

Lesson 5 | October 2, 2022

God's Judgment: The Great Flood

Study Text: Genesis 7:1 through 8:19

Central Truth: God is righteous to stop evil-doing by His judgment

Key Verse: 2 Peter 2:5

[God] spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly (KJV).

God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students will recognize that God judges sin but makes available the means to avoid judgment.
- Students will rejoice in God's grace which saved Noah and his family and can save them as well.
- Students will be encouraged to receive God's grace and to share His grace with others.

Introducing the Study

Say: Humanity was judged for sin through a universal flood. This action on God's part was necessary because the population ignored the conviction brought by the Holy Spirit and by Noah's preaching of righteousness. But God had a plan. Through Noah's faith and obedience, He would preserve both humanity and animals for repopulating the earth after this worldwide event of judgment.

Humanity will be judged again for sin through fire. Isaiah 24 and 2 Peter

[Isa 24:1-6 NLT] **1** Look! The LORD is about to destroy the earth and make it a vast wasteland. He devastates the surface of the earth and scatters the people. **2** Priests and laypeople, servants and masters, maids and mistresses, buyers and sellers, lenders and borrowers, bankers and debtors--none will be spared. **3** The earth will be completely emptied and looted. The LORD has spoken! **4** The earth mourns and dries up, and the crops waste away and wither. Even the greatest people on earth waste away. **5** **The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted God's instructions, violated his laws, and broken his everlasting covenant.** **6** **Therefore, a curse consumes the earth. Its people must pay the price for their sin. They are destroyed by fire, and only a few are left alive.**

[Isa 66:15-16 NLT] **15** **See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his swift chariots roar like a whirlwind. He will bring punishment with the fury of his anger and the**

flaming fire of his hot rebuke. 16 The LORD will punish the world by fire and by his sword. He will judge the earth, and many will be killed by him.

[2Pe 2:5-7, 9 NLT] 5 And God did not spare the ancient world--except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. 6 Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. **7 But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. ... 9 So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.**

[2Pe 3:5-14 NLT] 5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. 7 And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed. 8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. **10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.** 11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. 14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

The Day of the Lord. Mentioned 23 times in the King James

1[Joe 1:15 NLT] 15 The day of the LORD is near, the day when destruction comes from the Almighty. How terrible that day will be!

[Joe 2:1, 11, 31 NLT] 1 Sound the alarm in Jerusalem! Raise the battle cry on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the LORD is upon us. ... 11 The LORD is at the head of the column. He leads them with a shout. This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. The day of the LORD is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can possibly survive? ... 31 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives.

[Amo 5:18, 20 NLT] 18 What sorrow awaits you who say, "If only the day of the LORD were here!" You have no idea what you are wishing for. That day will bring darkness,

not light. ... 20 Yes, the day of the LORD will be dark and hopeless, without a ray of joy or hope.

[Zep 1:14 NLT] 14 "That terrible day of the LORD is near. Swiftly it comes--a day of bitter tears, a day when even strong men will cry out.

[1Th 5:4 NLT] 4 But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.

[2Pe 3:10 NLT] 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

Ungodly people think only about what is here on earth. "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control."

Opening Activity—I Wish I Had . . .

Ask. What example can you give of a time when you missed an opportunity for a job, a relationship, or a chance to learn something new because you dropped the ball? Do you wish you had another opportunity?

Say: The greatest missed opportunity for any human being comes when he or she ignores the conviction brought by the Holy Spirit and instead continues a life of sin. On the other hand, responding to the Spirit and receiving Christ is an action that no one need regret! **The people of Noah's time did not respond to God calling them to repentance. Noah, a man made righteous by faith in God, obeyed when God called him to build an ark to save his family and representatives of all land animals and birds.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Noah's faith in God resulted in total obedience as he built the ark to God's specifications, stocked it with the needed food, and welcomed aboard every animal and bird the Lord brought to him. He served as an example to his generation of a person who followed God even when it made no sense to build a huge boat inland, especially when there was no record of a flood—or even rainfall—up to this point in history.

Part 1—Saved in the Ark People and Animals Kept Alive

Genesis 7:1–4

[Gen 7:1-4 KJV] 1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. 2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by

sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that [are] not clean by two, the male and his female. 3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. 4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

Say: Noah's faith led to action. He built an ark that would preserve human and animal life. But Noah's faith was the result of God revealing himself and His plan. He had revealed himself to Adam and Eve in the Garden, and even after the tragedy of sin, He revealed himself to others to bring them close to himself. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

God had found Noah to be righteous before Him (Genesis 7:1). This is the result, not of living a perfect life, but of Noah having faith in God (see Hebrews 11:7). Noah's faith, however, was not merely an attitude of heart; it led to action (see James 2:18). When ordered by God to build an ark, he followed God's directions meticulously, creating the vessel that would keep alive representatives of all animal life on earth, and eight human beings.

Besides the pairs of every kind of animal (Genesis 6:19–20), God instructed Noah to bring into the ark seven pairs of every kind of animal that was fit for sacrifice and eating (7:2). God later set down in His law distinctions between classes of animals (Leviticus 11:1–12; Deuteronomy 14:3–8). For now, Noah need only bring aboard the ark the animals which God brought to him, including seven pairs of every bird (Genesis 7:3).

Resource Packet Item 1: Between Faith and Action

Distribute the worksheet and have volunteers read the case studies, taking time after each to discuss responses. If you prefer, divide the class into small groups, and assign one case study to each group, and let them report after their group time. Class members may also share other situations they have faced.

The time of preparation was drawing to a close; more than one hundred years after Noah was told to build the ark, God declared that in seven days He would bring floodwaters upon the earth (verse 4). In stating that the rain would come for "forty days and forty nights" God used a time frame that appears several times in the Bible. Moses twice spent forty days and forty nights with God; first when receiving the Ten Commandments and again shortly afterwards when the people of Israel had sinned with the golden calf (Deuteronomy 9:7–18). Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, where He was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1–2). He also spent forty days with His followers between His resurrection and His ascension (Acts 1:3).

Discuss

? What kind of actions should result from a believer's faith today?

? How does your life of obedience touch the lives of other believers? Of non-Christians??

God Commands, Noah Obeys

Genesis 7:5–19

[Gen 7:5-19 KJV] 5 And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. 6 And Noah [was] six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. 7 And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that [are] not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, 9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; 14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein [is] the breath of life. 16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. 17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. 18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that [were] under the whole heaven, were covered.

[Gen 7:5-19 NLT] 5 So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him. 6 Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. 7 He went on board the boat to escape the flood--he and his wife and his sons and their wives. 8 With them were all the various kinds of

animals--those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not--along with all the birds and the small animals that scurry along the ground. 9 They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. 10 After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth. 11 When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. 12 The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights. 13 That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons--Shem, Ham, and Japheth--and their wives. 14 With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal--domestic and wild, large and small--along with birds of every kind. 15 Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. 16 A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them. 17 For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. 18 As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. 19 Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth,

Say: Noah's faithful obedience stands as an example of how one person can touch the lives of countless others, even for many generations to come. There were doubtless many challenges brought by the people of his wicked generation, yet Noah persevered and carried out the plan God had outlined for him. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Noah obeyed in everything that God commanded him (Genesis 7:5). **Biblical obedience does not mean choosing which commands we want to obey or do not want to obey. King Saul was rejected by God when he disobeyed the Lord's command to completely destroy the Amalekites and their livestock (1 Samuel 15). Biblical obedience means finding out what pleases God and faithfully doing it every time (see Ephesians 5:17).**

[Eph 5:17 KJV] 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord [is].

Hebrews 11:7 states that Noah built an ark to save his family. **He did this with no evidence of a coming flood except for the announcement that God had given him.** However, the ark could not provide protection for anyone who did not enter it. Noah's wife, his sons, and his daughters-in-law followed Noah into the ark, and were saved from the Flood as a family (Genesis 7:6-7). In the same way, the even greater salvation—which comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus

Christ—can touch entire families, as each individual believes and accepts the gospel message (Acts 16:31). This may happen after a time of watching the difference Christ has made in a family member who has already become a Christian (1 Peter 3:1–2).

[1Pe 3:1-2 KJV] 1 Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation [coupled] with fear.

Resource Packet Item 2: Praying for Unsaved Family Members

Distribute the work sheet and allow time to read the suggested prayers. Several class members may share their experiences in praying for their family members.

The animals God brought to Noah were admitted to the ark to be kept alive during this worldwide catastrophe, which came later. Noah's obedience was instrumental in preserving not only human, but animal life, as well (Genesis 7:8–10).

Discuss

? Explain the necessity of total obedience in the life of the Christian.

? What challenges might you face in trying to share Christ with your family? How can God help you?

Part 2—The World Destroyed

Entering the Ark

Genesis 7:11–16

[Gen 7:11-16 NKJV] 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark-- 14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which [is] the breath of life. 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

Say: God's grace had been offered over a period of many years but had been rejected by the people of Noah's generation. Tragically, they were trapped in the results of their own sin and unable to enter the place of safety. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Flood began from below, as "all the underground waters erupted from the earth" (Genesis 7:11, NLT). Job 38:16, (NLT), says, "Have you explored the springs from which the seas come? Have you explored their depths?" This suggests a subterranean store of water which God let loose on the surface of the earth. Second Peter 3:5–6 pictures creation, then pictures the Flood as a reverse of creation: "He brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood" (NLT).

The water from above fell, as the "windows of heaven were opened" (Genesis 7:11, KJV). This was the beginning of waters that would fall for forty days and nights (verse 12). **In spite of Noah's righteous preaching, the people had not repented of their sins (Genesis 6:7). Now, as the waters rose and they were shut out of the ark, their opportunity to turn to God was ending.**

Noah and his family were safe aboard the ark (7:13). With them were representatives of every land animal and bird (verses 14–15). The terminology of the passage, referring to the totality of God's animal creation, confirms the truth that the Flood was universal, requiring a breeding pair of each animal to repopulate each species in the aftermath of the Flood (verse 16; 6:20).

In a final act of divine preparation, God closed Noah (and his family and the animal pairs) in the ark. **Although some translations refer to God shutting the door, the original text does not mention the door at this point. More importantly, Noah and his family were safe because they were shut in by the power of God, the God who had communicated His plan of rescue and called on Noah to carry out that plan.**

Discuss

? How can God use each of His children to help draw others to Him, while there is yet time?

? Why must Christians remember that salvation is God's plan from start to finish?

All Life Wiped Out

Genesis 7:17–24

[Gen 7:17-24 NKJV] 17 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed

exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. **20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils [was] the breath of the spirit of life, all that [was] on the dry [land], died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who [were] with him in the ark remained [alive]. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.**

[Gen 7:19-24 NLT] 19 Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, 20 rising more than twenty-two feet above the highest peaks. 21 All the living things on earth died--birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. 22 Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. 23 God wiped out every living thing on the earth--people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. 24 And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

Say: God brings judgment on sin, but also makes available the means of salvation. He saved eight people from the Flood as they entered the ark, and He saves from eternal destruction every person who enters a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

For forty days the floodwaters kept rising until they eventually covered even the highest mountains (Genesis 7:17–20). However, God’s plan of keeping eight people and representatives of every type of animal safe worked just as He promised it would. God had instructed Noah to build a vessel with materials and dimensions that would enable it to float even in the rapid increase of waters from both above and below.

Genesis 7:21–24 repeats again the truth that all human life and all animal life—except those in the ark—would lose their lives in the Flood. As God stated He would do, He judged sin by ending life (see Romans 6:23). The ark, as the only means of rescue from the universal destruction of the Flood, serves as a powerful illustration of the salvation available only through Jesus Christ. Just as all who did not submit to God in the days of Noah were destroyed in the Flood, all who do not accept the work of Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection face the greater

destruction of eternal separation from God. And just as Noah and his family had to enter the ark to be saved from the Flood, every person who wants eternal salvation must enter God's plan of salvation personally, individually deciding to follow the only One with "the words of eternal life" (John 6:68, KJV).

Discuss

? What promises of God have you turned to for help and comfort recently?

? How can believers share the truth of Christ with those who believe there are many ways to salvation? To those who believe that all will be saved regardless of faith or lifestyle?

Part 3—God Remembered Noah

God Ends the Flood

Genesis 8:1–14

[Gen 8:1-14 NKJV] 1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that [were] with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. 3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. 4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth [month], on the first [day] of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. 6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8 He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters [were] on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf [was] in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore. 13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first [month], the first [day] of the month, that the waters

were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

Say: Noah believed God, but was understandably curious about what was happening outside some weeks after the ark landed on the mountains of Ararat. Sending out two birds on scouting missions, Noah discovered that God was restoring the world that He had judged (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Bible says several times that “God remembered.” This does not mean that God forgets anything or anyone. When God “remembers,” He takes action to bless people and to fulfill the promises He has made to them. He remembered Abraham’s prayers and rescued his nephew Lot from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:29, KJV). He remembered Rachel in her barrenness and enabled her to conceive (Genesis 30:22). He remembered Noah and the creatures aboard the ark, and caused the wind to blow, making the floodwaters begin to go down (Genesis 8:1).

I remembered I am supposed to be in Sunday School this morning so I am here.

God also reversed the processes that brought the Flood, stopping both the flow of subterranean waters and the rain from the sky (verse 2). The waters had receded enough five months after they began that the ark “came to rest on the mountains of Ararat” in modern-day Armenia (verses 3–4, NLT). Ten weeks later, other mountaintops became visible like islands on the water (verse 5).

Wanting to know the condition of the earth, Noah sent out a raven, which flew back and forth but brought him no evidence of a safe world outside (verses 6–7). He also released a dove, which returned to him in the ark (verses 8–9). The dove did not find anywhere to land, but given another opportunity seven days later, brought a fresh olive leaf back to Noah (verses 10–11). This served as evidence to Noah that the waters had almost completely abated. The olive leaf has since become a symbol of peace for the human race. When Noah sent out the dove a third time seven days later, the dove did not return (verse 12).

Noah finally took the step of making an opening in the ark large enough to look for himself at the surface of the ground, and saw the evidence of God’s great power. God had brought the flood, and God had ended it as well (verses 13–14).

Discuss

? Can you point to a time in your life when God “remembered” you?

? Noah believed God but looked for evidence of safety outside. Did this show a lack of faith? How does this apply to our obedience and faith in God?

Leaving the Ark

Genesis 8:15–19

[Gen 8:15-19 NKJV] 15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 "Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that [is] with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, [and] whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

Say: The time had finally arrived for the people and animals aboard the ark to disembark. God's judgment does not always last forever; He can bring restoration in its wake and new opportunities to live a life that pleases Him. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

God had spoken to Noah more than a hundred years earlier and told him to build the ark. He told Noah to enter the ark with his family and representatives of all land animals and birds. But after shutting Noah, his family, and the other living things into His place of safety, there is no record of God speaking again until the waters had dried up from the earth.

Resource Packet Item 3: When the Heavens Are Silent

Distribute the work sheet and provide scissors for class members to cut out the bookmark and fold it to keep in their Bibles for future reference. Encourage those who may be facing long-term needs to trust God even when He seems silent or far away.

After the waters had dried up, God told Noah to leave the boat with his entire family and to release all the creatures inside (Genesis 8:15–17). The time had come for the earth to be filled again with all the forms of life which had died in the Flood. God used language similar to the directions He had given His creation in the beginning (see 1:20–24).

Noah and his family obeyed God's command and left the ark (Genesis 8:18). They were followed by all of the animals and birds ready to fill the earth with their respective kinds (verse 19). God kept His promise to preserve human and animal life while He brought judgment to a sinful world.

Discuss

? What temptations may arise when you have not heard God's voice for a long time, especially during a time of trial?

? How can believers develop a balanced concept of God that includes His judgment, His salvation, and His restoration??

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: Noah believed, and obeyed: He took action on God's command to build an ark that kept his family—and breeding pairs of every land animal and bird— alive through God's act of worldwide judgment. We have daily opportunities to touch our world through our faith in God. Trusting that He is with us as we obey, we can boldly tell those around us about Jesus Christ. Trusting that He meets our needs, we can give to those who lack food, clothing, and shelter. And trusting that He helps us lead lives pleasing to Him in every way, we can pray in confidence for Him to help us to follow His Word in complete obedience.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Choose several non-Christians to tell about Jesus, your “ark” of salvation, this week.
- Memorize at least one Bible promise this week to help strengthen your faith in God's willingness to answer prayer.
- Help encourage a fellow Christian who feels that God has forgotten him or her and seems distant and silent.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Sinful Cities Destroyed; Lot Saved.
Genesis 19:23–29

[Gen 19:23-29 NLT] 23 Lot reached the village just as the sun was rising over the horizon. 24 Then the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. 25 He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. 26 But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt. 27 Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the LORD's presence. 28 He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace. 29 But God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.

Tuesday:

Rebels Destroyed; Children Spared.
Numbers 16:28–35; 26:10–11

[Num 16:28-35 NLT] 28 And Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things that I have done--for I have not done them on my own. **29** If these men die a natural death, or if nothing unusual happens, then the LORD has not sent me. **30** But if the LORD does something entirely new and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them and all their belongings, and they go down alive into the grave, then you will know that these men have shown contempt for the LORD." **31** He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them. **32** The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the men, along with their households and all their followers who were standing with them, and everything they owned. **33** So they went down alive into the grave, along with all their belongings. The earth closed over them, and they all vanished from among the people of Israel. **34** All the people around them fled when they heard their screams. "The earth will swallow us, too!" they cried. **35** Then fire blazed forth from the LORD and burned up the 250 men who were offering incense.

[Num 26:10-11 NLT] 10 But the earth opened up its mouth and swallowed them with Korah, and fire devoured 250 of their followers. This served as a warning to the entire nation of Israel. **11** However, the sons of Korah did not die that day.

Wednesday:

Jerusalem Destroyed; Ebedmelech Lives.
Jeremiah 38:7–13; 39:15–18

[Jer 38:7-13 NLT] 7 But Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, an important court official, heard that Jeremiah was in the cistern. At that time the king was holding court at the Benjamin Gate, **8** so Ebed-melech rushed from the palace to speak with him. **9** "My lord the king," he said, "these men have done a very evil thing in putting Jeremiah the prophet into the cistern. He will soon die of hunger, for almost all the bread in the city is gone." **10** So the king told Ebed-melech, "Take thirty of my men with you, and pull Jeremiah out of the cistern before he dies." **11** So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to a room in the palace beneath the treasury, where he found some old rags and discarded clothing. He carried these to the cistern and lowered them to Jeremiah on a rope. **12** Ebed-melech called down to Jeremiah, "Put these rags under your armpits to protect you from the ropes." Then when Jeremiah was ready, **13** they pulled him out. So Jeremiah was returned to the courtyard of the guard--the palace prison--where he remained.

[Jer 39:15-18 NLT] 15 The LORD had given the following message to Jeremiah while he was still in prison: **16** "Say to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: I will do to this city everything I have threatened. I will send disaster, not prosperity. You will see its destruction, **17** but I will rescue you from those you fear so much. **18** Because

you trusted me, I will give you your life as a reward. I will rescue you and keep you safe. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

Thursday:

Repent and Believe the Gospel.
Mark 1:9–15

[Mar 1:9-15 NLT] 9 One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. 10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." 12 The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, 13 where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him. 14 Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. 15 "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Friday:

Repent or Perish.
Luke 13:1–5

[Luk 13:1-5 NLT] 1 About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. 2 "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? 3 Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. 4 And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? 5 No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too."

Saturday:

Examples of God's Judgment.
2 Peter 2:4–9

[2Pe 2:4-9 NLT] 4 For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. 5 And God did not spare the ancient world--except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. 6 Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. 7 But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. 8 Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. 9 So you see, the

Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.