

Noah Builds an Ark

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Scene Summary

Noah builds an ark presents the story of a man who knew that it was important to obey God even when others did not. Scenes include: Noah begins to build the big boat according to God's instructions...his sons help him...other men don't understand why Noah preaches, but the people will not obey God...Noah and his sons gather animals two-by-two and herd them into the ark...Noah and his family climb aboard...the big rain comes...the ark floats on the water...Noah and his sons care for the animals...the ark rests on dry land again...Noah and his family thank God for keeping them safe.

Scripture

Genesis 6-9

(Gen 6:1-10 NIV) When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, {2} the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. {3} Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal ; his days will be a hundred and twenty years." {4} The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. {5} The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. {6} The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. {7} So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them." {8} But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. {9} This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. {10} Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

(2 Pet 2:5 NIV) if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Noah** – Should be played as an older person and very hard working.
- **Person 1, 2, 3** – These people are rather curious and also sarcastic about Noah’s Ark.
- **Shem, Ham, Japheth** – Noah’s three sons.
- **God** – Strong offstage voice.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.

Script – Noah Builds an Ark

Narrator: God had asked Noah to do a strange thing. There was no lake or river, but God had told him to build a big boat. In fact, it was to be the biggest boat anyone had ever seen.

Noah: [loudly] Shem, start pulling the boards up the sides. [Now to himself] God said that He would send so much rain that even the trees would be covered with water. I've never seen that much water.

Person 1: [laughing] You are making a boat? There is no water here.

Noah: God is going to send rain. So much rain that water will cover everything. But anyone who obeys God and comes into the boat will be saved.

Person 2: [laughing] Look at that crazy man.

Person 3: [laughing] God will send rain he says.

Person 1: [laughing] Noah is always talking about God and telling us to obey Him.

Person 2: I say we do what we want.

Noah: Friends, God is angry because we do bad things. He is going to send a great flood. God loves you. If you give up your bad ways and come into the boat, you will be saved.

[Everyone else is laughing. The scene changes to Noah and the animals]

Noah: Lets see now, here are the elephants, giraffes, bears, oxen, blackbirds and where are the dogs?

Shem: They are coming, along with the horses, lions and lemurs and ducks.

Noah: [chuckling] We must make sure that we have enough hay and other food for the animals.

Ham: And people food too.

Noah: We have obeyed God. We shall be saved here in the boat. I wish that the people would have believed me.

Japheth: Father, it is starting to rain.

Noah: I wonder how long the rain will fall.

Narrator: It rained and rained. Soon the ground was covered in water. Noah and his wife, Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth with their wives along with all of the animals, were safe in the boat. Finally, after many weeks, the rains stopped.

Shem: We've been in this boat for weeks.

Ham: The animals are getting on edge.

Noah: Yes, I see that everyone is getting restless. Be careful not to be too generous with the food. We don't know how much longer it will take the water to dry out.

Narrator: Finally, after many days Noah opened the window of the boat.

Noah: [motion with hands] Out you go raven. [to himself] The raven is just flying back and forth. I will send out a dove. [motion with hands, speaking out loud] Out you go dove. [pause] The dove is circling back.

Japheth: The dove could not find a place to put her feet so she flew right back in.

Narrator: Noah waited seven more days.

Noah: Maybe the water is dried up by now. I will send the dove out again. [motion with hands] Out you go.

Narrator: Later in the evening, the dove came back.

Noah: [excited] Look, the dove returned and she has picked an olive leaf!

Shem: [excited] Does that mean that the water is gone?

Noah: I don't think so. If it were, the dove would not have returned. She doesn't like being cooped up in here anymore than we do. We will wait seven more days.

Narrator: One week later, Noah sent out the little dove again. This time, she didn't come back.

Noah: [leaning far out the window and looking around] The earth is dry!

Narrator: Soon, people and animals were scurrying down the long ramp to the ground. [pause] The first thing that Noah did was to build an altar for the Lord.

Noah: [looking up in prayer] Thank you God for keeping us safe.

God: I will never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. [pause] As a reminder of my promise, I will put a rainbow in the sky.

Narrator: Noah and his family smiled as they looked up at the beautiful rainbow in the sky. They knew that God would keep his promise.

The End

Supplemental Information

Noah was a good man. He trusted God and wanted to obey Him. Most people in those days had forgotten God. They no longer obeyed God's laws. In fact, the people had become so wicked that God decided to destroy the whole world. He promised to save Noah and his wife, Noah's three sons and their wives, because they obey Him. God also decided to spare a few of each of the different kinds of animals and birds.

Some scholars believe that Noah was about 480 years old when God told him to build a large, three-story boat. Apparently, Noah and his family spent about 120 years building the boat. During this time, Noah preached to the people and begged them to give up their evil ways, turn to God and ask forgiveness. In 2 Peter 2:5, Noah is called "a preacher of righteousness." But the people were not sorry for their sins. They didn't believe what Noah said, that God would send the flood.

Apparently there was not a body of water nearby to launch the huge boat. Building a boat on dry land, far from the water, must have seemed very odd to the people. A downpour of water that would flood the earth seemed like a ridiculous idea to them. It is no wonder that they laughed at Noah and thought he was losing his senses.

While God planned to destroy every living creature that had breath, He also planned to repopulate the earth from Noah's family and the animals saved in the ark. God instructed Noah to take on the ark seven pairs of animals that were listed as clean and a pair each of the unclean animals. Some scholars believe that the clean animals were those that could be used for sacrifices. Much later, God gave rules to Moses concerning animals that could be eaten and those that were not to be eaten. These were also called clean and unclean.

Rounding up all of these animals must have been a big task. They had to make sure that they took on a male and a female of each type. Calculating the food needed for the people and animals must have been a problem too since Noah did not know how long they would be on the boat.

The rain fell for forty days and nights. Water continued to rise for another 110 days, and then they began to recede. The eight people and many animals remained inside the ark for about 370 days. Upon leaving the ark, Noah made an altar and gave a sacrifice to God to show thanks for His care. God promised that He would never again send a flood to destroy the world.

"Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth. So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth." Genesis 9:14-17

Noah was about 600 years old when the flood came. He lived for another 350 years and died at the age of 950.

Extra Time

After your pupils have acted out the story, let them sketch their own version of the ark as it floats on water in a heavy rainstorm.

Give each child a piece of black or dark blue construction paper and provide colored chalks for drawing. Or make your own “paint” for pupils to use. Place one cup of dry soap flakes or detergent in a bowl. Add a small amount of water and beat with a rotary beater. Add more water if needed – a little at a time – and continue to beat the mixture until it is a consistency of whipped cream. Dip a paintbrush into your soap “paint” and draw a line across a piece of paper. If the line is thick, the “paint” is just right. Dip paint into paper cups. Add a few drops of blue food coloring to one or two cups and stir until color is thoroughly mixed. For deeper blue water add more coloring. Add red or yellow to other cups of “paint” so that the children may paint a colorful ark. Small paintbrushes may be used for painting. When dry, the pictures will look textured.