

## LESSON OVERVIEW

Week #: 5 Date: February 1, 2026 Lesson Title: Noah & the Ark: Trusting God's Word Primary Scripture Passage(s): Genesis 6–9 Bible Timeline Placement: Early History – After Creation and the Fall, before the nations spread (Genesis 1–11) Big Idea (One Clear, Memorable Sentence): God's Word is always true, and God saves those who trust Him.

## MEMORY VERSE

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family." (Hebrews 11:7)

Explanation for Children: Noah trusted God even before he saw the flood. God wants us to trust Him and obey His Word, knowing He always tells the truth and keeps His promises.

## SETTING THE SCENE (INTRODUCTION)

Let's listen carefully to what God tells us in His Word. Today we are in the very first book of the Bible, called Genesis. Genesis tells us how God created the world, how sin entered the world, and how God began His rescue plan. By the time we reach Genesis chapter 6, the world has changed. People are no longer loving and obeying God.

The Bible tells us, "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth" (Genesis 6:5). God is about to act—but not without mercy.

## MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE (READ ALOUD – AT LEAST 10 MINUTES)

Long ago, the world God created had become filled with sin and violence. People were choosing to disobey God again and again. The Bible says that every thought of their hearts was only evil all the time (Genesis 6:5). This made God very sad, because sin always destroys what God made good.

But in the middle of a very dark world, God saw one man who trusted Him. His name was Noah. The Bible tells us, "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). This does not mean Noah was perfect. It means Noah listened to God, trusted God, and wanted to obey Him.

God spoke to Noah and told him something very serious. God said He was going to judge the earth because of sin. Then God gave Noah very specific instructions. God told Noah to build a huge ark—a giant boat—because a flood was coming. At that time, people had never seen rain like this before. But Noah believed God's Word.

The Bible says, "Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (Genesis 6:22). Noah trusted God even when it did not make sense and even when others did not believe.

God also told Noah to bring animals into the ark. God Himself brought them, just as He promised (Genesis 6:20). When the ark was finished, God told Noah and his family to go inside. Then something very important happened. "The Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:16). This shows us that God Himself kept Noah safe.

Rain fell for forty days and forty nights. Water covered the earth. Everything happened exactly as God said it would. But Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. God did not forget them. The Bible says, "God remembered Noah" (Genesis 8:1). This means God kept His promise.

After the waters went down, Noah and his family came out of the ark. Noah worshiped God and thanked Him. God then made a promise to Noah and to all people. God said He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood (Genesis 9:11). God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise.

#### WHY WE CAN TRUST THIS ACCOUNT

We trust this account first because God tells us it is true in His Word. But God has also left clues in the world He made, and in human history, that help us see that a worldwide flood really happened.

##### Scientific Facts Children Can Understand:

- Fossils are found all over the earth, even on high mountains. Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that were buried quickly. A slow, gentle process does not explain this, but a huge flood that covered the earth does.
- Many fossils show animals buried suddenly, before they could decay or escape. This fits with what the Bible describes in Genesis 7, when waters covered the land very quickly.
- Rock layers around the world look similar and stretch across continents. This shows they were formed by a massive amount of moving water, not many small floods over millions of years.
- Sea creatures are found fossilized far above sea level. This makes sense if water once covered the whole earth, just as God said it did.

##### Historical Facts Children Can Understand:

- People groups all over the world have stories about a great flood. These stories come from places far away from each other, long before people could easily travel or communicate.
- Even though the details are different, many of these accounts include the same main ideas: a great flood, people being judged for wrongdoing, a small group being saved, and life starting again afterward.
- This shows that something very big really happened in the past. The Bible gives us the true and accurate account because it comes from God, who was there and cannot lie.

The most important reason we trust this account is that Jesus Himself talked about Noah and the flood as real history (Matthew 24:37). God made the world and guides history, so His Word and His world tell the same truth.

## WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

The ark was God's way of saving Noah from judgment. In the same way, Jesus is God's way of saving us from sin. Just as there was only one ark, there is only one Savior. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven and made new (John 3:16).

## GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY

In this passage, we see God as one God in three Persons, revealed through His Word.

God the Father planned judgment and rescue. He spoke to Noah, gave the warning, and made the covenant promise (Genesis 6:13–18; Genesis 9:8–11).

God the Son, Jesus, is not named directly in Genesis, but He is clearly pointed to. The ark is a picture of Jesus as the only way of rescue. Scripture later explains that salvation through the ark points forward to salvation through Christ (John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:20–21).

God the Holy Spirit is the giver and sustainer of life. Earlier in Genesis we learn that the Spirit of God was active in creation (Genesis 1:2), and Scripture teaches that God renews and sustains life by His Spirit (Psalm 104:30).

Together, these verses help us understand that God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## LIFE APPLICATION

Because God's Word is always true, we can trust Him even when it is hard. This week, children can practice listening to God's Word, obeying their parents, and trusting Jesus when they feel unsure.

## DEFENDING THE TRUTH

Question a Child Might Ask: "Did the flood really happen?"

Simple Biblical Answer: Yes. Jesus said Noah and the flood were real. We believe God's Word because it is always true (Matthew 24:37).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did God ask Noah to build the ark? Teacher Answer: Because sin had filled the world, and God was bringing judgment, but He also provided a way of rescue for those who trusted Him (Genesis 6:5–7, 13–14).
2. How did Noah show that he trusted God? Teacher Answer: Noah obeyed God exactly, even when he had not seen rain before and when others did not believe God's warning (Genesis 6:22; Hebrews 11:7).

3. Who kept Noah and his family safe inside the ark? Teacher Answer: God Himself kept them safe. The Bible says, "The Lord shut him in," showing that God was in control and protecting them (Genesis 7:16).
4. What promise did God make after the flood? Teacher Answer: God promised that He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood, and He gave the rainbow as a sign of that promise (Genesis 9:11–13).
5. How does the ark help us understand Jesus? Teacher Answer: Just as the ark saved Noah from coming judgment, God always provides a way of rescue for people who trust Him. The ark points forward to Jesus, who is God's ultimate rescue from sin and judgment. Everyone who trusted God and entered the ark was saved. In the same way, everyone who trusts Jesus is saved (Genesis 7:1; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21).
6. What does this lesson teach us about God providing a way of escape from judgment? Teacher Answer: God never brings judgment without first giving a way of rescue. Before the flood came, God warned people and provided the ark. This shows God's mercy and patience. The greatest way God provides escape is through Jesus, who took judgment on the cross so we could be forgiven and saved (Genesis 6:13–14; Romans 5:8–9; John 14:6)..

#### HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Activity: Build an Ark Reminder

Purpose: To help children remember that God's Word can be trusted.

Supplies: Paper, crayons, scissors, glue

Instructions: Have children draw or build a simple ark and write "God keeps His promises" on it. Talk about how trusting God helps us feel safe.

#### TEACHER CLOSING PROMPT

Close by reminding children that God loves them, keeps His promises, and sent Jesus to save them. Read Genesis 9:13 aloud and thank God for being faithful.