Unit 3—Noah: Rain, Rain Go Away

Don’t Miss the Boat!
By: Gayle Guthrie

Text

Genesis 6:5-7:23

Key Quest Verse

“For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous” (Psalm 5:12a).

Bible Background

God’s beautiful earth had become full of wickedness and violence and He could bear it no more. His heart was grieved with what He saw. The only bright spot in all creation was that of Noah, a righteous, blameless man who “walked with God.”

Instructed by God to build an ark, Noah obeyed. The Hebrew word used for ark is used only one other time in the Bible, when Moses’ mother made a basket in which to hide her baby. She, like Noah, coated it with pitch to make it watertight before placing it on the banks of the Nile River. Twice, God used an “ark” to preserve His chosen ones.

With divine blueprints in hand, 500-year-old Noah went to work building as God had said. His persistent faith and tenacious spirit kept him working day after day in spite of his neighbors’ ridicule. Told to take into the ark two of all living creatures, we never hear of Noah laughing or questioning God as others in the Bible sometimes did when they heard of God’s plan. Sarah laughed when she heard she was to give birth to a son in her old age. Moses reminded God that he was no public speaker. Jonah ran the other way and became breakfast for a giant fish. Genesis 6:22 says, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” Again, in 7:5, it says, “And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.” No wonder God wanted to save him and his family. A child who didn’t talk back! So how long did the flood last? Historians have come up with these approximations:

- May 10 – the animals entered the ark
- May 17 – June 26 - it rained
- Oct. 13 – the ark landed on Mount Ararat
- Jan. 1 – the tops of mountains were visible
- April 1 – doors of the ark were opened
- May 27 – Noah and his family left the ark, a year and ten days after the flood began
What I want my students to:

Know: That God chose Noah and his family to live because of Noah’s righteousness.

Feel: Concern about the penalty for sin and appreciation for the reward of righteousness.

Do: Chose to do what is right in God’s sight.

The story of Noah and the ark is a story of God blessing the righteous and punishing the wicked. We live in a time where God’s grace is emphasized, but little is said to remind people of His judgment. No one wants to think that there will be people who are punished with eternal death, just as the wicked in Noah’s days died in the flood. Jesus warns us in Matthew 24 that His second coming will be like it was in the days of Noah. The righteous will be taken and the wicked will be left for destruction. Although it is not the most pleasing message, people need to hear that God desires a righteous life and He will punish those who choose to disobey Him. Think about how you might lead your children to understand this and to admire Noah for being chosen as a righteous man.
THE LAST LAUGH

Materials: Copy of skit entitled, “The Last Laugh” from the Resource Pages, Bible times costumes, sound effects for a storm, spray water bottles

Procedure: In advance find people to act out the skit, “The Last Laugh.” You will need a Noah and two or more others. If you have older youth that can do it, arrange to use them. If not, perhaps you have some adults who could help you.

It would be good to find a time during the week before class to get together and distribute costumes and have a dress rehearsal. It’s okay to improvise as long as you get across the main ideas of the skit.

Introduce the skit by saying, remember the story about Adam and Eve and how they chose to disobey God? What was the punishment for their sin? (Death.) As time went on more and more people made the mistake of choosing to disobey God and live wicked, sinful lives. It got so bad that there was only one man left that God called righteous. God was sorry that He had made man and He decided to do something about it. Watch and see what happened . . .

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Get Set!

Option B

ENJOY THE GOOD – REMOVE THE BAD

Materials: Bowls or cups for each student, a large container of delicious looking grapes, another container of grapes that have set around and have begun to wrinkle and discolor

Procedure: In advance place some of the “good” grapes and a few of the “bad” grapes in a cup for each student. Say: I thought we would start this morning with a snack. Anybody hungry for some grapes? Hand out the cups of grapes.

At this point observe how the students handle the grapes.
- If they separate out the “bad” grapes, you can say: I noticed that you set aside a few grapes that were wrinkled and beginning to spoil. Why did you do that? (Allow them to answer.)
- If they start to eat the “bad” grapes, stop them. Point out that they should watch out for grapes that are wrinkled or spoiling.

In our cups there were two kind of grapes. Many of them were wonderfully delicious, but a few were wrinkled and becoming spoiled. We needed to remove the “bad” grapes from the “good” grapes. If we had eaten the spoiling grapes, they might have tasted nasty and might even have made us sick. In order to enjoy our snack, we had to first remove all of the rotting grapes.

Do you realize that God created everything – and especially people – for His enjoyment. In our story today, we will read about people who were wicked and evil all of the time. How do you think God felt about them? (Let them offer their responses.) They were like the “bad” grapes. They were unpleasant and certainly not enjoyable to God. As we read the story, we will discover that God had to “separate” the wicked people and get rid of them so that He could once again enjoy His creation. Let’s find out just what happened.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Materials: 3x5 cards with either the word(s) “Why,” “What,” “Who” or “How Many” printed on them, pencils, Bibles

Procedure: Have each child select one of the 3x5 cards. Tell them: Today, we are going to read the story of Noah and the ark from the book of Genesis. Now, I realize that many of you have heard this story before and think you may know it pretty well . . . so, we are going to try a little experiment to see just how well we know the story of Noah and the ark.

You each have a 3x5 card with something written on it. As you read through the story, jot down on your card as many questions as you can that begin with what is written on your card. For example: if you have “how many” written on your card, you may write, “how many days and nights did it rain?”

The story for today is found in Genesis 6:5-7:23. Write it on the board. When we have all finished, there will be time to read your questions to see if the others know the answers. Go ahead now and search for questions you can write down on your card. Don’t forget to notice the other details, because you will need them to answer the questions of others.

Allow time for your students to read through the story and write down their questions. Then, you may want to make a game of it. You can divide the class into four teams, putting the “Why’s” together and the “What’s” together, etc. Go from one team to another having them read a question. The first team who is able to answer the question will get a point. This should be a fun way to review the story and learn some new facts.
CONSTRUCTION

Materials: Yardsticks or rulers, graph paper, pencils, Bibles, a guest who is an architect or who is good with building or math

In our story today, some numbers were given to describe the dimensions of the ark that Noah built. Do you have any idea what those numbers actually mean? The ark might not have looked exactly like some of the pictures you have seen. I have invited (the name of your guest) to help us today. He will show us how to use those numbers to get a better idea what the ark was actually like.

Procedure: Explain to your guest in advance that you hope he can help the students to use the dimensions given in Genesis 6:14-16 to gain an idea of what the ark was like. Your expert might talk about the materials described for building the ark and then by use of mathematical ratios help them chart out the dimensions of the ark on a piece of graph paper. Then, each child can fill in the dimensions with their own design.

If you have the space and appropriate climate, take your class outside and mark off the true dimensions of the ark. Use some point on a tree, telephone pole or building to give an idea of the height of the ark. If you aren’t able to go outside, have your guest use familiar landmarks to help your students appreciate the size of the ark.

Did you learn anything new today about the ark that Noah built? I think we were all amazed when we realized just how big it really was. Can you imagine how much work it was for Noah with the primitive tools he had to use? Let them respond. Noah truly was a man of faith to tackle such an enormous job and complete it. We can remember his example of faith when there is something we believe God wants us to do.
When People Laugh

APPLICATION


Quest Connection

Noah had to endure a lot of laughing and ridicule from his neighbors while he was building the ark. It’s not always easy to continue to do what you know to be right when people are laughing at you. Has that ever happened to you? Give them the opportunity to answer. Share one of your own experiences if you have one. Let’s look at some different situations and you can decide how you think you might respond.

Procedure: Hand out the worksheet entitled, “When People Laugh.” Go over the directions and give them time to select their responses. When they have finished, discuss their choices.

Close

Nobody likes it when people laugh at them. Choosing a proper response is very important. If you are sure that what you are doing is right in God’s sight, be like Noah and don’t weaken even when it is tough. You will discover that people will respect you and trust you if you stand for what is right.
Elephants & Giraffes

GAME

Materials: None

Quest Connection

A lot of animals were on that ark with Noah and his family. How many can you name? (Give them a chance to name animals they can think of.) I thought it would be fun to play a game using two of those animals. It’s called, “Elephants and Giraffes.”

Procedure: Form a large circle with the children. Explain that one person is “it” and select that person to go into the middle of the circle. The person who is “it” will stay in the middle unless he can get one of you confused about the difference between a giraffe and an elephant. Now, really, how could that possibly happen? Those two animals are so different!

This is what “it” will do. He will point to one of you and say either “giraffe” or “elephant.” If he says “giraffe,” the person he points to must hold his two hands together over his head – like a TALL giraffe. But, that’s not all. The person on each side of the one “it” points to must squat down to emphasize how TALL the giraffe is. All this must happen before the person who is “it” counts to 10. If any of the three people (the person pointed to or the ones on either side) mess up, they become “it” and change places with the one in the center.

Now, what if “it” says, “elephant?” Then, the one he points to must swing his arms together in front of him – to form a trunk. The ones on either side must form huge ears by bending sideways and putting the arm closest to the person down low and the other arm over their head and reaching toward the person beside him who was pointed at. Again, this must be done while the person who is “it” is counting rapidly to 10.

Good luck and have fun!

Close

It was fun watching you play this game. When things got fast and furious, it did get confusing at times didn’t it? You know, my mother sometimes called me by my sister’s (brother’s) name when she was in a hurry or excited. Do you think Noah ever got mixed up with the animal’s names? You know, if he did, they probably just got a good laugh out of it. I think God enjoys seeing His people have fun. I believe that He is pleased that we are here today, having fun together and learning about Him through the story of Noah. He may have even gotten a laugh watching you trying to move so fast that sometimes you got confused. Maybe, one day when we’re living in God’s Kingdom, we can play this game. Do you think He would want to play?
The Greatest Adventure

VIDEO

Materials: TV/VCR, and videotape of the story of Noah and the Ark (Hanna Barbera has one in its “Greatest Adventure” series, entitled Noah’s Ark)

Quest Connection

Sometimes it’s hard to imagine what it might have been like for Noah. Even when we read the story, it’s not like being there. I have a video that I think can help us have a better idea what it might have been like. In this video, three children near your age are transported back into time to watch and join in with Noah in this adventure.

Procedure: In advance, arrange the room and TV so that everyone can see the video. Put it in the VCR and get it ready so that you will be able to start it at the right place. You will need to preview the video, so that you will know a good place to stop it. You will want to save the last part about the landing, the altar and the rainbow until the next lesson.

Show the first part of the video.

What did you think of that? Was there anything that you noticed in the video that you hadn’t thought of before? Give them a chance to respond. Be willing to share some of your own observations. I hope that watching this video has helped you to better understand the story of Noah and appreciate the lessons we can learn from it.
Ark Art

ARTS/CRAFTS

Materials: A piece of 8 1/2 x 14 paper, pencils, markers or colored pencils, stamp pads, black felt pens, Resource Pages with ideas for thumbprint animals

Quest Connection

I bet you have seen a lot of different pictures of Noah’s ark. Have you ever imagined your own “picture” of what it might have been like? Think about it, and I am going to give you some materials for you to try to create your own illustration of what Noah’s ark might have looked like.

Procedure: Hand out the materials. Give them time to work on their creations. If you have someone in your church who is particularly good with arts and crafts, invite them to join your class and assist your students with their ideas.

Close

Sometimes it really helps to remember a Bible lesson when we try to picture what it was like. Take your pictures home and place them in a place where they can remind you of the lessons you learned as we studied the story of Noah and the ark.
Go!

Chosen or Left?

APPLICATION

Materials: Resource Page entitled, “Chosen or Left Behind,” pencils

Quest Connection

Why did God choose Noah as the one to build the ark?  (Because he was a righteous man.) Why did God decide to destroy all of the other people who lived on the earth?  (Because of their wickedness.) What does this tell you about God?  (He delights in righteousness, but He can’t stand wickedness.) If today was the time that God chose to have someone build an ark, who might He choose?  (Let them offer answers.) Who might He leave behind to be destroyed?  (Again, let them answer.) Let’s see how well we understand this idea that some are chosen and some are left behind.

Procedure: Hand out the worksheets entitled, “Chosen or Left Behind” and a pencil for each student. Explain that the blanks under the ark are for descriptions of the kind of people they think might be chosen to be on the ark. The blanks under the storm cloud are for descriptions of those who might be left behind. If they are having difficulty getting started, offer some ideas and have them choose which side they would belong on. (Examples: help their neighbors, lie to others, read their Bibles, use God’s name in vain, etc.) You might want to allow them to work in twos or threes and share ideas. When they are finished, read their lists and discuss how important it is to live as one who would be chosen.

Close

Most of the people who lived in Noah’s time had forgotten that there was a God who created them and who wanted a special relationship with them. Instead, they chose to ignore Him and live as they chose. The Bible tells us that God was sorry that He had made them. Even though Noah warned them, they chose their wicked ways rather than to follow God. They all died in the flood.

Do you think God still feels the same about sin and wickedness? There will be another time when some will be chosen and some will be left behind. That is when Jesus comes back again. Those who are chosen will be given eternal life and those who are not will die in the lake of fire. Let us pray that we all remember this and always choose to follow God.
The Last Laugh

This skit may be used to introduce the story of Noah. You will need one person for the part of Noah and then two or more for the remaining parts. The blanks are provided for you to assign the remaining parts and write in the name of the person assigned to the part. Ideally, all the “actors/actresses” should be dressed in Bible times costumes. The words in “ ” should receive special emphasis.

Materials: Bible times costumes, sound track of thunder and rain, spray bottles filled with water.

__________ : That was some party last night! Everyone was pretty loose and free and filled with wine.

__________ : Wasn’t it funny when Tamar got up on the table and started dancing?

(everyone laughs)

__________ : Then, that crazy man, Noah, came in and started “preaching” about God’s wrath and how God was going to destroy us all if we don’t stop sinning.

__________ : We were just having a little fun.

__________ : Noah is such a “spoiler sport!” He doesn’t know how to “chill” and have a good time.

__________ : Have you seen that “thing” he’s building. It’s gigantic!

__________ : He calls it an ark.

__________ : Is that “Aardvark” for short?

(everybody laughs)

__________ : Can you believe that he actually thinks that water will pour down from the sky? How crazy can you be?

__________ : No way could there be enough water to float that monstrosity!

(more laughter)

__________ : Well, the funniest thing was Barak and his imitation of Noah. He was great! He had everyone in stitches!

(laughter) (Noah enters)

__________ : Uh... Oh... Hi, Noah.
Noah: Hi, dear friends. I just stopped by to invite you one last time to heed God’s warnings and to listen to His words. There is only a little time now for you to join me on the ark.

: Thanks, Noah, but I feel pretty safe in my own house.

: If we need to, we can always go over yonder up on that high mountain. I just can’t see why you think you need that oversized box you call an ark.

: Have you ever thought that you may have been hearing voices in your head and have wasted a whole lot of time building that thing. Hasn’t it been almost 100 years and it hasn’t rained in all that time!

Noah: This ark (pointing in the distance) is the Lord’s. He has spoken to me clearly and guided me all the way. I have full confidence in all He says.

: Well, old man... you go and sit in your “ark” and wait. I’ve got plans that will be a WHOLE LOT MORE FUN!

(much laughter) (Noah exits shaking his head)

: So... where’s the party tonight?

(sounds of thunder)

: What was that noise?

(more thunder and lights start flashing on and off)

: I’ve never seen anything like that before!

(start squirting water bottles being sure students get some of the spray as the thunder and “lightening” continue.)

All: (screaming) Hey! Noah! Wait for us!

(Everything goes dark)
When People Laugh

How do you react when people laugh at you? Draw a line from each situation to your likely response when people laugh at you. You can use the responses more than once.

You say that your parents won't let you go to PG-13 movies.

I change so they won't laugh any more.

You wear something a little different.

I hide my actions from them.

You don't have enough money to do what others are doing.

I believe in myself and stand tall.

You say that you like going to church.

I get angry.

You won't go along with others because you think it would be wrong.

You do your best on a homework assignment and others blow it off.
Resource Page: “Thumbprint Animals”
Resource Page: “Chosen or Left Behind”

Chosen or Left Behind?

In the blanks below write descriptions of those who might be chosen and those who might be left behind. One has been done for you.

**Chosen**

Serves God

__________

__________

__________

__________

__________


**Left Behind**

Ignores God

__________

__________

__________

__________

__________


“For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous.” Psalm 5:12a
Noah Searches for Animals
Rearrange the tiles below to find the memory verse. You can place them in the spaces provided in the correct order.

REL E R TE O Y O U E S S S U T H I G H
R D B L L O Y O F O R U S

FOR

There are sixteen words below that have been cut into two parts. See how many you can find. I’ll do the first one for you: wi ves = wives (they were on the ark with Noah and his sons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ark</th>
<th>ked</th>
<th>wic</th>
<th>sku</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hants</td>
<td>ved</td>
<td>elep</td>
<td>bo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teous</td>
<td>punis</td>
<td>righ</td>
<td>ridi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tig</td>
<td>ars</td>
<td>be</td>
<td>rty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fo</td>
<td>nks</td>
<td>sa</td>
<td>so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ns</td>
<td>bo</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>cule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constr</td>
<td>ood</td>
<td>ers</td>
<td>fl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hment</td>
<td>orm</td>
<td>uction</td>
<td>st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

wives

_________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________  __________
Noah found favor in the
eyes of the Lord
—Genesis 6:8

What can you do today to find favor in the eyes of the Lord?

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________
God still protects us from the "storms" of life. On the lines above, write some of your "storms" that you would like to be taken into God's "ark" of protection. Then, pray to God giving them to Him.

_cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you._ — 1 Peter 5:7