1 Catastrophe: the Flood

Key Themes

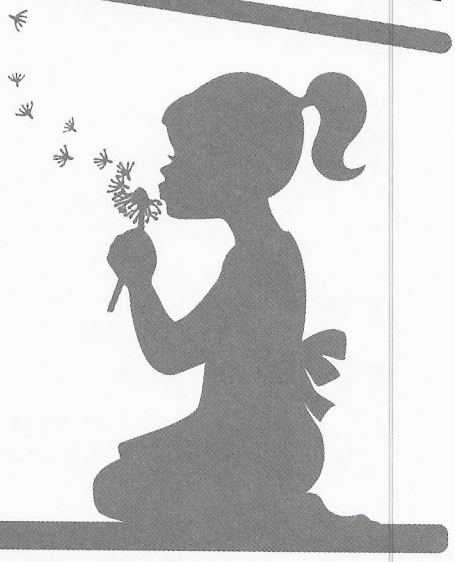
- God must judge sin
- Jesus provides salvation from sin

Key Passage

- Genesis 6:5–8

Lesson Focus

- Sin makes God sad.



Lesson Overview

Come On In

Children will play with play dough.

Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God punished the wickedness of man by bringing a global Flood. God showed mercy to Noah who loved God and was righteous in the eyes of the Lord.

Song—Children move, clap, or march around the room while singing the songs, "Noah and the Ark" and "The Seven C's."

Activity 1: God Must Judge Sin

Children will color the God Must Judge Sin coloring sheet.

Activity 2: Noah Puppet Character

Children will assemble the Noah puppet character to use to review the lesson with their families.

Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

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Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO	WHAT YOU WILL NEED
FOR THE TEACHER	
☐ Study the Prepare to Share section. ☐ Go Before the Throne.	☐ Student Take Home Sheets
COME ON IN	
☐ Set play dough at each child's seat before class begins.	☐ Play dough ☐ Cookie cutters
CIRCLE TIME	
☐ Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time. ☐ Gather pictures of storms with lightning, rain, waves in the ocean, tornadoes, etc. to show during class. ☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.	☐ Stuffed animal for prayer time ☐ Lesson Flip Chart ☐ Pictures of storms, rain, lightning, waves, tornadoes, etc.
GOD MUST JUDGE SIN	
☐ Print one God Must Judge Sin coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each child.	☐ God Must Judge Sin coloring sheet for each child ☐ Crayons
NOAH PUPPET CHARACTER	
☐ Print and cut out one Noah Puppet Character from the Resource DVD-ROM for each child. Print on cardstock.	☐ Noah Puppet Character (one per child) ☐ Crayons ☐ Craft sticks ☐ Glue
MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK	
☐ Prepare and bring snacks.	☐ Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review ☐ Snacks

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Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

As you prepare your heart to teach God's Word, study these background passages: Genesis 6–9; 2 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 11:7.

The account of Noah begins in Genesis 6. Genesis 6:5–6 says that God saw the wickedness of man and that He was grieved and sorry that He had made man. Scripture describes the situation at the time: "wickedness of man was great," "evil thoughts continually" (Genesis 6:5), "corrupt" (Genesis 6:11–12), "filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11, 6:13).

Hebrews 11:7 tells us that by faith, Noah was divinely warned of things not yet seen. He was warned by God of the coming destruction, and it was Noah's faith that led to his obedience and the salvation of his family. Because Noah is described as a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5), we can imagine that he spent his time while building the Ark trying to persuade the people to be righteous and warning them of God's coming judgment. However, only Noah's family believed and joined him in the Ark. Noah was a "just man" (Genesis 6:9), he "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9), and it was by faith that he believed, obeyed, and was saved (Hebrews 11:7).

God shows in this account that He does judge all sin. The Flood wiped out the entire population and was a bitter judgment. But, as God saved Noah and his family in the Ark, He has also shown us His mercy and grace by providing salvation from our sins through His own Son, Jesus Christ.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Looking at the full counsel of the Word of God we see that several other biblical writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to confirm the historical account of Noah and the Flood. It was more than 1,700 years after the Flood that the prophet Ezekiel mentioned Noah (Ezekiel 14:14, 14:20). And about 2,400 years after Noah lived, Jesus Christ referred to him as He described His return and coming judgment (Matthew 24:37–39).

The writer of Hebrews also confirms Noah's existence when he included him in the "Hall of Faith" chapter, (Hebrews 11:7). Peter writes of both Noah and the Flood, again confirming that this watery judgment occurred just as we read in Genesis. Noah was a real person called by God during this amazing time in history.

In addition, the sheer size, dimensions, and directions given by God to Noah for building the Ark show that this vessel was seaworthy and able to withstand a year-long global Flood. In other words, the Ark itself confirms the Flood.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A careful reading of Genesis confirms again God's precision in handing down the history of the universe. Noah was born 1,056 years after Creation (Genesis 5). He was 500 years old when he began to build the Ark. It could have taken up to 75 years for him to complete the project. It is a good practice to take special note of details when God so specifically gives them.

In the years following the Fall, mankind became more and more self-willed. They were filled with violence and the thoughts of their hearts were only evil continually. Because God hates sin, He had to judge the world. This judgment came via the worldwide Flood.

Here is the timeline of Noah and the Flood as gleaned from the book of Genesis:

- Year 0 – Creation
- 1056 – Noah born (Genesis 5)
- 1536 – Proclamation of judgment by God ("in 120 years earth will be destroyed")
- ~1581–1601 – God instructs Noah to build Ark and Noah begins building and preaching
- 1656 – God instructs Noah to prepare to enter Ark; Noah enters and God shuts the door; the Flood begins
    - 40 days – Rains fall and fountains of deep break open
    - 110 days – Water covers earth, begins to recede, Ark rests on mountain
    - 74 days – Waters continue to decrease, tops of mountains seen
    - 40 days – Noah sends out a raven, which does not return
    - 7 days – Noah sends out a dove, which returns
    - 7 days – Noah sends out a dove, which returns with olive branch
    - 7 days – Noah sends out a dove, which does not return

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- 29 days – Noah removes the cover from Ark
- 56 days – Noah and his family leave Ark

- 1657–The Flood is over; God instructs Noah to leave Ark

Noah and his family were on the Ark for 371 days.

For more information on this topic, go to the Online Resource Page.

BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, thank you for your Word and the truths you have given us there. I pray this week that as I prepare this lesson, you will give me the understanding I need and the realization that my disobedience displeases you. Forgive me, Lord, for the ways I have disobeyed you. As I come before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16) on behalf of the children in my class, I pray, Lord, that you will help them grasp a better understanding of their sinfulness and that they will realize that all sin grieves you, and you must punish sin. Lead them to an understanding that forgiveness is freely given through Jesus Christ alone.

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COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will make animals out of play dough. Encourage the children to make snakes, snails etc. Talk to the children about animals that God brought to the Ark.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.

REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.

Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Bible, Flip Chart, stuffed animal, pictures of storms, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

Begin prayer time after the children are situated in the circle.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented here. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today. (Adoration is suggested.)*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

You might proceed this way. Today let's say prayers of Adoration. Let's each think of something wonderful about God. And tell Him that we love Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

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I'll start. Dear God, you are so great and powerful. I love you! Amen.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to pray saying something about God that they love Him for.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? What is in this Bible? *God's holy Word!*

? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*

? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

Very good! Now into God's true Word. Today, we are going to hear about the greatest, biggest, most powerful catastrophe EVER! We already learned about Creation, when God created everything! Then Corruption, when Adam and Eve sinned. Now we have Catastrophe.

? Can you say catastrophe? *Have the children repeat it after you a few times.*

A catastrophe is a huge disaster! A catastrophe is a big, bad problem! *Thumbs down.*

This catastrophe was the biggest one that ever happened on earth. It was really terrible. It had to do with the weather.

➤ Remember, God's Word is not boring. Noah's Flood truly was the worst catastrophe of all time! Convey the truth creatively and appropriately. Be enthusiastic about God's Word, and use right emotion when reading words like happy or sad!

? Are any of you afraid of storms? Thunder and lightning? Sometimes the electricity even goes off. Has that happened to any of you? *Let the children answer.*

Here are some pictures of terrible storms. Sometimes they can be pretty scary. *Show children pictures of bad storms, lightning, tornadoes, big waves, etc. Allow the children to answer and briefly talk about storms.*

The catastrophe we are going to hear about today was a really big and bad storm. It caused a huge flood that covered the entire world and killed almost everything on earth.

God told us all about this storm in the Bible. He wants us to know about it and remember why it happened.

➤ Display the Flip Chart lesson page.

Genesis 6:5–8

? Someone named Noah lived through this catastrophe. Does anyone know about Noah? Or what he built? *Let the children answer. An ark.*

What does God's Word have to say about Noah? Let's look at our Flip Chart picture and read from God's Word. Listen carefully to what God's Word says. *Read Genesis 6:5–8 slowly and carefully from your Bible.*

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The Bible says God saw wickedness on earth. Wickedness is another word for sin. Sin is disobeying God. This sin made God sad. All sin makes God sad.

See the picture. The Bible says the people were evil. They did not love God. They were not obeying God. They were sinning against Him. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

Sin comes from our hearts and makes God sad. God knows what is in our hearts and he knew what was inside the hearts of all the people that were on the earth. God was so sad. Sin makes God sad.

? I want to read this verse. *Read Genesis 6:8 again.* Who is this verse about? *Noah.*

Yes. Noah loved God. God showed Noah special grace because he obeyed God. God told Noah that He was going to destroy all the people and the earth. But God said that He would save Noah. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

? Why was God going to destroy the earth? *Because of people's sin.*

? Why was God going to save Noah? *He obeyed God. He loved Him*

That's right. Sin makes God sad and God hates sin. God must judge sin! Judge means punish. God must punish sin!

The people were wicked. They were disobeying God. *Refer to the Flip Chart where appropriate.*

? But who is this looking on? Who was the one who obeyed God and loved Him? *Noah.*

Remember what the Bible said? *Read Genesis 6:7 again. Refer to your Bible so the children know this is from God's Word.*

? What did God say He had to do? *Destroy man.*

That's right. Sin makes God sad. He had to judge or punish the sinners.

? What was God going to do? How was God going to punish the earth? *By sending a Flood—a great big Flood. A Catastrophe. Have the children repeat the word again. Show the storm pictures you brought in.*

? Who was God going to save? *Noah.*

? Why was God going to save Noah? *Because He obeyed and loved God.*

The Bible always teaches us about God. We need to remember that sin makes God sad. And He must judge sin. Judge means to punish.

When we talk about God punishing sin, we say He is just.

? Why did God have to destroy the world with the Flood? Do you remember? *Because of sin.*

Right. Remember, sin makes God sad. And He has to punish sin. God was going to punish the earth with a great big flood. A big storm.

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? What is another word for that? It begins with a "C"? Does anyone remember? *Catastrophe. Have the children repeat the word a few times.*

? What is sin? *Allow children to answer. Doing something bad, disobeying your parents, being mean to brothers or sisters, disobeying God.*

? Do any of you sin? *Allow children to answer.*

The Bible says we all sin. Everyone! And God must punish all sin. Even yours and even mine! But God sent someone to save us from our sin.

? Who can save us from our sin? *Jesus.*

Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus died on the Cross to forgive us and save us from our sins if we believe in Him.

SONG

➤ Oversee an orderly way to get the children back to their seats especially if the chairs were moved for circle time.

OK! Everybody up! We are going to sing the Noah and the Ark Song. Let's sing it together; it is really fun. *Sing the Noah and the Ark song. If you have time, sing the Seven C's song as well. The lyrics to the songs are on the Flip Chart song page and can also be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.*

OK. We learned some very important things today. One is that Sin makes God sad. And God must judge sin. That means He must punish us when we sin. Let's quietly go back to our tables and we are going to color a picture about the lesson.

God Must Judge Sin

We are going to color our picture now. It shows wicked men. There was sin and wickedness in the world. That sin made God sad. And God had to judge the sin. Remember, Noah loved God and obeyed Him. God told Noah His plan about the Flood and told Noah how he could be saved.

? Who remembers what God told Noah to do? *Build an Ark.*

MATERIALS

- ☐ God Must Judge Sin coloring sheet for each child
- ☐ Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Color your picture.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? What did God see when He looked down on the earth? *Wickedness, sin, evil.*

God wants us to remember that sin makes Him sad; He must judge sin. Judge means to punish.

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2 Noah Puppet Character

MATERIALS

- ☐ Noah Puppet Character (one per child)
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's make our own stick puppet of Noah. Color your Noah stick puppet and then we'll glue him on to the craft stick. *If you do not have the time, you can send these home with the children to do with their families.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Sin makes God sad. God must judge sin because he is just. Noah obeyed God and God was going to save Him.

? Why was God going to save Noah? *Because he believed and obeyed God.*

? What did God tell Noah he was going to do? *Destroy the earth with a Flood.*

Memory Verse Review/Snack

2 Peter 2:5 [God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on his/her own.

➤ Review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Sin makes God sad. The people were very sinful when Noah lived. And God told Noah He was going to destroy the whole earth with a terrible storm—a flood—a Catastrophe. God was going to judge the people. He is just. He must punish sin.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Is it sometimes hard to obey your mom and dad? Do you know why? We are sinners. And God must punish our sin.

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➤ *Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.*

The song we sang says, "Just like the Ark in ancient days, God's Word says Jesus saves!" And that is true! We all have sin in our hearts and God can see what is in our hearts. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Just like Noah was safe in the Ark from God's judgment on the world, we can be safe in Jesus from God's judgment of our sin. *Sing the song again, if time.*

Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for giving us His Word!
- Thank God for sending His Son Jesus!
- Thank God for teaching us great things through Noah's life.
- Praise God for salvation through His Son Jesus.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

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Song Sheet

NOAH AND THE ARK

(To the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down")

The sins of man grew in God's sight;
(London Bridge is falling down,)
They loved sin more than God,
(Falling down, falling down.)
Because they loved sin more than God,
(London Bridge is falling down,)
God would judge them.
(My fair lady!)

Noah was a righteous man,
He loved God, obeyed His plan.
He built the Ark just like God said;
God showed mercy.

God brought the animals two by two,
They marched on board, dinosaurs too!
God shut the door, the rains began;
Noah's Flood.

Just like the Ark in ancient days,
God's Word says, "Jesus saves!"
Perfect salvation from the grave,
Christ, our Redeemer!

SEVEN C'S OF HISTORY

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

Creation, God made it all.
(This old man, he played one,)
Corruption, sin made man fall.
(He played knick-knack on my thumb;)
There's **Catastrophe**,
(With a knick-knack paddywhack,)
A worldwide flood;
(Give a dog a bone.)
Dinosaurs buried in the mud.
(This old man came rolling home.)

Man disobeyed, **Confusion** came;
The way they talked, no longer the same.
It's the Seven C's of History.
In God's Word the truth we see.

Next, there's **Christ**, He came to give—
His life on the **Cross** that we might live.
Consummation is our final C,
The final C of History!

We'll look to the clouds and see Jesus come;
God is forever the victorious one.
It's the Seven C's of History.
In God's Word, the truth we see.

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Notes

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