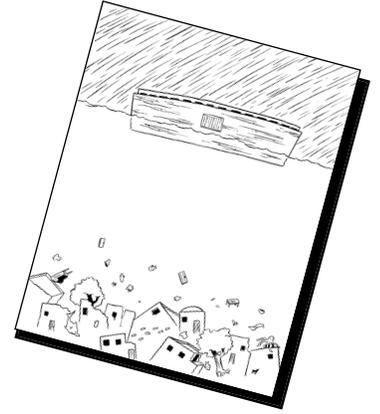




God Floods the Earth

Genesis 6:5–7:24



LESSON GOAL

Students will learn that God judges man for his sinfulness.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Mankind was very sinful before the flood.
- God judged man with a worldwide flood.
- God graciously saved Noah and his family.
- God's judgment on the world was complete.

KEY VERSE

"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'" (Genesis 6:13).

APPLICATION

- Fear the Lord. He is holy and just.
- Don't wait to repent; Turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Obey and trust the Lord as Noah did.

NEXT WEEK

God Preserves Noah
Read Genesis 8:1–9:17.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Once sin was unleashed in the world, it began to run rampant. As the fallen human race multiplied and expanded, so did evil. The moral degeneration of man in Genesis 4 culminated in Genesis 6:1–12. Adam and Eve’s descendants openly sinned against God in rebellion (Gen. 6:5; Rom. 1:28–31). As a result, God had to judge them, and He did so with a great flood. With the exception of Noah’s family, all human life was destroyed. God had considered the sins of man and had found them to be so wicked that only their destruction would satisfy His holiness.

Exactly how much time elapsed between creation and the events of Genesis 6 is unknown. What is clear, though, is that men were beginning to multiply rapidly. And they lived to be over 500 years old. (Noah was 950 when he died.) Their families must have been large, and they must have occupied a wide geographical area. As the population of the earth increased, more and more marriages would have taken place. And it was during this time that the “sons of God” married the “daughters of men” (Gen. 6:2).

Just who were the sons of God? Many theories have been suggested. One plausible theory is that the sons of God were fallen angels who indwelt men’s bodies. The daughters of men were human women, and the sin was the marriage between the supernatural and the natural. The Scriptures contain evidence to support this theory. The references in Job to the sons of God refer only to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). Also, the New Testament refers to the angelic sin of Genesis 6 (1 Pet. 3:19–20; 2 Pet. 2:4–6; Jude 6–7).

Whatever theory is correct, the main point—the response of God—is the same (Gen. 6:3). God’s judgment was inevitable, and the amount of time until the flood was set at 120 years.

God’s assessment of the human race was dismal. Sin had become pervasive and all-encompassing. Man’s wickedness had become so great that “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). His depravity was total. When God viewed the wickedness of man, He was “grieved” that He had made man (Gen. 6:6). Our God is a loving father, and disobedience greatly grieves Him. To cause Him grief is the height of ingratitude in light of all He has done for us in Christ. This is why Paul says to us, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (Eph. 4:30).

Scripture teaches that God responds negatively to sin but positively to repentance. God’s judgment of pre-flood mankind was not inevitable—at least not at first. As long as the Holy Spirit contended with them (Gen. 6:3), people had the opportunity to repent. But when God’s deadline for repentance had passed, He announced that He would destroy mankind from the earth (Gen. 6:7). They were the crown of His creation, but they had defaced the divine image in which they had been made. It was beyond restoration. Human sin had so tainted the entire

Additional Reference Materials

*Paradise to Prison:
Studies in Genesis* by
John J. Davis

*The MacArthur Study
Bible* by John MacArthur

Creation and Blessing by
Allen P. Ross

creation that all the animals and birds would die as well.

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8). Noah refused to be part of the trend. He was a righteous man, “perfect” among his contemporaries (Gen. 6:9). Noah separated himself from his contemporaries and followed the Lord. Noah could be considered a spiritual giant in the midst of a world that was thoroughly corrupt. But it is important to remember that he and his family would survive the flood not because of Noah’s goodness, but because of God’s grace. Christians need to remind themselves that God has saved us not because of any righteousness we have done, but because of His mercy (Titus 3:5).

In order to save Noah and his family from the great judgment that was coming, the Lord commanded Noah to build an ark (Gen. 6:14). The ark was to be made of gopherwood—probably cedar or cypress. The ark’s dimensions were truly remarkable for its time. It was approximately 75 feet wide, 45 feet high, and 450 feet long (Gen. 6:15)—the length of one-and-a-half football fields. The biblical text does not give the precise thickness and weight of the beams, but the structure was solid enough to withstand the battering of the storm and the turbulent waters.

Note: The ark was well-designed to protect Noah and his family, but one must remember that their survival was the result of the direct intervention of God.

God announced in advance that He would establish His covenant with Noah (Gen. 6:18), a covenant that Noah would fully understand after the flood was over (Gen. 9:8–17). The covenant would include the promise that such a destructive flood never again would wipe out all mankind. Included in the covenant’s provisions would also be the divine command to “be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 9:1, 7). The same command that God gave when he created man (Gen. 1:28) would be necessary if the earth were to be repopulated after the flood.

In order to preserve the basic “kinds” of animal life, two—one male and one female—of every sort were to be taken into the ark (Gen. 6:19–20). That two is a minimal figure is clear from Genesis 7:2–3. Only two of every kind of unclean animal would have been needed to reproduce themselves after the flood. But more than two of every kind of clean animal would be required because they not only would have to reproduce themselves, but also would be needed for the burnt offerings that Noah would sacrifice (Gen. 8:20).

The precise method by which Noah gathered the required number of animals is not given in Scripture. It would seem that he would not have to hunt them down or look for them in remote places. Their natural instinct for self-preservation, energized by a special act of God, would bring them to the ark (Gen. 6:20). How long it took to gather the animals and food supply also is unknown. We are told over and over that Noah did all that God commanded him (Gen. 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16). Because Noah was righteous, he obeyed whenever God spoke and did whatever God told him to do, however strange or unusual the command may have seemed. Noah gives us a most impressive example of obedience.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Whom did we learn about last week?

Cain and Abel.

What work did Cain do?

He was a farmer.

What work did Abel do?

He was a shepherd.

Was God pleased with Cain’s offering? Why?

No. Cain had a bad attitude.

Was God pleased with Abel’s offering? Why?

Yes. Abel had a good attitude.

Did God warn Cain about his sinful heart?

Yes. He told him to watch out.

How did Cain respond?

He became angrier and killed his brother.

What did God do?

He punished Cain.



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Build That Ark!

Place a large sheet on the ground. As the students enter the classroom, direct them to the sheet. Give them small boxes and let them build their own arks. Tell the students that in today’s lesson, they will learn about Noah, a man who listened to God and obeyed.

Variation: Place a pile of wooden blocks in the center of the room. As the students enter the classroom, direct them to the wooden blocks. Tell them to work together to build a very large boat.



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Sink or Float

Fill a small washtub with water and place it in the center of the room. Direct the students to sit in a semicircle around the tub. Pick up an object and have the students guess whether it will float or sink. Put the object into the tub. Repeat with another object. Explain to the students what a flood is and where rain comes from.



Tell them that in today's Bible story they will learn where the floodwater came from in Noah's time.

Animal Pairs

Give each student some Play-Doh and tell him to make animal pairs. Let him tell the class what type of animals he made.



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Obedience

As the students arrive to class, direct them to a table and tell them to color pictures of obedient children. Explain to them that God wants us to obey and that today they are going to learn about a man who was obedient to God when nobody else was.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Genesis 6:5–7:24.

God is good and righteous. He always does what is right, and He hates sin. Today we are going to talk about the time God became so angry with the sin of man that He destroyed everyone on the entire earth except for Noah and his family. Let's listen very carefully to this story.

Many years passed in the Bible since the story of Cain and Abel. Mankind became so wicked that 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" (6:7).

But God was gracious to Noah. Noah loved God and wanted to obey Him in everything. This pleased God very much. God told Noah that He was going to destroy the earth. God also told Noah that He was going to rescue him and his family. He commanded Noah, "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch . . . I myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life" (6:14, 17).

God also told Noah, "But I will establish My covenant [promise] with you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. You shall bring two of every animal, one male and one female, into the ark and keep them alive with you. And you shall take food for all of you to eat." And so Noah obeyed every word of the Lord.

It took a long time to build the ark! When it was finished, God told Noah, "Come into the ark and bring the animals with you. For in seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth 40 days and 40 nights, and I will destroy everything on the face of the earth that I have made!" And Noah obeyed every word.

It rained very hard for 40 days and 40 nights. The water rose to cover the tops of the highest mountains. Everything that lived on land died. But God kept His promise and protected the ark as it floated along on top of the waters.

This is a story about God's terrible anger toward those who disobey Him. God is right when He gets angry. God is more powerful than anything and everything, and His anger is great when people sin. But the story does not end there. Next week, we will learn more about God's grace toward Noah and his family.

God hates our sin. Many years after Noah's time, God poured out His anger on Jesus for sin. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He willingly took God's anger for us. We must come to God and ask Jesus for forgiveness. God certainly will punish those who do not trust Jesus as their Savior.



Lesson Questions

What book of the Bible have we been studying?

The book of Genesis.

What did God tell Noah to make?

God told Noah to build an ark.

Why did Noah need to make an ark?

God was sending a flood.

Why was God going to send a flood?

To destroy the sinful men.

Did God save anyone? Who?

Yes. Noah and his family.

Did Noah obey God?

Yes. He followed the Lord's instructions.

How can you be saved?

By trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards to present the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces to present the lesson.



What an Ark!

Before class, draw an ark on a large piece of butcher paper. Cut out the ark and display it in the classroom.



An Ark of Safety

Form a large circle of chairs in the center of the classroom. Leave an opening for an entrance. This is your ark. Select students to represent Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth, and their wives. Pair the remaining students into animal couples. You will need braying zebras, roaring lions, barking dogs, etc. Make sure each student knows what animal he is supposed to be. Once everyone is ready, have the students enter the ark.

Variation: Bring a wide, flat board to use as a gangplank. Lay it flat on the floor.



Two by Two

Bring in a selection of stuffed animals in pairs (two teddy bears, two cats, etc.) to use while teaching the lesson.



A Lot of Water

Bring an empty glass tank (like a fish aquarium, fishbowl, or large glass bowl). Inside place little people, houses, and mountains. (These must not float, so they should be made of clay or glued down). Also put in a boat (that will float) to represent the ark. Using a watering can (for a rain effect), have the students take turns pouring the water into the tank. Tell the students that only those who were in the ark survived.

Praise and Worship

Arky, Arky

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Mighty Is Our God

Seek Ye First

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man

This Is My Father's World

Trust and Obey

Who Built the Ark?



A Great Flood

The Lord was sorry that He'd made man.
(*Point up; shake head back and forth.*)

He talked to Noah about His plan:
(*Hold hands at sides of mouth.*)

"I'll cover the earth with a giant flood,
(*Raise arms overhead; slowly move hands down to sides in arc motion.*)

For man is wicked and must be judged.
(*Shake index finger back and forth.*)

But since you are righteous and seek to obey,
(*Point to students.*)

You and your family I'm going to save.
(*Point to students.*)

Take your wife and your sons and your sons' wives, too.

(Count on your fingers.)

Take the animals also, two by two."

(Hold up two fingers on right hand and two fingers on left hand.)

They entered the ark, and God shut the door.

(Make two fingers "walk"; move arm at elbow from horizontal to vertical position.)

The waters rose up, and life was no more.

(With palms facing down, slowly lift hands over head.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



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Entering the Ark

Using brown construction paper, cut out an ark shape and a 1½-inch wide rectangle. Have the students glue the rectangle to the ark to represent a gangplank. Next, give each student some animal crackers to glue to the page, representing the animals entering the ark.



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3-D Noah's Ark

Use foam, wooden blocks, or even shoe boxes to create three-dimensional arks. (See Genesis 6:14–16 for exact measurements, if you desire to make the arks to scale.) To prepare, paint the arks with brown spray paint (at least two days before class, to allow time for drying). (Note: spray paint can be toxic and may destroy foam.) During class time, give the students animal stickers to put on the sides of their "arks." Give each student a scrap of brown cloth or a laminated piece of construction paper to use as the ark's door. Use fabric glue or tacky glue to stick the door to the ark. While the students work on their arks, talk about what it means for every man to "do evil continually."



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Help Noah Build the Ark

This craft places special emphasis on following directions, just as Noah obeyed God's commandments even when they were difficult. Before class, make simple cutouts of an ark, animals, and Noah. Place these items at various locations around the room during craft time. These locations should be easy to reach. Start the craft time by telling the students to find a seat at the table and to listen carefully as you give them instructions on how to make their picture. Once they are sitting quietly, you can start reading them directions. They must complete each task before you will give any more directions. Here are the directions:

1. Write your name at the top of the page.
2. Go get one ark from _____. Glue it to the center of the page.

3. Go get one Noah from _____. Glue it to the left side of the ark.
4. Go get two of each animal from _____. Glue them to the ark, with each animal next to its mate.
5. Color Noah and the animals. Color blue water under the ark. Draw clouds in the sky, with raindrops falling.
6. When you are finished, put your crayons and glue in the center of the table, turn your paper over, fold your hands on your paper, and wait patiently until the other students are finished.

When the craft is finished, talk to the students about the importance of listening and obeying God's directions just as Noah did.



5

Wall of Water

Place a long piece of white butcher paper horizontally on the wall. Let the students draw scenes of birds, mountains, and creeping things. When the drawing is done, cover it with blue plastic wrap or cellophane to demonstrate that the flood covered everything. Then place a construction-paper ark on top. Glue Genesis 6:13 on top of the water at the bottom edge and Genesis 6:8 on the ark.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

This is a long verse and may take several weeks but even three-year-olds can learn this. Explain difficult words each week as you recite the verse.

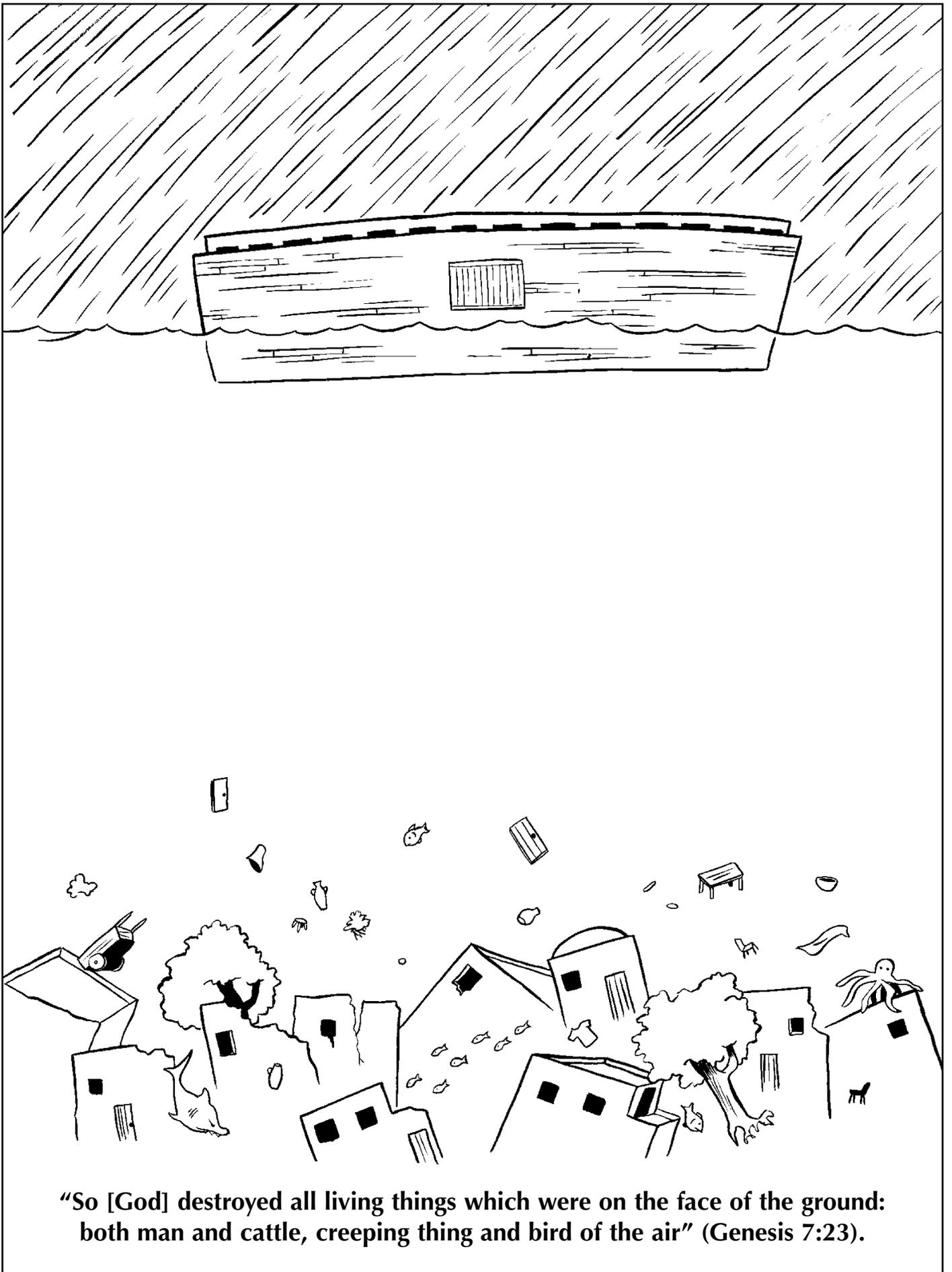
"And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth'" (Genesis 6:13).



Noah



**“Every intent of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil continually”
(Genesis 6:5).**



“So [God] destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air” (Genesis 7:23).

