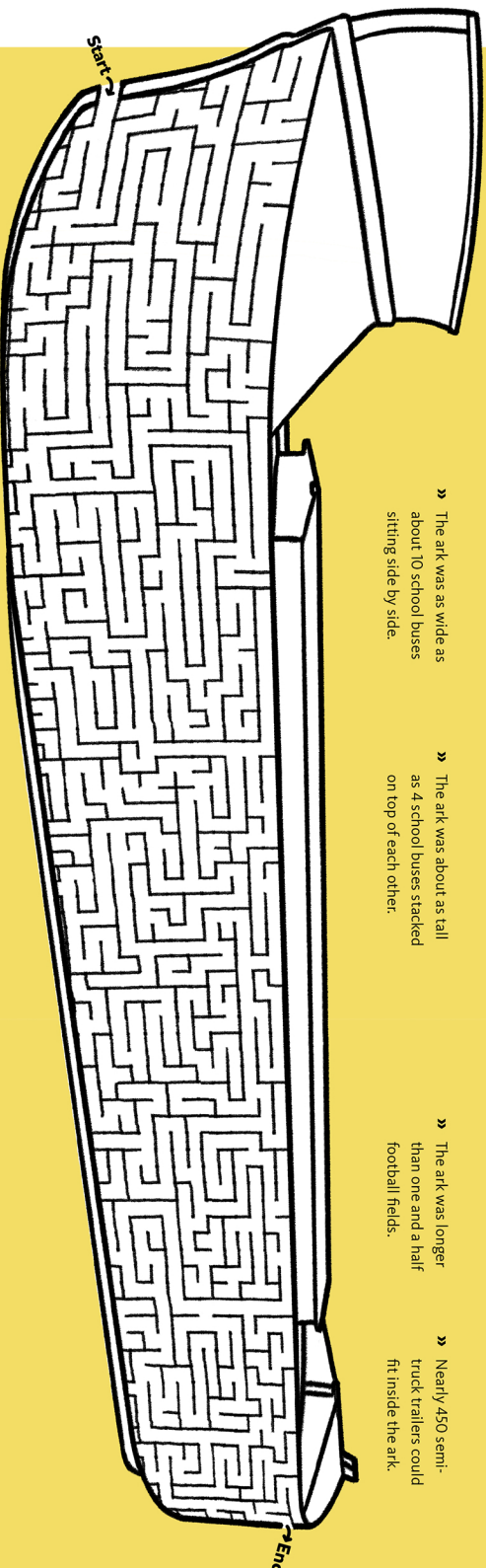


SCRIPTURE SLEUTH

God tells us to search for wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 2:3–6). The best place to look is in the Bible! So grab your detective gear and let's investigate Scripture, inspect clues, and discover all that God's Word has to teach us.



» The ark was as wide as about 10 school buses sitting side by side.

» The ark was about as tall as 4 school buses stacked on top of each other.

» The ark was longer than one and a half football fields.

» Nearly 450 semi-truck trailers could fit inside the ark.

How Big Was the Ark Really?

About 4,500 years ago, God decided to punish the wicked people on the earth with a global flood. He told a man named Noah to build an ark (a big ship) to save his family and at least two of each kind of animal. God gave Noah specific instructions about the type of wood he should use, the number of decks and windows, the door, and the ark's size. (You can find these instructions in Genesis 6.) In Noah's day, things were measured in cubits. A cubit is the

length from a man's elbow to his fingertips. Using today's measurements, that would be about 20 inches, or 1.7 feet.

The ark was a huge wooden ship—very different from the tiny bathtub arks you might have played with as a baby. Some people doubt that the ark could have held all the animals. But God's specific measurements give us a clear picture of the ark's massive size.

Grab your Bible and turn to Genesis 6:15 to find the ark's measurements. Then use a calculator to multiply the cubits by 1.7 to find the dimensions in feet.

Length: cubits x 1.7 = feet
Width: cubits x 1.7 = feet
Height: cubits x 1.7 = feet
1 cubit = about 20 inches 12 inches = 1 foot
1 cubit = about 1.7 feet

BIG QUESTIONS Was Jesus a Carpenter?

Verses to Read
Matthew 7:24; John 14:6

MARK 6:3 DESCRIBES JESUS as a carpenter, and Matthew 13:55 calls him a carpenter's son.

But the Greek word translated "carpenter," *tekton*, is actually a term for any kind of builder or craftsman. The word *tekton* also appears in the Greek translation of 2 Samuel 5:11, describing "workers of stone and workers of wood."

It's likely that Jesus worked with stone more often than he worked with wood because stone was much easier to find than trees in ancient Israel. Another clue is that Jesus often used building

illustrations in his teaching (like the wise man building his house upon a rock). Maybe Jesus was speaking from personal experience.

We don't know exactly what work Jesus did for a living, but we can be sure that he is the Son of God—the way, the truth, and the life.

