

Building the Ark

Learner Outcomes

Recall why God flooded earth

Describe the ark using words or pictures

Differentiate between a biblically accurate picture of the ark and one that is not

Locate Catastrophe on a timeline of the 7 C's of History

Key Passages

Genesis 6:5–8, 6:14–20

Vocabulary

catastrophe: a big disaster

flood: when water covers and then rises above land

Materials

- Catastrophe video
- Scrapbook: Lesson 19
- 7 C's Timeline

Activity Options

Game

- Fact or Fairy Tale?

Practice Pages

- Lesson 19 Coloring Page
- Lesson 19 Activity Page

Science

- Sink or Float? Experiment
- Measuring the Ark

Snack

- Fan“sea” Floats

Songs

- “Noah and the Ark”
- “Because He Is Just”



7 C's Chronology

Events in this lesson are a part of the Catastrophe “C” in the 7 C's of History. The catastrophe happened when God punished man's sin by flooding the whole earth, sparing only Noah's family and the animals on the ark.



Scriptural Background

After Adam and Eve left the garden of Eden, they not only had Cain and Abel but other children as well. These children then had their own families. Because sin entered the world through Adam, his descendants continued to engage in sinful behaviors. God saw the wicked, violent ways of man and knew people's hearts were consumed with evil (Genesis 6:5–6, 6:11).

Because God is holy and just, he chose to punish the people's sin by sending a global flood to destroy all people, air-breathing, land-dependent animals, and birds (Genesis 6:7, 6:17). But there was one person who found favor in the eyes of God as a righteous man in his generation—Noah (Genesis 6:8–9).

God chose Noah and his family to be the remnant of people to survive the flood and repopulate earth. God also told Noah that he would bring a male and female of every kind of air-breathing, land-dependent animal (seven pairs of some) and seven pairs of every kind of flying creature to him. To keep Noah and the animals safe, God instructed him to build an ark.

Genesis 6:14–16 documents specific plans that God gave Noah to build it. The dimensions of the ark

were measured in cubits, which is approximately the distance from an adult's elbow to their fingertips. The exact length of a cubit varied between different people groups but was most likely between 18 to 21 inches long. God told Noah to build the ark 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. *[Note: If using a cubit of 20.4 inches, the ark would be about 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high.]*

God also instructed Noah to make the ark out of gopher wood and cover it inside and out with pitch (most likely a tree resin) so water could not get inside. The structure of the ark included different rooms (also translated as *nests*), three decks, and a door on the side. Additionally, the top of the ark included a roof (also translated as *skylight*, *noon light*, or *window*). This may refer to a roof with a cubit-high opening under it that would let light into the ark. Finally, God concluded his instructions by telling Noah to store up food for his family and the animals to take on the ark (Genesis 6:21).

As a righteous man, Noah followed God's commands. Noah constructed the ark and will forever be recognized as a man of great faith and righteousness (Hebrews 11:7).

Historical/Apologetics Background

The ark is probably one of the most well-known objects in the Bible. Even non-Christians have most likely encountered pictures of the ark in childhood books; however, many of these depictions are not based on God's Word. For example, the ark is often shown as a small boat with people and animals sticking out of it. Many times, the animals and people are smiling. These pictures are wrong and contradict what God's Word tells us.

First, the ark was not a small boat based on the measurements given in Genesis 6. It was large enough to hold Noah's family, the animals, and supplies for over a year. Additionally, the ark had to move across the surface of the turbulent floodwaters as the waters rose to cover mountains and the

earth's landmasses shifted (Genesis 7:11, 7:18–20; Psalm 104:8). A small boat like the ones often shown in children's books would not have survived these conditions.

God flooded the entire earth as punishment for sin, so the people and animals on the ark would not have been smiling and carefree as seen in some pictures. The cries of people and animals succumbing to the flood would most likely have been heard on the ark, and the treacherous conditions outside would not have made for a comfortable ride inside the ark. These pictures reflect man's ideas instead of God's Word. They provide an inaccurate depiction of the ark and diminish the catastrophic conditions of the flood.

Prepare

Say: *We've learned how sin entered the world, but sin didn't stop with Adam—his descendants continued to sin. Let's check in with Mrs. C to learn what happened after many years of people sinning.*



Play the CATASTROPHE VIDEO.

Say: *Mrs. C showed us the Ark Encounter, a life-size version of Noah's ark. In this lesson, we're going to learn about how God instructed Noah to build the ark.*

Study

Building the Ark

Use the following information to help students understand God's plans for the ark and the global flood.

- Read Genesis 6:5–8 aloud. Emphasize that Adam and Eve's descendants kept sinning and did wicked and evil things, like hurting others.
- **Ask:** What does God think of sin? *He hates it.* What must God do to sin? *He must punish it.*
- **Say:** *God said he would destroy every person, bird, and land animal because of the sin on earth. But there was one man who obeyed God (righteous)—Noah.*
- Read Genesis 6:17 aloud. Explain that God said he was going to flood the whole earth. Explain that a **flood** is when there is so much water that it covers the land and rises above it.
- **Say:** *God decided to punish people's sin by sending a flood to cover the whole earth. But God showed mercy to Noah. He would be safe from the flood.*
- Read Genesis 6:14–16 aloud. **Say:** *God instructed Noah to build an ark and gave Noah directions for building it.*
- Emphasize the following characteristics of the ark:
 - ◇ The ark was made of wood. It was covered with a sticky substance (pitch) on the inside and outside so water couldn't get in.
 - ◇ The ark had three decks and rooms (nests) where animals could be kept.
 - ◇ There was a door on the side of the ark. It also had a roof.

- Show **SCRAPBOOK: LESSON 19** and point to the picture of the ark with the school buses. Explain that the ark was so large that it could fit about 480 school buses inside. It was about 12 buses long, four buses high, and 10 school buses across. Guide students to count the buses in the picture from front to back (12), bottom to top (4), and side to side (10).
- Read Genesis 6:18–20 aloud. **Say:** *Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives would be safe on the ark. God would also send two of every kind of air-breathing, land-dependent animal (seven pairs of some) and seven pairs of every kind of flying creature, like birds, to Noah. He would send a male and a female. The animals would be safe on the ark. Noah's family and the animals would fill earth with people and animals again after the flood was over.*
- Guide students to count to eight on their fingers to represent the eight people in Noah's family. Then have students count to two on their fingers to represent the pairs of animals God would send to Noah.
- **Say:** *Noah built the ark. Then he collected food for his family and the animals just as God commanded. Noah was ready for the flood.*

Clarifying Misconceptions



Some pictures of the ark are not accurate.

Help clarify the misconceptions of how the ark looked that are commonly found in children's books, movies, etc.

- Explain that sometimes pictures students see of the ark are not correct based on what God's Word says.
- Point to the illustration of an "ark" on **SCRAPBOOK: LESSON 19**. **Ask:** Is this picture right? What is wrong with this picture? *No, the ark is too small. The animals and person are smiling.*
- **Say:** *Some pictures don't show the truth about the ark. They might show the ark as a small boat. They might show cute animals or people smiling. These pictures are not correct. First, the ark was very large. It had enough room for Noah's family and many animals. Also, the flood killed every person, air-breathing, land-dependent animal, and flying creature not on the ark. This was not a happy time.*

The people and animals shouldn't be smiling. Some pictures, like this one, show man's idea of what the ark looked like—not what God's Word tells us.

- Emphasize that this is why it's important to compare what we see, read, or hear to God's Word to know the truth.

Mrs. C and the 7 C's



- Show **SCRAPBOOK: LESSON 19**. **Say:** *Mrs. C's scrapbook page reminds us of how big the ark really was! It wasn't like some of the pictures we see in books or movies.*
- Point to the Catastrophe "C" on the **7 C'S TIMELINE**. Tell students that the catastrophe event happened when God judged man's sin by flooding the whole earth. A **catastrophe** is a big disaster like an earthquake or hurricane.
- Have students touch the Catastrophe "C" on their timeline and **say:** *Noah built the ark.*

Review Questions



Have students discuss the following questions related to the lesson.

- Why did God flood the whole earth? *God flooded the whole earth as punishment for people's sin.*
- Why did God punish the people's sin? *God is holy and just. He must punish sin.*
- Why did God have Noah build the ark? *The ark would keep Noah's family and the animals safe. They would help fill the world with people and animals again after the flood.*
- What did the ark look like? *The ark was made of wood and covered with pitch. It had three decks, rooms, a roof, and a door on the side. It was huge! It could fit about 480 school buses inside.*
- Are pictures we see of the ark always correct? How can we know? *Many pictures don't show the truth about the ark. Oftentimes, they show the ark as a small boat, which it was not. We can compare the pictures we see to God's Word to know the truth.*

Understand

Choose one or more of the following **Activity Options** to help students understand the lesson concepts.

Games



Fact or Fairy Tale?

Help students differentiate between accurate and inaccurate descriptions of the ark using this game.

- Give each student a **FACT OR FAIRY TALE MAT** (located in the Student Book). Have them cut out the ark game piece.
- Read the descriptions below in random order. If the description of the ark is accurate, have students put the ark game piece onto the **Fact** side of the **FACT OR FAIRY TALE MAT**. If the description is inaccurate, have students put the ark game piece onto the **Fairy Tale** side of the mat. Review each correct answer after students respond.
 - ◇ The ark had rooms and three decks. *Fact*
 - ◇ The ark was only built to keep animals safe. *Fairy Tale: The ark kept animals and Noah's family safe during the flood.*
 - ◇ The ark had a door on the side of it. *Fact*
 - ◇ God told Noah to build the ark out of wood. *Fact*
 - ◇ The animals and people on the ark were always smiling and happy. *Fairy Tale: The flood was a scary time when many people and animals died. Pictures that show them smiling and happy are not true.*
 - ◇ Noah put pitch on the inside and outside of the ark so water couldn't get in. *Fact*
 - ◇ The ark was the size of a small boat. *Fairy Tale: The ark was large. It was the size of about 12 school buses from back to front.*
 - ◇ God gave Noah instructions for building the ark. *Fact*

Practice Pages



Lesson 19 Coloring Page

Have students color the **LESSON 19 COLORING PAGE** to remember why God told Noah to build an ark.

Lesson 19 Activity Page

Have students complete the **LESSON 19 ACTIVITY PAGE** to identify why God told Noah to build an ark and select a picture of an ark that most closely aligns with the biblical description.

Science



Sink or Float?

Use the **SINK OR FLOAT? EXPERIMENT** to reinforce that God told Noah to build an ark that would float and keep the people and animals inside safe from the flood. Students will experiment with how to make a boat from aluminum foil that will float.

Measuring the Ark

Have students practice the skill of measuring, which is often used during science experiments and while making observations, to help visualize the size of the ark.

- Take students to a large open area that is 510 feet or longer.
- Choose an object to represent the bow (front end) of the ark. Have a student pull a measuring tape out until it reaches its end (usually 50 feet to 100 feet). Mark where the tape stopped on the ground or floor.
- Repeat using the measuring tape and marking 50 feet or 100 feet until students have measured 510 feet from the object representing the bow.
- Have students stand on the final mark and look back at the bow. **Say:** *The ark was NOT just a little, bitty boat, was it? The ark was big. It had plenty of room for all of Noah's family, the animals, and everything else they needed. God knew exactly what was going to happen during the flood. So he gave Noah instructions to build an ark that was big and strong and would not sink.*
- If time allows, consider having students use the measuring tape to measure the approximate width (85 feet) and height (51 feet) of the ark.

Snack



Fan“sea” Floats

Use the **FAN“SEA” FLOATS RECIPE** to reinforce that God told Noah to build an ark. Students will make sherbet floats.

Songs



Have students sing **NOAH AND THE ARK** and **BECAUSE HE IS JUST**. Reinforce that God called Noah to build an ark to keep Noah, his family, and the animals safe because God was going to punish wicked men for their sin.

Apply

Say: *Your friend shows you a book with a picture of Noah's ark. The picture shows animals stuffed into a small boat.*

Ask: *Is this picture correct? Why or why not? This picture is not right. The ark was very large. God gave instructions to Noah about how big the ark needed to be. The ark was big enough to hold Noah's family and all the animals.*

Reinforce that just because a book shows or tells you something about the Bible doesn't mean it's true. Many times, books show or tell about man's ideas instead of what God's Word says. Students should always compare what they see or read to God's Word to see if it's true.

Sink or Float? Experiment

Directions

- **Say:** *Before God sent the worldwide flood, he told Noah to build an ark to keep himself and the animals safe. Ask: If God hadn't given Noah instructions on how to build the ark, do you think Noah would have been able to build it big enough, safe enough, and as perfectly designed as it needed to be to survive the flood?* Discuss student responses.
- Explain that God is omniscient, which means he knows everything. He knew how Noah needed to build the ark, how big it needed to be to hold all of the animals, and how it needed to be built to survive the floodwaters. God even knew exactly how long Noah and his family would be in the ark.
- Tell students that they will build their own boats. But unlike Noah, they will not be given any instructions.
- Give each student a sheet of aluminum foil. Have them mold the foil to make a boat. Guide students to test their boat in the bin of water until it floats.
- Once the boat floats, have students test it to see how many glass gems it can hold and still stay afloat by placing gems one at a time onto their boat.
- Encourage students to analyze the shape and design of their boat and adjust it to see what works best to hold the most gems.



Science

Materials

- aluminum foil pop-up sheets (1 per student)
- shallow pan of water
- large glass gems (10–20 per student)



Fan“sea” Floats Recipe

Directions

- **Say:** *Today we’re making fan“sea” floats. In our floats, the sherbet floats on top of the soda, kind of like Noah’s ark floated on top of the water.*
- Remind students that Noah’s ark stayed afloat during a tremendous, one-of-a-kind, superlong storm. It stayed afloat because Noah obeyed God and followed his instructions to build it.
- Give each student a cup. Assist students in scooping one or two scoops of sherbet into the cup.
- Depending on your students, either pour the lemon lime soda over the sherbet or help students to do so. *[Note: You may choose to add five drops of blue food coloring to the 2-liter bottle of soda prior to pouring so that it looks like water.]*
- Allow students to enjoy their Fan“sea” Floats!



Snack

Materials (makes 12 servings)

- 1, 48-oz. container of rainbow sherbet
- 1, 2-liter bottle of lemon lime soda
- blue food coloring (optional)
- cups (1 per student)
- ice cream scoop



Song Sheet

Noah and the Ark

The sins of man grew in God's sight;
 They did evil day and night.
 Since they chose to disobey,
 God would judge them.
 Noah was a righteous man.
 He loved God—obeyed his plan.
 Built the ark as he was told. God showed mercy.
 God brought creatures two by two.
 Dinosaurs? They marched on too!
 God shut the door; the rains began—
 Noah's flood.
 As the ground began to dry,
 There's a rainbow in the sky!
 Floods will never fill the earth—
 God's great promise.
 Like the ark in Noah's day,
 God's Word says that "Jesus saves!"
 For he is the only Door,
 Christ, our Savior!

Because He Is Just

(To the tune of "London Bridge")
 God must punish all our sins,
(London Bridge is falling down,)
 All our sins, all our sins.
(Falling down, falling down.)
 God must punish all our sins
(London Bridge is falling down,)
 Because he is ju-ust!
(My fair lady!)
 But God also will forgive,
(London Bridge is falling down,)
 Will forgive, will forgive.
(Falling down, falling down.)
 But God also will forgive
(London Bridge is falling down,)
 Through Jesus Chri-ist.
(My fair lady!)

