

*Get Ready!***You Gotta Have Faith!**

By: Andrea Waggener

**Text**

Genesis 6, 7 and 8

Key Quest Verse

“But without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” (Hebrews 11:6 and 7, NIV).

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.

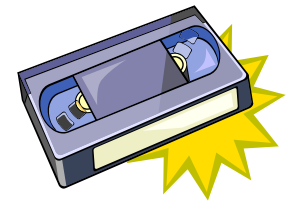
Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:**

- Know:** Faithfulness includes obedience to God's will.
- Feel:** God provides for His creation today just as He did for Noah.
- Do:** Recognize specific times when God provided for each teen's needs.

Leader's Devotion

Genesis 6-9 records an amazing period of faith in Noah's life of 950 years. We do not read of Noah's childhood, his teenage days or even his life as a grandfather, we only read of an extraordinary moment that is relatively short compared to the 950 years he was alive. Maybe there is a day, a single event, or an entire year that you remember as being a time of great difficulty and a time when God provided what you needed to accomplish a goal or conquer an obstacle. Take a few minutes to reflect on times in your life when God provided what you thought you needed or what you never expected you might need (like a huge boat). Do you consider that time an extraordinary moment of provision? An amazing period of faith? Whether it be an umbrella during a spring shower or a large boat for a flood, God provides for the faithful and just as Noah recognized the provision in Genesis 8:20, God wants us to recognize the ways and means in which He provides for us. So take the time to identify and remember an amazing moment of faith and provision in your life and commit it to memory. Be ready to tell others your Noah story, a time in your life that exalts the faithfulness of God and the obedience of His servant, you.

Get Set!



Option A

FAITH STEP

Materials: “Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade” movie clip, TV/VCR

Procedure: The end of this movie provides us with a great clip, a visual of what it must be like to step out on faith. Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is faced with a dilemma. He has been told there is a bridge in front of him, so he knows that to be the truth – but there is a problem, he cannot see what should be there. Does he step out into what seems will be his death believing what he’s been promised is true or does he stay in fear of falling and doubting what he’s been told? Our hero in the story steps out in faith and suddenly the bridge appears and immediately he is validated for believing what he could not see. Likewise our hero in the story found in Genesis 6 steps out in faith and builds an ark even though there is absolutely no visible sign of a flood and is validated for believing when the rain does come. It is easy to become paralyzed by doubt and fear – Indiana Jones certainly did not run ahead without questioning whether the bridge existed – but, God gives us great stories of men and women in the Bible who acted in faith and experienced His reward. Let’s read the story of Noah to remind us that having faith in God means taking action and that taking action is never overlooked by Him.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

ROLE MODELS

Materials: Bibles



Procedure: Ask everyone in class to name one of their role models. It can be anyone – a parent or a Hollywood star, a friend or an athlete. Let them give their reasons why this particular person is someone they look to as an example. Now turn to and read together Hebrews 11:1-30, the faith chapter, and discuss the importance of these verses. Ask the teens, **do you think there are any people your age that don’t have a role model? Do you think we ever choose bad role models? Do role models ever fail to live up to our image of them? God has provided us with a list in Hebrews of men and women who didn’t live perfect lives, but are excellent role models of living by faith. There may be some of us who don’t have anyone to look to that exemplifies faithful living, but in Hebrews we find a reference list for just that kind of role model. Whenever we are unsure of how to live by faith or why it makes a difference in our daily life, we can turn to Hebrews 11 which will give us examples. Let’s look more closely at Noah’s life in Genesis.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Before reading the story of Noah, ask the teens what types of things they have been talked into, persuaded into, pressured into doing. How do their parents get them to clean their room? Do their homework? Turn down their music? Now read aloud together Genesis chapters 6 and 7 having the teens pay close attention to how God talked Noah into building the ark and getting inside. What tactics did he use? How did he have to bribe Noah into getting into an ark when it wasn't raining and getting animals to board the ship as well? The answer is that Noah had faith before God ever asked him to build an ark. Noah believed already and therefore when God asked him to build an ark to provide safety for him, his family, and the animals of the earth, he obeyed because he *already* believed. **If we trust in God we are already living a lifestyle of obedience, so it is no accident that Noah was ready to build a huge boat. He had prepared for this moment by living a faithful life and God rewarded Noah by saving him from the flood. God not only requires faithfulness, he rewards it.**

Go!**What's Your Ark?****REFLECTION**

Materials: Pens, worksheet, “Rough Waters, Smooth Sailing”

Quest Connection

The story of Noah is inspiring. We read of a man who chose to follow God’s command to build an ark with the faith that God knew was best, and we read of a God who saved this man because of his faith and obedience. It’s important when we read this amazing story to remember that the God of Noah is the same God of each one of us. Sometimes it’s hard to tell people about God and why we believe in the Bible, but it can be easier when we are just sharing a personal story. So, write your story and get ready for God to use you as an example of faith like He still uses Noah today.

Procedure: Each teen gets a worksheet and a pen. Provide a quiet time for teens to write down their own Noah story – a type of testimony – a description of a time when God provided the way out of a bad situation. Maybe there was a time when the teen needed someone to talk to and God introduced a friendship into her or his life. Maybe there was a time when they were in physical danger and God provided safety. Maybe there was a time when they were the only person making the right choice and they were rewarded for doing so. Whatever the case may be, let the teens brainstorm with each other and then have them write it down, documenting a moment in their life that they recognize God working.

Close

Have the teens that want to share their written testimony with the entire group. If no teen volunteers to share, now is the time for the teacher to share an important story of his/her own faith.

Go!**And the Oscar Goes to . . . Noah****MOVIE SCRIPT****Materials:** Five white poster boards**Quest Connection**

Movies based on a real-life story often include a dilution of the facts and stretches of the truth. Are the key elements of faith, obedience and God’s intervention included? Unlike a man-made movie and unlike every Hollywood production, God’s word can be trusted. There are no special effects and the director makes no mistakes. Making the story of Noah into a modern day movie script reminds us that trusting God is as important today as it was for Noah. Although our movie might not be a huge award winning success, it helps us to apply the truths of Noah to our own lives; faithfulness and obedience are rewarded by a faithful God.

Procedure: Tape the poster boards around the room so that they are visible and positioned so that the teens can reach them to write. Label the individual boards as, *CAST*, *LOCATION*, *PROBLEM*, *SOLUTION*, and *HAPPY ENDING*. Have teens outline a modern-day Hollywood movie script, including what actors would play each part, where the movie would be filmed, what the problem would be in the movie instead of flooding, what the solution would be instead of building an ark and how the movie would wrap up. Write the details of the script on the appropriate poster board and if your class is theatrical enough or willing, let them act out their movie and record it for an independent film festival entry!

Close

How did our movie stay true to the story of Noah and how was it different?

Prayer: Dear God, although we are not Hollywood actors, we do have the challenge of acting out Your script for our daily lives. It’s hard to always do what we should and to believe in You without doubting. But, we thank you for the story of Noah that reminds us that when we’re faced with what seems an impossible situation, we can have faith that You know what is best and want to be the director of our lives. When we are looking for direction, help us to remember to read Your Word, the stage directions for our lives. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Go!**Water World****COMPUTER**

Materials: Computer and connection to the Internet

Quest Connection

Water is refreshing . . . it makes for beautiful scenery at the beach, and it's great for having fun while swimming, skiing, or just wading in it. But, it can also take away our sense of security. Has anyone ever been out so far on a boat that you could no longer see land? What's it like? Has anyone ever been in a dangerous storm or flood? Has anyone ever been afraid of or knew of someone who was afraid of drowning? It seems to me that if I had been Noah and looked out of the ark around day 30 and all I could see was water, I would begin to feel defeated, like this rain would never end and I would never again be on dry land. But, Noah didn't feel that way. He trusted God, he trusted that when it was time he and his family would be safe again. There may be times in our lives when we aren't necessarily on a boat and afraid we will never see land again, but we will be in situations when we are afraid and we can't see any way out. When in your life have you felt it's just all water, all problems and no way out? Why is it so scary not to know when our problems will end? Does our story about Noah ever mention that he was scared?

Procedure: Using a search engine on the web, have teens find the answers to these questions:

1. What part of the world gets the most precipitation each year?
2. What is the largest body of fresh water in the world?
3. What part of the world had the worst flooding in 2002?
4. Where in the United States does it rain the most each year?
5. How much of the earth is covered in water?

After the students find these answers, discuss the questions above in the Quest Connection.

Close

God has promised to keep us safe just as He did for Noah. It doesn't mean there won't be any times of rain in our lives, but it does mean if we trust in Him for our security, He will recognize our faithfulness. Read Nahum 1:7.

Go!**Does God Still Grieve?****RESEARCH**

Materials: Magazines, scissors, glue sticks, worksheet, “What God Grieves”

Quest Connection

God chose to destroy the entire earth because He found, with the exception of Noah, no good in it. Genesis 6:5 says that man was wicked and all the thoughts of men were evil. What type of society do you picture? How do you think it compares with society today? Let’s recognize what things still make God sad today to see that man does, thinks, or is involved in. Understanding what makes God sad can help us to make choices that are pleasing to Him so that we, too, can find “grace in the eyes of the Lord,” (Genesis 6:8).

Procedure: Using magazines, have each teen make a collage of words and pictures that symbolize what in our world today makes God sad. What types of images and behaviors upset God? Encourage discussion among the group as they each create their own collage. Display the collages in the classroom.

Close

Have teens silently seek God’s forgiveness for any behaviors in their life that do not glorify God; pray for God’s protection from evil and temptation in their lives.

Go!**Animal Keepers****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: An animal lover or professional who works with animals (farmer, vet, pet store clerk)

Quest Connection

Noah was commanded by God to take two of every animal on the ark, by doing so God protected the lives of animals and sustained life even through the flood. God's creation is important to Him, He has created a beautiful earth with beautiful creatures that live on it. While He has given us authority over the animals (Gen. 8:2-3) and the earth, we should care for all of God's creation.

Procedure: Have an animal expert in your congregation come to the class (or take a field trip if it's possible) and discuss an animal, what it eats, its typical day, what makes it different from other animals and how to properly care for it.

Close

Let each teen share the most beautiful place they have ever seen in nature or share their favorite type of animal – have a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His amazing creation and His ability to sustain life through the flood.

Go!

Reflecting Noah**DRAMA**

Materials: Worksheet, “What is Your Noah Reputation?”

Quest Connection

Noah gives us a lifestyle that we are to mimic – one of faithful obedience to God. But, Noah wasn’t perfect (Genesis 10) and neither are we. Use the worksheet, “What is Your Noah Reputation?” to read and record other Scripture that help us to remember we are all in need of God’s grace and even our faithfulness can not earn His love.

Procedure: Have teens pair up and stand facing each other. Have one teen in each pair be the reflection of the other. The reflection should move in sync with its partner – see which pair is best at mimicking each other.

Close

Have teens pray with each other in their original pairs, thanking God for His limitless grace.

Go!**Making Unpopular Choices****GROUP DISCUSSION**

Materials: Worksheet, “Unpopular Choices”

Quest Connection

We are going to help each other by discussing different solutions to our problems.


Procedure: Use the worksheet, “Unpopular Choices,” and have each teen read the top paragraph and then write down a difficult choice they are facing or will have to face. Tear off the bottom part of the paper, shuffle all together and then redistribute to the class. This time have teens (or you as the teacher) read the problems, not their own, aloud and let the teens help each other come up with ideas and strategies to make faithful decisions when faced with unpopular choices. Or, pass out the shuffled difficult choices that each teen wrote down and then let every teen write a solution on the bottom/back of the paper so that many ideas are generated for each decision.

Close

Collect all the papers and let each teen anonymously get their original piece of paper. Allow a time of silent prayer for God to help us when we face overwhelming situations.

Resource Page—Rough Waters, Smooth Sailing

Rough Waters, Smooth Sailing



We can read Bible stories, but it's important to write our own stories, too. This is a story about a time when God provided for me. I can trust in God not only because He provided a safe place for Noah years ago during a flood, but also because He provides for me everyday. So, when people ask me if I believe in the Bible I can tell them that yeah, I believe what happened in the Bible is true and I know that God still cares for people today. I know because He cares for my life, and I'll tell them this story. I'll tell others about my faith, which knows that when times get rough, God provides us with what we need for smooth sailing as we continue to obey Him.

Unpopular Choices

So often popularity is gained by doing what everyone else is doing, making the same choices that the group is making. It is unpopular to disagree with the majority. And, just as often, it is highly unpopular to make godly decisions. Secular media and even some of our closest friends think it's silly or stupid to make choices based on what the Bible says or based on faith. It's hard to stand up for yourself and your faith when it is ridiculed. God knows that but He still, without any exception, expects our obedience. Noah did what God commanded even though it was highly unpopular and it meant he escaped death by a flood and ultimately will live forever. Although the people that make fun of you for or try to persuade you out of making a godly choice might not die soon in a flood and leave you alone, God does promise you that He will provide you with what you need to survive their attacks and He does promise a reward for your faithfulness. Your decisions are important to God; He cares about the choices you make. In the space below write down an unpopular decision you are faced with making now or think you may face some day.

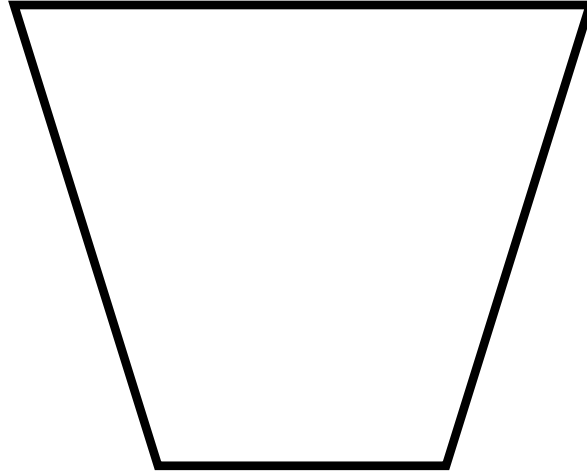


What Grieves God Today?



What's Your Noah Reputation?

Compared to Noah, Noah being a number 10 on the faithful scale, how high would you rank yourself? Write the number 1-10, in the box below.



Now read Romans 3:23. Write it down.

Even though Noah was a man of great faith, he too fell short of perfection and was a sinner. No matter what number you wrote down, the truth is that everyone needs the grace of God.

Read Hebrews 11:39-40.
Write it down.

We will be rewarded with eternal life for our faithfulness the same time biblical men and women will be rewarded for their faithfulness.

Journal Page: Making and Breaking a List

Make a list of areas of your life that you think may make God sad:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The idea of the list is not to make you feel guilty but to help identify where God wants you to choose His will over a popular choice. Choose one area from your list and write a plan for taking that part of your life and making it pleasing to God. Have faith that He will provide you with what you need to make a change.