

INTRODUCTION

When God told Noah how to be saved from the impending worldwide catastrophe, Noah obeyed.

After decades of hard work, the ark was finished and the judgment day was coming. Imagine Noah's amazement as he watched the animals approach the ark, two by two. Noah and his family boarded the ark and God shut the door. There was security for those inside the ark but doom for the rest.

The theme of God's redemption is again displayed in this Bible lesson. The ark is an incredible picture of salvation. Those who are inside are protected by God's righteous hand, but those who are outside are destined for destruction once the door is shut. This picture should inspire us to reach others for Christ with urgency and passion. Someday the door will shut and God will deliver His people. The rest will have lost their chance.

When teaching the memory verse, emphasize God's saving grace. The children will be reminded that good works can never earn salvation. It is God's work that has made the way for their salvation.

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

- **God:** Just—God must punish sin.
- **Bible:** Instruction for life—God's Word shows me how to live my life.
- **Holy Spirit:** As soon as I have trusted Christ as Savior, God the Holy Spirit comes to live within me.
- **Man:** Obeying God—I obey God because I love Him.
- **Prayer:** Prayer is talking to God. I can talk to God.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series are available at: cefonline.com/freedemos/5dc

Tell the children to listen for the words *turned around*. Every time you or another teacher says that phrase, the children must stand up, turn around and sit down. This will help keep the children engaged and help them get some of the wiggles out.



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

The rain poured! The thunder crashed! The lightning flashed through the sky! Water was even coming out of the ground! What was going on? God's Word tells us about the biggest storm ever.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

The first people to ever live on the Earth were Adam and Eve. They had a perfect friendship with God until they sinned. They disobeyed God, so their friendship with God was no longer perfect. Adam and Eve had children who had children and grandchildren. Those grandchildren had children and grandchildren and so on. Many people filled the Earth. After a while most people on Earth no longer obeyed God. They became more and more mean and sinful.

Slide 1

The Bible tells us that the wickedness of man was great. They were always thinking of new ways to do evil. (*Read Genesis 6:5.*) They were sinners who cared nothing about God.



Perhaps you don't do horrible things like those people did. But did you know that you and I are sinners too? Everyone, including you and me, has sinned. In fact, you were born knowing how to sin. Sin is breaking God's laws. The Bible says, (*read Romans 3:10*). There is no one who does only right things and never sins. When you refuse to believe in God or in the Lord Jesus, His Son, that is sin. When you get angry and fight and choose to be mean to others, that is sin. God is holy (perfect) and can never sin. Because God is just (always does what is right), there must be a punishment for sin. This punishment is to be separated from God forever. If you have never believed on Jesus as your Savior, you are separated from God right now and you are in danger of being separated from God forever because of your sin. You and I are sinners.

The people on Earth at that time were sinful and cared nothing about God. They were mean and were messing up God's world. The Bible says God was sad when He saw how evil the people had become.

Slide 2

But not all the people forgot God. The Bible tells of one man who believed and loved God. In fact, the Bible says he walked with God. That means he knew God loved him and in everything he did, he tried to obey God. The man's name was Noah.

One day God spoke to Noah. Because the people were so sinful and violent, God decided to destroy the people and animals in a great flood that would cover the whole Earth. God is holy and just; He had to punish the people on Earth because they were violent and full of sin. (*Read Genesis 6:13, 17.*) How sad!

Preschool Application

Use the sin application visuals in the back of the flashcard book to help preschoolers identify sin in their own lives. When talking about the punishment for sin say, "The punishment God gives you and me for sin is separation (being away) from God forever."

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible," vv. 1-3

When you say "believed" point to your head. When you say "loved" cross your arms over your chest. Repeat and invite children to do this with you.

But what about Noah? He loved God. What would happen to him? God told Noah to build an ark, a huge boat. It would be as long as one and a half football fields! Why such a large boat? God told Noah to take his wife, his sons and their wives into the ark. Noah was also to take some of every single kind of animal into the ark—two of every kind and seven of certain kinds. No wonder the ark had to be huge!

God warned Noah that when the flood came, only the people and animals in the ark would be safe. Did Noah believe God? Noah had probably never seen a boat this huge. But the Bible says, (*read Genesis 6:22*). He loved God and believed God's warning. In spite of what other people may have thought of him, Noah listened to God and obeyed.



When you believe on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, **God the Holy Spirit lives in you to help you listen to and obey His Word.**

Slide 3

Say with me, **“The Holy Spirit is the Helper!”** (*Say with children.*) He shows you things in your life that need to change and helps you make right choices. Maybe your friends are trying to get you to play a video game or watch a movie you know you shouldn't be watching or maybe they are trying to get you to look at things you shouldn't on the internet. The Holy Spirit might remind you of Philippians 4:8 (*read Philippians 4:8*) which tells us we should think about things that are right, honorable and would bring praise to God. Maybe a friend is being mean to someone and wants you to join in. The Holy Spirit might remind you of Proverbs 1:10 (*read Proverbs 1:10*) which tells you not to listen to people who are telling you to sin. God the Holy Spirit will help you remember what you have learned, and He will help you obey God—to say no to sin and yes to God's way. Remember “...The Lord is my helper...” (Hebrews 13:6b). God is your helper! Others may not understand why you listen to God and obey Him—they may even make fun of you. Sometimes it's not easy to obey God.

It wasn't easy for Noah but in spite of what people thought or said, he loved God and obeyed.

So work on the ark began! What a big job for Noah and his sons! Day after day people heard the chop, chop, chop of their axes as they cut down trees to make boards and posts. Let's all pretend we are chopping and sawing wood to make the ark. (*Do with the children.*) In time the gigantic boat began to take shape.

Slide 4

“Noah,” the people must have asked, “what is that strange thing you're building?”

“An ark,” Noah replied. “A big boat.”

They must have scratched their heads and whispered, “Noah has gone crazy!” Look at the person next to you and say, “Noah has gone crazy!” (*Do with the children.*)

The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. If necessary, substitute something of comparable size that the children you teach can relate to.

Preschool Song

“Tell the Story True,” v. 1

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See 5-Day Club kit.)

Preschool Song

"God Made the Mountains High"

Alternate drama for this section

Before club prepare five pieces of paper with the following questions and ask five children to act like they are staring at the ark and at Noah while asking these questions. Remind them to speak loudly so the other children can hear.

Child 1: Now what will Noah do?

Child 2: We haven't seen any rain yet!

Child 3: Look! Here come Noah and his sons now.

Child 4: What is that you're carrying, Noah?

Teacher: "Food," Noah would have replied. Noah and his family gathered a large supply of all kinds of food and carried it through the one door into the ark. Perhaps the people wondered why Noah needed so much food!

Child 5: What is that strange noise? It sounds like a bunch of animals!

Teacher: There were growls and chirps and all kinds of other animal sounds!

Materials:

"Noah's Neighbors" skit reproducible
(See p. 64 or Resource and PowerPoint CD.)

They didn't believe Noah, especially when he told them why he was building the ark.

If only the people would believe God before it was too late! In spite of their sin, God wanted the people to believe in Him because He loved them.



Do you realize how much God loves you? He loves you very much! He is your Creator. He not only made the world for you to enjoy, He made you! The Bible says, (*read John 3:16a*). The *world* means the people in the world, including you. People are His most special creation. God said His creation, including you, is very good. (*Read Genesis 1:31a.*) You are one of a kind! Your fingerprints, looks and thoughts are unique and special. What a delight you are to God! He made no mistakes when He made you because He is perfect and He loves you.

God loved the people on Earth in Noah's time and wanted them to love and believe in Him. God wanted them to be *turned around!*

For decades Noah continued building the ark and warning the people. Who knows what a decade is? (*Allow response.*) A decade is 10 years. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives didn't care if people made fun of them. They believed God's warning. Together they worked hard to build the ark.

One day things became strangely quiet. No more sounds of hammers, saws and axes. Had Noah and his family quit? Did they finally realize what a silly project this was? No! The ark was finished!

Slide 5

There it sat—long and high and wide! Perhaps the people walked all around it, shielding their eyes from the sun as they looked at its upper deck. They had never seen anything like it!

Perhaps they said things like, "Now what will Noah do? I think he's crazy for doing this! He keeps talking about rain and we haven't seen any!"

Then perhaps the people saw Noah and his sons walking toward the ark with their arms full. "What are you carrying?" they may have asked. "Food for the animals!" Noah and his sons replied. "What animals?" They may have asked.

Suddenly there were growls and chirps and all kinds of other animal sounds! There were the sounds of monkeys, bears, elephants, dogs, cats and birds. When I raise my hand, make as many animal sounds as you can. When I lower my hand, stop. Ready? (*Allow response.*) Wow! That was loud! But the sound of all the animals on the ark must have been even louder! What an amazing sight to see every kind of animal moving slowly toward the ark! They had not even seen some of these kinds of animals before! How could Noah make all those animals come to the ark, go up the ramp and through the one door?

Was Noah an expert animal trainer? No! God brought those animals to the ark! He could do that because He is the King and everything belongs to Him.

After Noah, his family and all the animals went into the ark, the door remained open. Would other people decide to join them? There was still room. There was still time. Going into the ark was the only way they could be saved from the flood and destruction to come because of their sin.



There is only one way you can be saved from the punishment you deserve for your sin. God loves you so much He gave His Son to take the punishment for you. God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, came from Heaven to Earth as a little baby. He lived a perfect life on Earth. He never sinned, not even once. Unlike the rest of us, Jesus did not deserve punishment. When men who did not like Jesus decided to kill Him, they nailed Him to a cross. On the cross Jesus willingly took your sin on Himself, as if it were His own. He did this so your sins could be forgiven. The Bible says, (*read Colossians 1:14*). When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, He paid the full price for your sin. After Jesus died, He was buried. But He did not stay dead! He came alive again! Many people saw Him and talked to Him. Then His followers watched as He rose back up to Heaven. Believing on Him is the only way you can be saved from sin's punishment.

There was only one way for the people to be saved from the flood. But it seemed that no one besides Noah would believe God. Perhaps many still thought to themselves, *Foolish Noah! There he sits, with all those smelly animals, waiting for something to happen.* Then suddenly, after seven days, the door of the ark began to move. It was closing—but Noah wasn't touching it! BANG—the door was shut. The Bible says God shut the door.

Slide 6

How sad that the people refused to believe in God! How sad that they were so sinful and violent! Once the door of the ark closed, it was too late.

Soon dark, angry clouds began to gather. Then the first raindrops fell! *Oh no! Was Noah right?* the people may have wondered. The rain poured from the sky! The Bible also says that water came up from the ground. Day and night it rained! One...two...three days! It didn't stop raining! Perhaps some of the people ran to the ark and pounded on the sides. Maybe they called out for help. But it was too late. God had shut the door and no one could open it.

Inside the ark all were safe and dry. Noah had obeyed God and now his family was safe from the flood! Everything was soon covered with water. The ark was lifted up high on the rising waves. The rain lasted 40 days and nights. The Bible says the water covered the Earth even above the highest mountain peaks. The animals that were not on the ark were quickly covered by the rushing water and dirt. We call those animals that were buried quickly *fossils*. You've probably heard of fossils or even seen one! There are billions of fossils around the world.

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible," vv. 4-6

Make a "rainstorm" with the children by rubbing your hands together to sound like wind. Then snap your fingers—the rain starting to fall. Next pat your legs—the rain is coming down harder. Clap your hands to make a thundering sound. Then do all of them together! To add an extra effect, flicker the lights on and off.

Find a picture of a fossil in a book or online to show the children.

Slide 7

Finally the rain stopped. But it took many months for the water to gradually go down. The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

After a whole year the Earth was dry enough for Noah and his family to come out of the ark. How do you think they felt? (*Allow response.*)

How strange everything must have looked. But Noah and his family were safe! The animals were safe!

CLIMAX

But because the other people refused to believe God, all of them died. God wanted them to be *turned around* but they would not believe.

CONCLUSION

Noah and his family built an altar and worshipped God, thanking Him for keeping them safe. As they looked up at the sky, they saw a beautiful rainbow—God’s promise that He would never again destroy the Earth with a flood.

The next time you see a rainbow you can remember that God’s promises are true and can be trusted. God blessed Noah and his family. God told them to fill the Earth with their children.

He saved Noah, his family, and the animals from the dangerous flood waters.

INVITATION

God has made a way for you to be saved too—not from a flood but from the penalty of sin. **God, who is just, can rescue you from sin.** God’s Word, the Bible, says, (*read Acts 16:31a*). When you believe on Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross for your sins, you will be saved from sin’s punishment. God will change you on the inside, helping you love Him and obey Him each day. Will you believe on the Lord Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to talk with me about believing on Jesus as your Savior today, will you show me by raising your hand? (*Pause and acknowledge responses.*) You may all open your eyes. If you raised your hand, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and we will look at God’s Word together.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child’s expression of that belief to God. (See “Guiding a Child to the Savior” on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:15 and “believe in” terminology. Ask those who have questions to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.