

Open Bible Stories — The Flood

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of the flood teaches us about God's promise to judge and to save.

Core Belief Verse

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." 2" — Peter 3:9

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

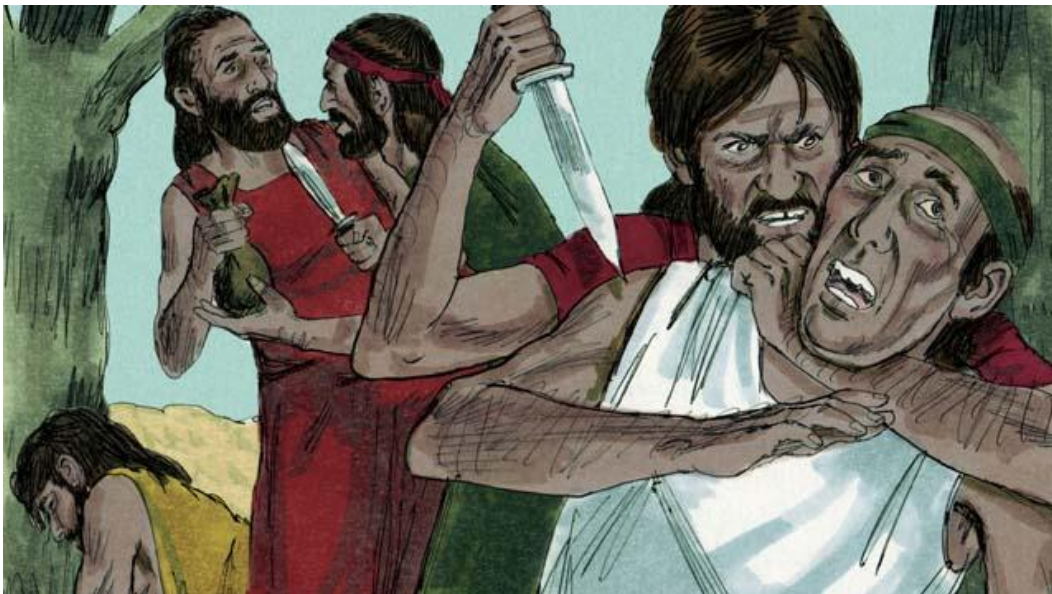
He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

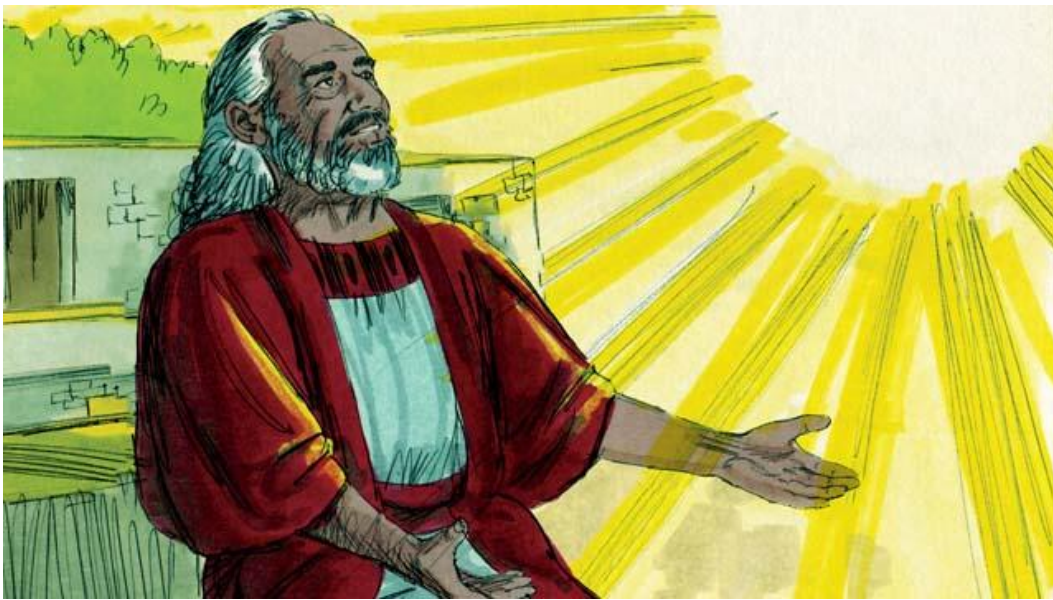
The Story: The Flood

03-01



After a long time, many people were living in the world. They had become very wicked and violent. It became so bad that God decided to destroy the whole world with a huge flood.

03-02



But God was pleased with Noah. He was a righteous man living among wicked people. God told Noah that he was going to make a big flood. Therefore, he told Noah to build a huge boat.

03-03



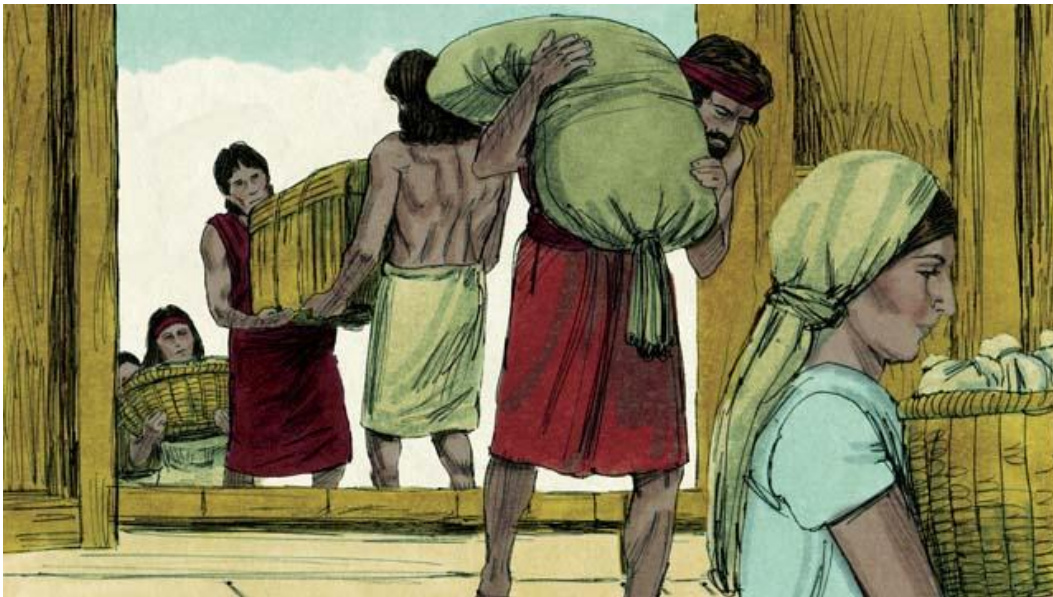
God told Noah to make the boat about 140 meters long, 23 meters wide, and 13.5 meters high. Noah was to build it with wood and to make three levels, many rooms, a roof, and a window. The boat would keep Noah, his family, and every kind of land animal safe during the flood.

03-04



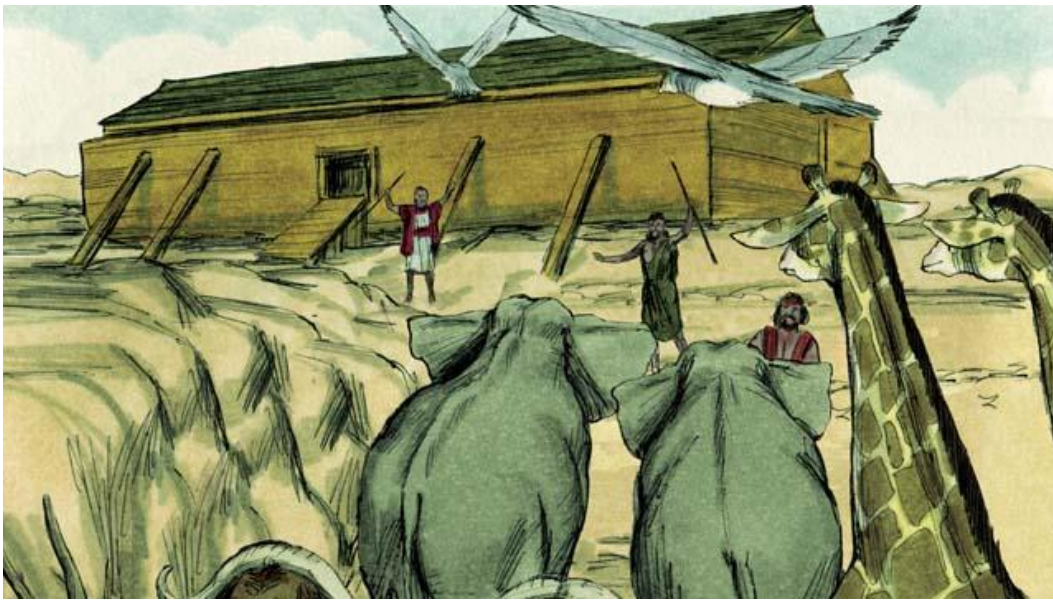
Noah obeyed God. He and his three sons built the boat just the way God had told them. It took many years to build the boat because it was so big. Noah warned the people about the flood that was coming and told them to turn to God, but they did not believe him.

03-05



God also commanded Noah and his family to gather enough food for themselves and the animals. When everything was ready, God told Noah it was time for him, his wife, his three sons, and their wives to get into the boat—eight people in all.

03-06



God sent a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird to Noah so they could go into the boat and be kept safe during the flood. God sent seven males and seven females of every kind of animal that could be used for sacrifices. When they were all in the boat, God himself closed the door.

03-07



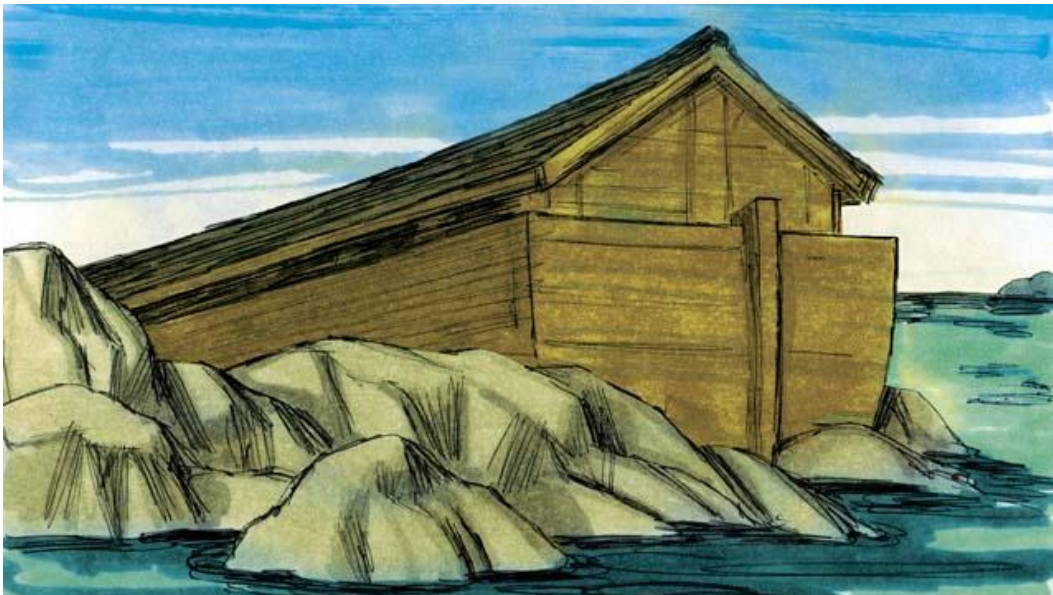
Then it began to rain, and rain, and rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights without stopping! Water also came gushing up out of the earth. Everything in the whole world was covered with water, even the highest mountains.

03-08



Everything that lived on the dry land died except the people and animals that were in the boat. The boat floated on the water and kept everything inside the boat safe from drowning.

03-09



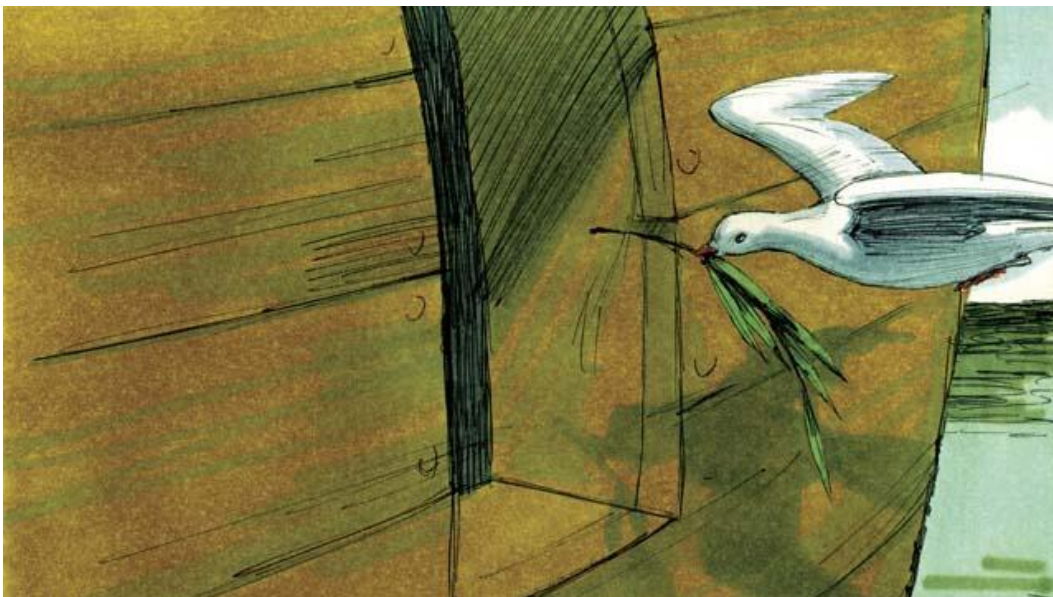
After the rains stopped, the boat floated on the water for five months, and during this time the water started going down. Then one day the boat rested on the top of a mountain, but the world was still covered with water. After three more months, the tops of the mountains were visible.

03-10



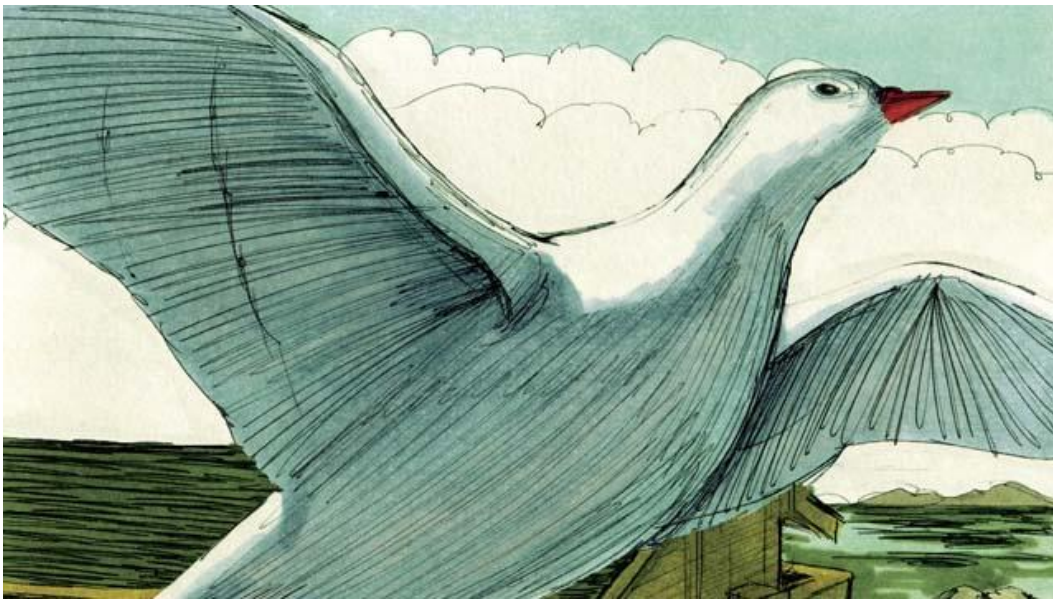
After 40 more days, Noah sent out a bird called a raven to see if the water had dried up. The raven flew back and forth looking for dry land, but it could not find any.

03-11



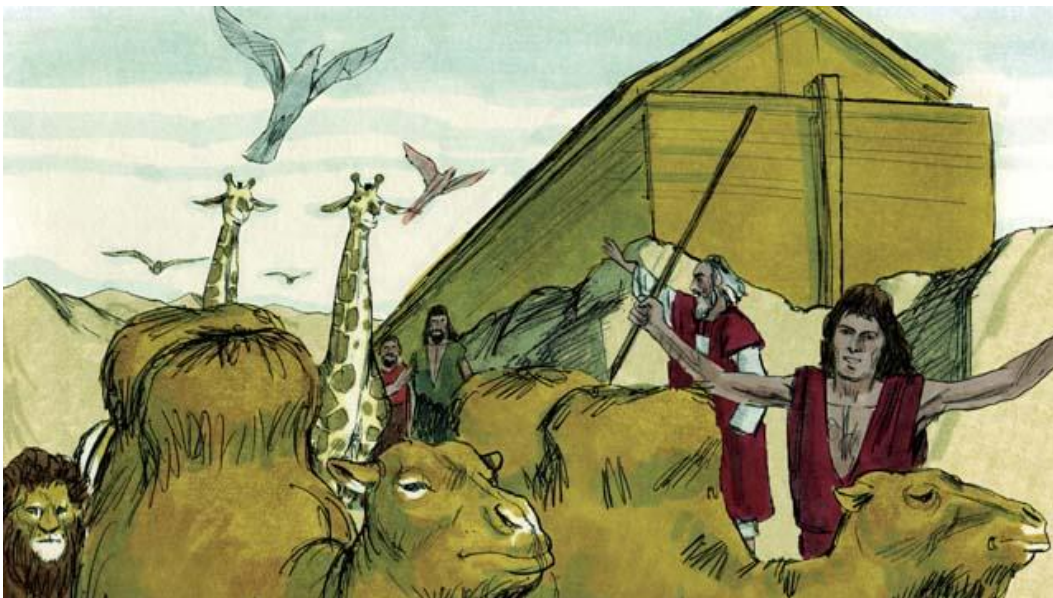
Later Noah sent out a bird called a dove. But it also could not find any dry land, so it came back to Noah. A week later he sent the dove out again, and it came back with an olive branch in its beak! The water was going down, and the plants were growing again!

03-12



Noah waited another week and sent out the dove a third time. This time, it found a place to rest and did not come back. The water was drying up!

03-13



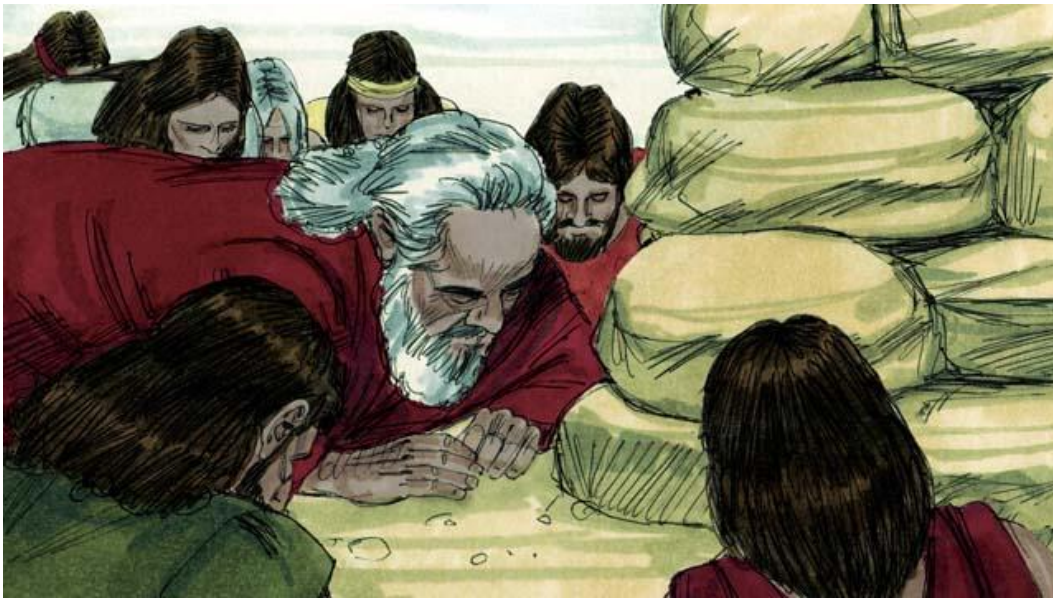
Two months later, God said to Noah, "You and your family and all the animals may leave the boat now. Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth." So Noah and his family came out of the boat.

03-14

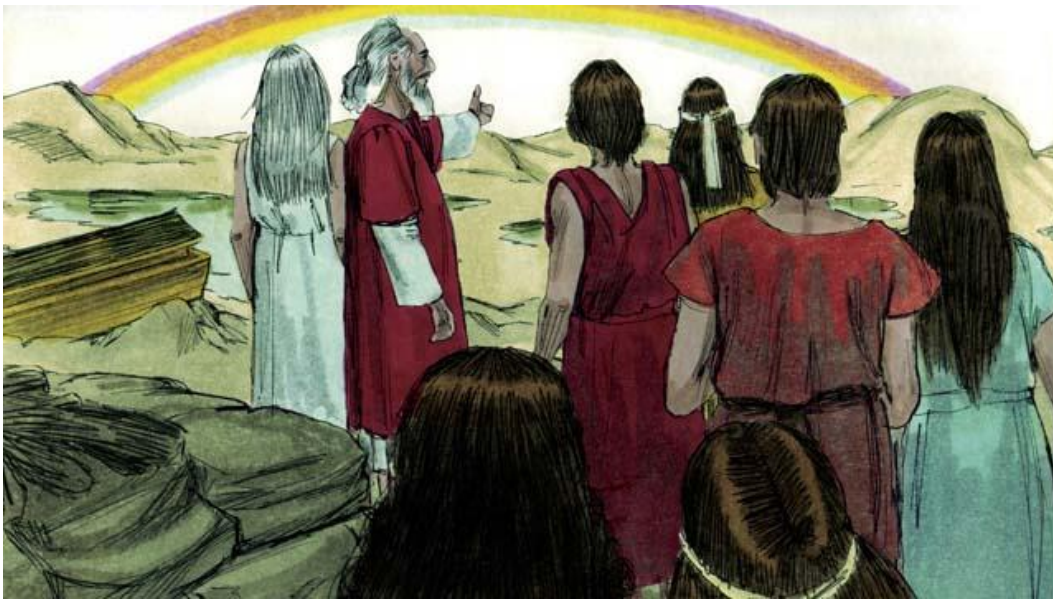


After Noah got off the boat, he built an altar and sacrificed some of each kind of animal that could be used for a sacrifice. God was happy with the sacrifice and blessed Noah and his family.

03-15



God said, "I promise I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things that people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are sinful from the time they are children."



God then made the first rainbow as a sign of his promise. Every time the rainbow appeared in the sky, God would remember what he promised and so would his people.

A Bible story from: Genesis 6–8

The Practice of Prayer — Speaking with God

- **Key Idea:** Asking God to act on our behalf
- **Key Passage:** 1 Peter 5:6-11
- **Main Session:** OBS 3 (Flood)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

"The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider slowness to be. Instead, he is patient toward you. He does not desire for any of you to perish, but for everyone to make room for repentance. 2 Peter 3:9"

Think Together (10 minutes)

God always fulfills his promises. It may seem like it takes a long time for God to fulfill his promises, but he always does. God is patient with people because he wants them to repent of their sins and place their

faith in Jesus for salvation. Tell some stories from your own life about how God has been patient with you.

Read the Passage (2–3 minutes)

We can trust God's promises. God's faithfulness to fulfill his promises encourages us to come to him in prayer. In order to understand about the Christian practice of prayer, read the passage below.

"6 Therefore humble yourselves under God's mighty hand so that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. — 1 Peter 5:6-7"

Discuss the Passage (10 minutes)

Use the following questions to discuss what it means to pray to God.

1. Why does it take humility to pray to God?
2. How is prayer described in this passage?
3. How have you experienced God's answer to prayer in your own life?
4. How can you make prayer a regular practice in your community life?

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Identify several needs of your community that are the cause of anxiety. Pray to God and cast your anxieties upon him.

Sing God's Praise (3–5 minutes)

Sing a song that expresses trust in God to fulfill his promises.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

03-01

How many people were living in the world at this time?

Many people were living in the world.

Why did God decide to destroy the world?

People had become very wicked and violent.

How did God plan to destroy the world?

God would send a huge flood.

03-02

What did God think of Noah?

God was pleased with Noah.

What kind of man was Noah?

Noah was a righteous man.

What did God tell Noah he was going to do?

God told Noah that he was going to make a big flood.

What did God tell Noah to do?

God told Noah to build a huge boat.

03-03

What was the boat supposed to look like?

Noah was to make the boat out of wood. He was to make it three levels high. The boat was to have many rooms, a door, and a window.

What was the purpose of the boat?

The boat would keep Noah, his family, and the animals safe during the flood.

03-04

How did Noah respond to God's instructions?

Noah obeyed God. Noah built the boat as God commanded.

How did the other people react when Noah told them that the flood would come?

The other people did not believe him.

03-05

What kind of preparations did God tell Noah to make?

God told Noah to gather food for themselves and the animals.

Who did God tell to enter the ark?

God commanded Noah and his family---eight people in total---to enter the ark.

03-06

Which animals came into the boat before the flood?

A male and a female of every kind of animal, and seven males and seven females of every kind of animal that could be used for sacrifice came into the boat.

Who closed the door of the boat after Noah's family and the animals came inside?

God closed the door.

03-07

How long did it rain?

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights.

How high did the water of the flood reach?

The water covered everything in the whole world, even the highest mountains.

03-08

What happened to everything that lived on land?

Everything died.

What happened to the people and animals in the boat?

All the people and the animals in the boat were kept safe.

03-09

How long did the boat float on the water for after the rain stopped?

The boat floated on the water for five months.

Where did the boat eventually rest?

The boat eventually rested on top of a mountain.

When did the mountain tops become visible?

After three more months, the tops of the mountains became visible.

03-10

What was the first bird that Noah sent out of the ark?

After forty days, Noah sent a raven out of the boat to see if the water dried up.

Did the raven find dry land?

No. The raven did not find dry land.

03-11

What was the next bird Noah sent out of the ark?

Noah sent a dove out of the ark to look for dry land.

Did the dove find dry land?

No. On its first trip, the dove did not find dry land.

What happened on the dove's second trip?

After a week, Noah sent the dove out again, and the dove came back with an olive branch.

03-12

How did Noah know the water had dried up?

Noah sent out a dove and the dove did not return.

03-13

What did God tell Noah and his family to do when they left the boat?

God told them to have many children and grandchildren and to fill the earth.

03-14

How did Noah worship God after he got off the boat?

Noah built an altar and sacrificed some of the animals.

What was God's response to Noah's sacrifice?

God was pleased with the sacrifice and blessed Noah and his family.

03-15

What did God promise he would never do again?

God would never again curse the ground or destroy the world with a flood.

03-16

What did God make as a sign of his promise?

God made a rainbow in the sky.

What did the rainbow signify?

The rainbow was a sign that God would remember his promise never to destroy the world with a flood.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How sinful are humans? How does the flood story give us insight into the sinful condition of humans?
2. What does it mean to live a life that pleases God? How does Noah teach us about this?

3. What does it look like to live a life that trusts in God's promises? What does this story teach us about God's promise (both his promise to judge and his promise to save)?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. How would you describe the kind of life you are living? Is your life more like Noah (righteous) or the rest of the people (wicked)?
2. How have you responded to God's warning that he will judge sin?
3. How can you make sure that you are safe when God judges the world?
4. Think about this week. Where does "The Flood" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of the flood teaches us about God's promise to judge and to save.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "The Flood" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "The Flood" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.