

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

Kindergarten

Sunday Morning

Study 4

The Flood

The Flood

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To demonstrate to the students how far sin had spread in the earth, and how God had to take drastic measures to correct it.

Key Verses

Genesis 6-7—Main Teaching Passage

1 Corinthians 5:6

Memory Verse - Genesis 1:1 (September Memory Verse)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Hook

Take the matza bread and the regular loaf of bread and show them to the class. Select two students to hold and touch both the plain bread and the unleavened matza bread. Have the students describe the feel and texture of the different breads. Ask them why one kind of bread is light and airy, and the other is dense and hard.

Explain to the students that the difference between the two breads is yeast. That a tiny little bit of yeast mixed with flour will work its way through the whole batch and cause the bread to rise. The same way, the sin that started out with Adam and Eve quickly infected the whole world.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In Genesis 3, we saw the introduction of sin into world through the disobedience of Adam. In Genesis 4, we saw the consequences of sin, and the effect of sin in the world with Cain and Abel. This week, we will see the total spread of sin into the world, and the drastic measures that God has to take in order to reverse its total hold over mankind.

Genesis 6:5 begins by telling us that **every** thought of **every** man was **only** wicked continuously. Sin has completely corrupted the world to the point where there was no one righteous, no one who sought God (Romans 3:10). No one, that is, except for Noah. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, even though the Lord had decided that the only course of action was to wipe the earth clean and start all over again.

God instructed Noah to build the ark, and Noah obeyed immediately and without question. The Lord then told Noah how many of each kind of animal should be brought on the ark, and again Noah obeyed without question. Noah and his family entered the ark and were saved. Everyone else was lost in the flood as the waters prevailed over the Earth.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

The story of the Bible has so far been a sad tale of disobedience and sin. Unfortunately, that theme will continue quite regularly throughout this year. This week is no exception, as we see the spread of sin from Adam's act of disobedience, through his son Cain, and now to the rest of the world. Genesis 6 paints a very sad picture of the world. It tells us that violence and corruption filled the Earth, and that the thoughts of every single person were always wicked, all of the time.

This is one of the biggest, yet most overlooked problems with sin: it spreads. 1 Corinthians 5:6 gives us a very interesting analogy of sin. It compares sin to yeast. In the same way that a little bit of yeast works its way through a whole batch of dough, making the whole loaf rise, sin spreads in us. What can start out as a small act of disobedience can spread and grow in us to much larger and more serious sin issues.

In the world during Noah's time this was seen in the lives of the people. The culture grew more and more sinful, to the point where there was no one except Noah who loves God. Here at this point, God was left without a choice, the world had turned away from Him, and had turned completely to its love of sinful things, that God must bring His judgment

LOOK (Continued)

on the world. That judgments was severe, but it was also necessary. God needed to stop the spread of sin in the world before all of His creation was completely lost to it.

Thankfully, there was still a remnant to be saved. Noah and his family found grace in the Lord's eyes, and God provided them a way of escape. Noah was to build an ark that would carry them through the storm and keep them from death and destruction.

In the same that God provided Noah with an escape, He has also provided us a means of escape from our sin. We don't have a boat, we have Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus came to the earth so that whoever gives their lives over completely to Him can be saved from the destruction coming on the earth. Like Noah, if we enter into the safety of God, we will be saved. Jesus died so that you and I would not be slaves to sin, but would be set free, able to live full, righteous, upright lives, dedicated to Him.

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class how Noah escaped from the flood and why God chose Him

Pray: Thank the Lord for His grace toward Noah, and His grace toward us. Praise Him that like Noah, He has made a way of escape for us. Ask Him for the ability to hear and obey, just like Noah.

Parent Question: Why were Noah and his family saved from the flood?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Genesis 6 by David Guzik

3. (5-8) The great wickedness of man in Noah's day.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

a. **Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually:** This says a lot. It means there was no aspect of man's nature not corrupted by sin.

i. "A more emphatic statement of the wickedness of the human heart is hardly conceivable." (Vriezen, quoted in Kidner)

ii. Jesus said, "*as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be*" (Matthew 24:37). In other words, the conditions of the world before the coming of Jesus will be like the conditions of the world before the flood:

- Exploding population (Genesis 6:1)
- Sexual perversion (Genesis 6:2)
- Demonic activity (Genesis 6:2)
- Constant evil in the heart of man (Genesis 6:5)
- Widespread corruption and violence (Genesis 6:11)

b. **The LORD was sorry that He had made man ... He was grieved in His heart:** God's sorrow at man, and the grief in His heart, are striking. This does not mean that creation was out of control, nor does it mean that God hoped for something better but was unable to achieve it. God knew all along that this was how things would turn out, but our text tells us loud and clear that as God sees His plan for the ages unfold, it affects Him. God is not unfeeling in the face of human sin and rebellion.

c. **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD:** While God commanded all the earth to be cleansed of this pollution, He found one man with whom to begin again: **Noah**, who **found grace in the eyes of the LORD**. Noah didn't *earn* grace; he *found* it. No one earns grace, but we can all *find* it.

i. It was true then, and it is true today: *But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more* (Romans 5:20).

B. God calls Noah to build the Ark.

1. (9-10) Noah and his sons.

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

a. **Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations:** This description of Noah - unique to him - not only re-

fers to the righteous life of Noah, but also to the fact he was yet uncorrupted by Satan's attempt to sow a "virus" among the genetic pool of mankind. We could translate "**perfect in his generations**" as, "Noah was pure in his genetic profile."

b. **Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth:** Noah's three sons will figure into the account in a significant way. God will use them as a foundation for the rest of the human race.

2. (11-13) The corruption of the earth and the grace of God.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

a. **The earth also was corrupt ... and the earth was filled with violence:** Because of the corruption and violence on the earth, and the extent of the corruption, God told Noah that He would judge the wicked along with the earth.

b. **I will destroy them with the earth:** Some wonder if this is too harsh a judgment, or if it shows God to be cruel or a monster. However, since the fall in Genesis 3, every human being has a death sentence. The timing and method of that death is completely in the hands of God.

i. "On what grounds would God be told that He can bring death to millions of people at the end of a 'normal' life span, but that He may not do it in any other way?" (Barnhouse)

c. **And God said to Noah:** God told all of this to Noah with the intention of saving Noah and his family. In the midst of such corruption and judgment, there is also grace. Instead of wiping out the entire race, God preserved a remnant.

3. (14-16) God tells Noah to build an ark.

"Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks."

a. **Make yourself:** This means this was Noah's project. He was not to simply contract it out to someone else.

b. **This is how you shall make it:** The ark was as long as a 30-story building is high (about 450 feet or 150 meters), and it was about 75 feet (25 meters) wide and 45 feet (15 meters) high. What is described is not really a boat, but a well-ventilated barge, meant only to float and not to sail anywhere. After all, an **ark** is a chest, not a ship; this refers to the "shoebox" shape of the vessel.

i. The ark, roughly the shape of a shoebox, was plenty large enough (about the size of the Titanic), and had a cubit-wide opening (18 inches) all the way around the top.

ii. It was not until 1858 that a boat bigger than the ark was built. The ark was certainly big enough to do the job. If the ark carried two of every *family* of animal, there were around 700 pairs of animals; but if the ark carried two of every *species* of animals, there were around 35,000 pairs of animals.

iii. The average size of a land animal is smaller than a sheep. The ark could carry 136,560 sheep in *half* of its capacity, leaving plenty of room for people, food, water, and whatever other provisions were needed.

c. **You shall make it:** God had not yet told Noah *why* he must build an ark. At this point, all Noah knew was that God will judge the earth, and he was supposed to build a big barge. Since it had not rained yet on the earth, it is reasonable to suppose Noah didn't know what God was meant yet.

d. **You shall make it:** And Noah *did* make it. Beyond the Bible, there is rich historical evidence for the reality of Noah's Ark.

i. In 275 B.C. Berosus, a Babylonian historian, wrote: "But of this ship that grounded in Armenia some part still remains in the mountains ... and some get pitch from the ship by scraping it off."

ii. Around A.D. 75 Josephus said the locals collected relics from the ark and showed them off to his very day. He also said all the ancient historians he knew of wrote about the ark.

iii. In A.D. 180 Theophilus of Antioch wrote: "the remains [of the ark] are to this day to be seen ... in the mountains."

iv. An elderly Armenian man in America said that as a boy, he visited the ark with his father and three atheistic scientists in 1856. Their goal was to disprove the ark's existence, but they found it and became so enraged they tried to destroy it, but could not because it was too big and had petrified. In 1918 one of the atheistic scientists (an Englishman) admitted on his deathbed the whole story was true.

iv. In 1876 a distinguished British statesman and author, Viscount James Bryce, climbed Ararat and reported finding a four-foot long piece of hand-tooled timber at an altitude of more than 13,000 feet (4,300 meters).

vi. Six Turkish soldiers claimed to see the ark in 1916.

vii. In the early part of this century, a Russian aviator named Vladimire Rokovitsky claimed the discovery of Noah's ark. He was stationed in southern Russia near the Turkish border and Mount Ararat. As he tested a plane he and his co-pilot flew over Ararat and discovered on the edge of a glacier what he described as a boat the size of a battleship. He said it was partially submerged in a lake, and he could see there was an opening for a door nearly 20 feet (7 meters) square, but the door was missing. Rokovitsky told his commanding officer and an expedition was dispatched to find the ark and photograph it. The report was forwarded to the Czar, who was soon overthrown and the photos and the report perished.

viii. In 1936 a young British archaeologist named Hardwicke Knight hiked across Ararat and discovered interlocking hand-tooled timbers at a height of 14,000 feet (4,600 meters).

ix. During World War II two pilots saw and photographed something they believed was the ark on Mount Ararat.

x. There have been many more recent attempts to find and document the ark, but they have been hindered by politics and surrounded in controversy.

e. **Cover it inside and outside with pitch:** The **pitch** worked to waterproof the wood. God told Noah to cover it with pitch **inside and outside**, which makes it possible that the ark was preserved for a long time. It is possible God still has a purpose for the ark, to use it to remind the world of a past judgment shortly before a future judgment.

i. Peter, in 2 Peter 3:1-7, relates the future judgment to the judgment of the flood saying, unbelievers *willfully forget ... the world that then existed perished being flooded with water*. Perhaps, before Jesus returns, God will make it even more necessary for people to *willfully forget* these things.

ii. Because of this mention of **pitch** (a petroleum product) in what most people think is the Middle East, John D. Rockefeller looked for (and found) oil in that region based on this verse.

4. (17-21) Why the ark must be built and what Noah must do.

“And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark; you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

a. **Everything that is on the earth shall die:** We can only wonder what Noah felt when he heard this remarkable announcement from God. God called Noah to an essential role in the greatest judgment - and greatest salvation - the world had seen.

b. **But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark:** Despite the dramatic judgment coming, God will make a covenant with Noah, and he and his family will be saved. God will also use Noah to save a remnant of each animal so the earth could be populated with people and animals after the flood.

c. **Take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself:** God also commanded Noah to take all the food he could. There must be a lot of food for Noah and all the animals.

5. (22) Noah’s obedience.

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

a. **Thus Noah did:** When given this staggering job to do, Noah did it. We don’t hear of him complaining or rebelling; he simply obeyed.

i. The words, “**so he did**” cover an awful lot of material and years; yet Noah did not shrink from what God told him to do.

b. **According to all that God commanded him, so he did:** The Bible presents Noah as a great hero of God. He was an outstanding example of righteousness (Ezekiel 14:14), a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), and Noah condemned the world by offering salvation in the ark that the whole world rejected (Hebrews 11:7).

i. Noah was a *preacher of righteousness* (2 Peter 2:5), yet in his 120-year ministry it seems that no one was saved.

ii. “The work of building the ark was laborious, costly, tedious, dangerous, and seemingly foolish and ridiculous; especially when all things continued in the same posture and safety for so many scores of years together; whereby Noah, without doubt, was all that while the song of the drunkards, and the sport of the wits of that age. So it is not strange that this is mentioned as an heroic act of faith.” (Poole)