

Step By Step Through The Bible With Children

**"All thy children shall be taught of the LORD;
and great shall be the peace of thy children."**

(Isaiah 54:13)

3rd REVISED EDITION

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Printed in the U.S.A.

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP Chicago, Ill.

LESSON 14 -

THE FLOOD

Before we have our story about the Flood we shall think of three verses, which tell us why it was necessary for GOD to send the Flood. Who will repeat for us our "sowing" verse, which is found in Galatians 6:7? That is very good, James, we shall now say it together.

Doubt and unbelief were the first evil seed, sown by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the fruit of that seed was "**only evil continually.**"

What was it that caused Cain to say to GOD, "**My punishment is greater than I can bear . . . and from thy face shall I be hid**"? Yes, it was his sin, but there is another name for sin; who can tell us what it is? "Iniquity."

We will say *iniquity* together, so the little children may also learn that hard word. "Iniquity." Will someone repeat Isaiah 59:2, which tells us about iniquity? John would like to. Now let us say it together.

Mary, you may give us the last verse, about the way that seems right to man. (Proverbs 14:12). Shall we repeat it together? Seth and his children walked with GOD for a time, but little by little the children were turned away from GOD by what they saw and heard in the world about them.

(Test the children on these "theme" verses, to see how well they have remembered them, just from repeated use in the lessons. Give them such help as they may need, or, better still, allow some other child to help where one fails.)

Children, why were these true stories about GOD's way and man's way written? Yes, for our learning. GOD wishes us to learn how very wrong it is for man to act and live as if he did not need GOD, or as if there were no GOD.

The "By Faith" men who believed and trusted in GOD were: Abel, "**who offered unto GOD a**

more excellent sacrifice than Cain"; Enoch, who "**was translated** (taken up to Heaven) **that he should not see death**"; and Noah, who, because he "**walked with GOD**," was saved from the judgment that destroyed the ungodly. (Set in place the figures as you speak of these characters.)

You see, children, that "**without faith**," it is impossible to please GOD. We must believe that He is, and that He rewards our faith by doing what He promises to do.

When the ark was finished, the LORD said to Noah, "**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.**"

Noah and his family and two of every kind of animal went into the ark, and the "**Lord shut him in.**" No one on the outside could get in, and no one on the inside could get out. The hand that shut Noah in shut the wicked people out.

GOD wanted to save the wicked on the outside, just as He wanted to save Noah. He spoke to them about sin and about the punishment for sin, but they went right on acting and living as if they did not believe there was a GOD.

When Noah and all that went into the ark with him were safely shut in, GOD opened the windows of Heaven, and all the fountains of the deep, and the waters began to rise higher and higher until "**all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven . . . and the mountains were covered.**"

Day after day it continued to rain, and like a great boat the ark began to float on the water and was lifted up above the earth, "**and all flesh died . . . Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.**"

Some foolish people think that because GOD *must punish sin* He is hard and cruel, but that is not so. The reason GOD must punish sin is because He is good, and He made man to be good, like Himself.

Let us look at some of the reasons why GOD had to destroy the wicked of Noah's day.

First: He destroyed the wicked that the earth might be made a fit living place for children as well as for fathers and mothers.

Second: He destroyed the wicked seed, but saved Noah and his family - the good seed through which the Saviour could come.

Third: He destroyed the wicked as an object lesson, to teach us, and everyone else, that sin must and will be punished.

GOD must punish sin because He is good. We shall now see some of the ways in which GOD was good to the wicked before He punished them.

First: Through Noah He spoke to the people about their sin and its punishment. You see, GOD

did not destroy them without first warning them.

Second: He told the ungodly that His HOLY SPIRIT had been striving with them - drawing and pulling them toward Himself, but they would not come.

Third: During one hundred and twenty years while Noah was building the ark, and warning the wicked, they could see his faith in GOD, but they kept right on in their own sinful way until GOD had to destroy them.

Let us never forget, children, that ***GOD is good***, and that He is ***good*** to all. He was not only good to the wicked, but He was also good to Noah. He destroyed the giants to make the earth a fit place in which Noah and his family might live.

GOD was also good to us, in sending the flood. For without the flood to destroy the wicked seed, so there would be left upon the earth good seed, we should have no "Good News" story about JESUS, the One who saves from sin. Because GOD is good, He must punish sin.

One day after Noah had been in the ark about one year, he opened the window and sent forth a dove to see if the face of the earth was yet dry. But the dove found no resting place for her feet, so she returned and Noah put forth his hand and took her into the ark again.

After seven days, Noah sent forth the dove again, and, lo, she returned with an olive leaf in her mouth, so that Noah knew the tops of the trees were above the water and that soon the earth would be dry.

Again, after seven days, he sent the dove forth, but she returned not again, for she found food and a place to build her nest on the earth.

Noah removed the covering of the ark, and behold, the face of the earth was dry, but because Noah was walking with the LORD, he waited for GOD's time and GOD's orders to go forth.

At last the day came when GOD said to Noah, "**Go forth (out) of the ark... and... every living thing that is with thee.**" How glad and happy they must have been as they went forth a saved people: saved from an evil, corrupt world and from death.

They were saved "by faith" and carried from the old world into a new world. It was "by faith" that Noah and his family were saved from the wrath of GOD which destroyed the wicked.

To show GOD how happy and thankful they were for His loving care and protection during all those troublesome days, Noah "**buildded an altar unto the Lord . . . and offered burnt offerings on the altar,**" and worshipped GOD.

The smell of the offering was sweet to the LORD, and He knew Noah's heart was right toward Him. "**And the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake.**" "**And GOD blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.**"

GOD had destroyed the wicked seed for Noah's sake, now he and his sons were to tell their children about GOD and His wonderful goodness to everybody, so they too could believe and tell their children, and so on, until the earth became peopled again with good seed.

Before the flood the people did not eat meat, but only seeds and fruits from the trees, but after the flood GOD said, "**Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things... And GOD spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, . . . I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant (an object lesson to remind them of His promise) between me and the earth . . . The waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.**"

This story is GOD's object lesson to teach us that all who believe in the LORD JESUS will be saved from the punishment of sin, even as Noah was saved. We deserve to die because we are sinners, but the LORD JESUS died our death for us, that all who believe might receive His wonderful resurrection life, which means the life He had after He arose from the dead.

Because JESUS died and rose again He is our Ark, and, "**if any man be in CHRIST, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.**" We get into the Ark when we open our hearts and invite JESUS to come in and take away our sin, and make us like Himself.

When our hearts have been washed in the blood of JESUS, we are in CHRIST, and old things pass away and all things become new.

Our unbelief is changed to belief; our darkness is changed to light; our sin is changed to righteousness; we exchange our old master, Satan, for a new Master, the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The more we walk with JESUS and learn of Him, the more of His likeness others will see in us, and our thoughts, words, and deeds will become new, because we are new creatures in CHRIST JESUS.

Help the unsaved children to accept CHRIST.

Lesson: Genesis 7.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3 :2.

NOTE: Teachers who have had little or no Bible study should read this volume through many times, until the material becomes very familiar. The individual lessons will then be easy to present to your class in your own words.

Do not try to give too much at first. Have your lesson clearly in your mind, then make it live in the minds and hearts of the children.

Story Illustrated: Over the lower half of your board stretch a strip of black cloth rather tightly and tack at lower edge and each end.

From colored tissue paper (purple, dull blue, yellow, maroon) make mountains (by tearing rather than cutting) of varying shape and heights to form a range across the board at the upper edge of the strip of cloth. (Frail, delicate objects should be mounted on black cheese cloth or crinoline, then placed on the board).

Underneath the strip, insert blue paper 12 inches deep and as long as the board, to represent water.

Make an ark about 4 x 6 inches in size, leaving two inches of paper extending below the ark. Paste the ark near the right end of the blue paper so it sets up above the black strip without the blue showing.

As you tell of its raining forty days and the water rising higher and higher, have someone take hold of one side of the blue paper, to which a little string has been attached by which to raise it, while the teacher raises the other side slowly and evenly as the story is told. As you tell of the water receding and the dove being sent forth, allow the blue to drop down slowly until the ark rests upon the land again. This will interest the children greatly.

Make a rainbow about 15 inches from end to end and place over ark as you tell of it. The colors from upper edge down are: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red.

Place a black silhouette of Noah in the window, and open the window when you speak of the dove's being sent forth.

Do not think you cannot teach because you cannot make the illustrations. The important thing is the Bible lesson, "**Faith cometh by hearing.**"

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