a male and female animal of each kind in order to populate the earth again after the flood. The animals would have migrated to Noah by God's divine command, and they would have likely been in a semi-hibernation during their time on the ark.

Through this passage, we also see God telling Noah that in a week's time, He is going to send rain for forty days and forty nights. These rains would cause the waters to turn into a flood, and every living creature not on the ark would die. Noah obeys God and does all that He commands. The animals come to Noah, both unclean and clean, and he gathers the birds. Soon, they are prepared for the flood.

Challenge Questions:

- The story of Noah and the Ark is often beloved because of the animals. What does this tell us about God and His creativity?
- If God gave you such a great command, do you think you could follow through with it?
- The flood was going to last for forty days and forty nights. Do you think this number is important? Why or why not?

Day 4: The Flood Begins

“In 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. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights” (Genesis 7:11-12).

The flood begins within Genesis 7:11-12. Noah was 600 years old when the flood began. Nobody lives past 600 years old in the modern day, but we have to look at the time frame of the Old Testament patriarchs. When God originally created Adam and Eve, He created them to live forever. After the fall of mankind, they forfeited this gift and chose death. Due to the original sin, we all now have to face death.

However, from the earliest days, including during the generation of Noah, people lived much longer. They lived much longer because they were closer in genetic makeup to Adam and Eve. This is why we see Noah living so long and being a healthy, strong individual at 600 years old. The floodgates burst open during Noah’s 600th year, and these waters were going to roar for forty days and forty nights. God has spoken, and His will will be done.

Challenge Questions:

- Can you imagine living to be 600 years old? What do you think that would be like?
- Do you think you could build an ark and travel on it for forty days and forty nights at 600 years old?
- The floodwaters were going to roar for forty days and forty nights. If you were Noah, how would you keep yourself occupied?

Day 5: The Forty-Day Flood

“For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days” (Genesis 7:17-24).

While this is a lengthy passage, it is important to look at what is happening during the flood. From Genesis 7:17-24, we see that the waters lifted high above the earth—so high that the waters were above the mountains. Every living creature, including mankind, on the earth was destroyed in the flood. The only people, animals, and birds who were left were kept divinely safe by God on the ark.

If we look closely at Genesis 7:17-24, we see that only the land animals perished. Therefore, aquatic animals, such as fishes, dolphins, and whales were most likely not harmed during the flood. The waters would have roared high and would have been difficult to swim in; however, there was no way to keep aquatic animals on the ark. This would lead us to believe that aquatic animals were spared in the flood as they could swim against the hard currents.

Challenge Questions:

- The flood formed the mountains and canyons we see today. The next time you see a mountain or a canyon, how can you praise God for His goodness?
- If you were in Noah's place, how would you manage all of the animals on the ark?
- The aquatic animals would have been okay during the flood. Do you think it was hard for them to swim despite the pouring rain and the heavy currents? Why or why not?

Day 6: God Remembers Noah

"But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat" (Genesis 8:1-4).

As God was continuing to bring rain upon the earth, He remembered Noah, the wild animals, and the livestock. Out of God's love, the waters receded and the rain stopped. By the end of the 150 days, the water had gone down to a normal level, and in the seventh month of the year, the ark landed on the mountains of Ararat. Noah and his family would have known the flood had finally ended. However, they were still going to have to wait until it was safe to come out.

Noah and his family waited a long time, but their time of waiting ended when the dove he had been releasing did not return (Genesis 8:10-12). When it was time for them to exit the ark, God called them out (Genesis 8:15-17). The waters had receded, and the earth was beautiful. There was no more violence on the earth, and God was starting over with Noah and his family.

Challenge Questions:

- Just as God remembered Noah, He remembers you. How does this make you feel?
- Noah, his family, and the animals would have been on the ark for a long time. Do you think you could have had the patience to be on the ark so long? Why or why not?
- What do you think Noah thought when he exited the ark?

Day 7: God Makes His Covenant with Noah

“And God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth’” (Genesis 9:12-16).

The covenant that God makes with Noah is symbolized by the rainbow. The sign of the rainbow was a promise that God would never flood the earth again. God has upheld His covenant with mankind, as He has never brought upon the earth another worldwide flood. Each time a rainbow comes into the sky, God is reaffirming His covenant, and we as humans should also see the rainbow in this way.

The rainbow symbolizes a beautiful promise from God. Each time we see a rainbow, we need to give glory to God and thank Him. The secular world has tried to change the meaning of the rainbow, but we know the rainbow was given to us by God. It is a sign of God’s love, protection, and mercy.

Challenge Questions:

- The rainbow is the symbol of the covenant between God and mankind. How does this make you see the rainbow differently?
- Each time you see the rainbow, how can you give God praise?
- God will never flood the earth again. How does this give your heart peace?

End of Bible Study Prayer: “Dear God, the flood is an amazing feat that showcases Your power, justice, and mercy. Thank You for sending a rainbow as Your promise to never flood the earth again. Help me to live like Noah and obey You in everything that I do. In Your Son’s Name, I pray, Amen.”

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