

BIBLE LESSON 4

1.

Genesis 6 - 7

Do you remember who Seth was? Seth was the name of the child that was born to Adam and Eve after Cain had killed his brother Abel. Seth grew up to be a good man who loved God's ways and tried to do right. Seth's children and grandchildren were called the "sons of God" because they followed God's ways and tried to please God. Cain had left God's ways and wandered around most of his life. His children and grandchildren became famous and important in their own eyes. They were called "sons of men" for they were only interested in men's importance. Some of the sons of men became great musicians, some built big cities and were very important (called "giants" because they did so many great things that men and women thought were important). Can you think of some "giants of men or women" of our time? Perhaps the President of the United States could be called a giant of a man, or maybe the Mayor of your town. Perhaps a man or woman who is a Rock Star or a Movie Star would be called a giant in people's eyes because they are so popular.

As time went on, those who followed God's teachings (the sons of God) began to look at some of the beautiful and popular women who were from the sons of men (Cain's descendents). Soon they began to think "these people aren't so bad...well, maybe they don't believe in God, but hey, what's so bad about that? Maybe they worship the things they make and the money and the popularity, but that's okay, I like these people anyway! Well, some do kill each other, hurt their children and steal and lie, but that's not so bad, really. Do you think these things are bad? Yes, God thought so too! The Bible tells us that the sons of God began to marry the daughters of men and people became more and more wicked. Soon there were people stealing from each other, some hurt their little children and some killed others. Time went on and soon there was only one family left who tried to follow God's ways. How do you think God would feel about all this wickedness? God was very sad that his people had turned so bad. He was angry at the wickedness and the hurt that they did to each other.



God didn't want his beautiful earth ruined by the wicked people who only wanted to hurt and kill. The one family that was still following God was Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives.

Noah and his family lived among a lot of bad people but they tried to live right and loved God. Noah tried to teach God's ways to his neighbors but they didn't want to listen to Noah and would only laugh at him and his belief in God. One day God appeared to Noah in a dream and said "Noah, I am going to destroy all the wicked people on the earth, but I will save you and your family. You are to build an ark, using my building plans." Do you know what an ark is? An ark means "chest" like a box or a basket. When God said to build an ark, he meant a very big box-like boat. It was almost as big as an ocean liner or a cruise ship.

The ark was three stories tall. Sometime ask Mom or Dad to show you a building that is three stories tall, so you can picture how tall the ark was.

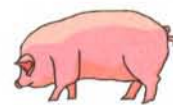
Noah was to build lots of rooms in the ark ... what do you think the rooms were for? Lots of animals of all sizes and shapes and kinds, plus rooms for Noah and his family.



Noah was to save some of each kind of animal and some of every kind of food there was that grew on the earth. God said he was going to bring a great flood to wash away all the evil and make the earth washed and clean with only good people left to start life new. Noah was to save seven of the clean animals. What do you think he meant by "clean" animals? Were these the animals that washed themselves often? No, Noah meant the animals that were safe to eat and ones that God wanted in the sacrifices when men built altars and prayed to him. Some clean animals were sheep and cows and doves.



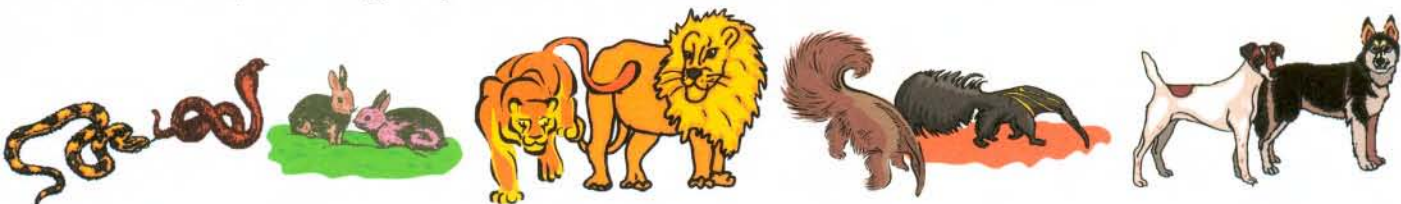
Noah was to save two of each of the unclean animals, a male and a female animal so they could have babies. Unclean animals were ones that were dangerous for people to eat, ones like pigs and vultures. Pigs had diseases that people could catch and vultures ate dead things that could make people sick if they ate them. The Bible tells of many more of the clean and unclean animals.



We don't know how the jobs were divided up, but we can guess. Perhaps Noah would make the plans and direct the building of the ark while Shem would cut trees and perhaps Ham would saw boards and do the nailing for building the ark. Perhaps Japheth and his wife would gather the animals and Noah's wife and the other daughters-in-law would start putting food and plants in baskets to store on the ark. It would have taken a long time and a lot of work. Noah didn't quit preaching to the people though, he tried his best to reach them and warn them of the big flood that God was going to bring. Do you think any of the people listened to Noah?

No, the people didn't listen to Noah. How do you think people would act if they saw a man building a big boat miles from any water? He said it would rain and flood the earth, but the days were warm and sunny and no rain clouds were in the sky. Noah had animals in pens with lots of noise and animal smells. I imagine a lot of the people laughed at Noah and his family...and called him a crazy old man. It might be hard to keep your belief in God when everyone else around you made fun of you, but Noah trusted God's word and he quietly kept on building. Noah also kept on talking about God to anyone who would listen.

Finally the ark was finished and God told Noah to get ready to enter the ark. Did you know that animals can often tell when there is to be an earthquake or a hurricane? Something in the feel of the air or the earth can warn animals ahead of men and women. Something like this must have happened to the animals around Noah's home, for instead of having to be forced into the ark, the Bible says the animals came to Noah and entered the ark willingly. God guided the animals and instead of fighting and tearing at each other, the animals quietly entered the ark, knowing they would be safe there.



Noah gave his neighbors one last warning but no one would listen to this crazy old man with a boat but no water to sail it on. God now told Noah it was time, so Noah and his family followed the animals into the ark and God caused the door to shut. Noah couldn't get out and he couldn't open the door to let anyone in. They sat inside the ark for one day, two days, the three days. Now the people outside really laughed. There was Noah inside the ark with animals roaring and barking and mooing. They wondered how long this family would stay inside the big boat...what a joke, they thought! Perhaps Noah and his family wondered too...but Noah believed God, so they patiently waited. Finally on the 7th day there was a light "pitter-patter" of rain on the roof. Then the rain was a little heavier and soon lightening and thunder and a cloudburst came roaring down. Not only did it begin to rain but earthquake shook the earth, tidal waves washed up from the ocean, little creeks became mighty rushing rivers. People scurried to the tops of houses, then to the hills and up to the mountains, but even the water inside the earth came rushing out of big cracks in the ground, and the heavens opened with torrents of water, until soon even the highest mountain was covered.

No person or animal was left alive, except for the people in the lonely ark, bobbing along on top of the water. The rain poured down for 40 days and nights, then it quit, but the waters covered the earth for 150 days. That was a long time to live in small rooms on a boat full of animals. We'll tell the rest of Noah's story in our next lesson.

Your Bible verse for this lesson is "But as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." Matt.24:37.

When you've learned this verse have your Mother or Father put a check mark in the gold box

What do you think this memory verse means? Who do you think the "Son of Man" is? God had a son named Jesus Christ. Jesus was called "the Son of Man" because his *mother* was human ... and he was also called "the Son of God." ... because his *father* was God.

Jesus was a lot like Noah, for he wanted to save the people from becoming so wicked. But, just like in Noah's day, the wicked people didn't want to believe in God, so only a small amount of people have believed what Jesus had to say. The people were so evil that one day they seized Jesus and killed him. God wouldn't let Jesus stay in the grave though, he raised Jesus and gave him life again. Jesus will never die again and he is living with God now. However, God said that he would send Jesus back at a time when the days are very evil, just like the days of Noah were. Jesus is to return and wake up all the good people who believed in God. He will give them life that won't ever end. Then there will be no more crying or hurts and no one will die again. Even the animals will be like they were in Noah's time, for they won't hurt or kill each other. Even little kids can play with a lion or bear. Wouldn't that be fun?



Do you ever hear stories about bad people? Does your Mom or Dad warn you about not answering doors to strangers or getting in strangers cars because someone might hurt you? There are some bad people that want to hurt or kill others or steal and lie and cheat. There are also people who aren't bad, but they are much too busy with building homes, getting ahead in their jobs and raising families. They don't take time to read the Bible and find out about God, they could be like those who missed the boat!

Many of the people who read the Bible, believe that the time for Jesus to return is getting closer and closer. God promises that when Jesus returns it will be a wonderful time, when there are no more hurts or reasons to cry. We will be able to take care of the animals and they won't be afraid of us or want to hurt us.

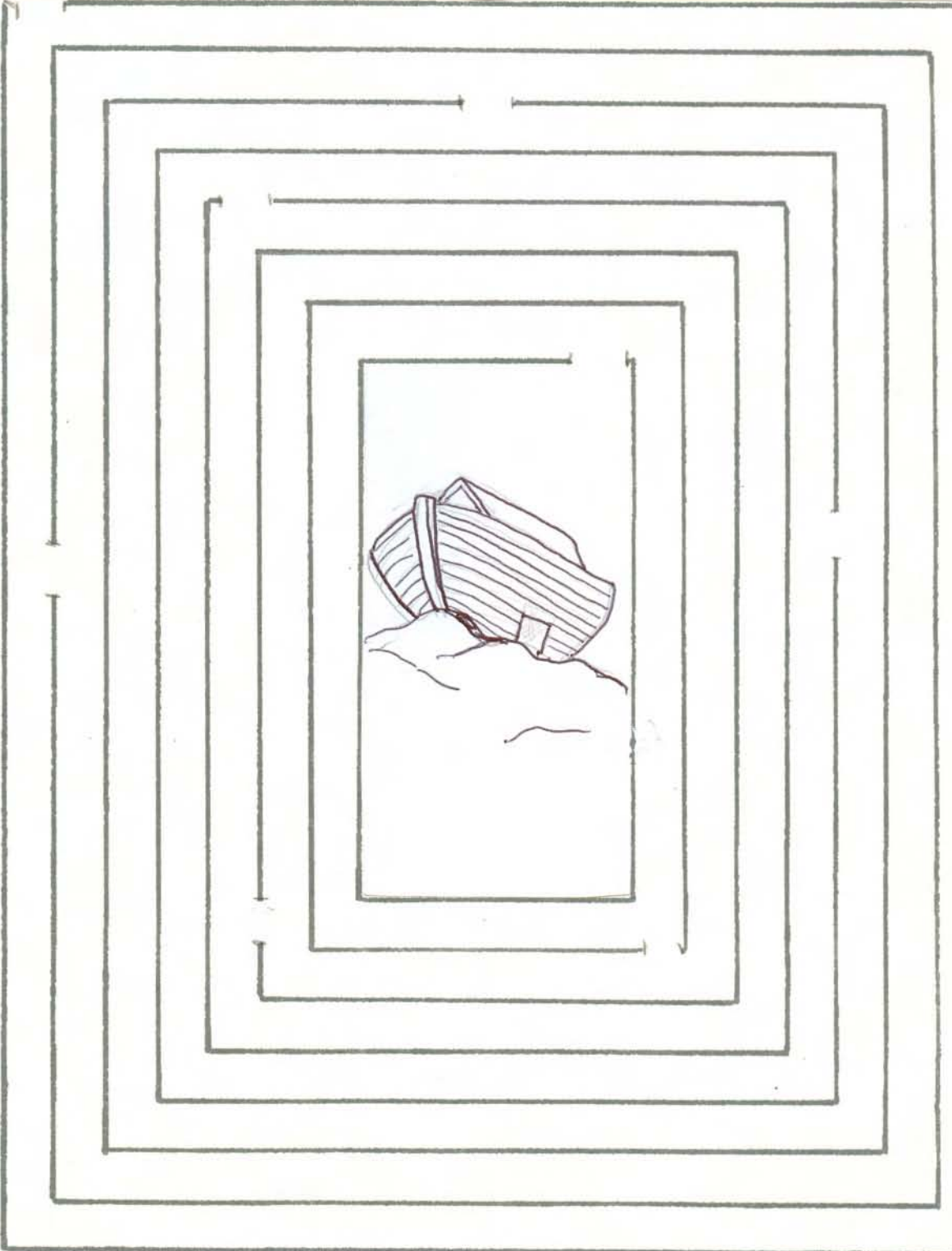
Noah and his family were saved from death in the flood because they believed God. We hope to be saved and live forever, like Jesus ... we look forward to "the days of the son of man" and hope they will come soon.

In the space below draw a picture of a bad storm with rain and lightening. Then draw Noah's ark floating on the water and color it.



1. Were the children and grandchildren of Seth called "sons of God" or "sons of Adam?"
2. Why was Seth called this? (a) Because he loved God and tried to do what was right?
or (b) Because he hated anything to do with God
3. When someone is called a "Giant" does this mean (a) He is always very big and tall?
or (b) Giant also mean someone who is very famous or important for doing something great?
4. When the sons of God married the daughters of men (who were Cain's descendents) what eventually happened? (a) Did everyone turn and begin to obey God's laws
or (b) did they eventually become liars, cheats who hurt and tried to destroy each other?
5. Who was the father in the one family who still loved God and tried to follow God's laws?
6. Can you remember the names of Noah's three sons?
7. What strange thing did God tell Noah to do?
8. Did the people listen to Noah when he told them there would be a great flood ?
9. What kinds of things went into the different rooms in the ark?
10. When Noah and his family went into the ark, who shut the door?
11. How long did Noah and family sit in the ark before it began to rain?
12. How many clean animals did Noah take? ____ How many unclean animals did he take? ____
13. What is a "clean animal?" What were clean animals used for?
14. How long did it rain? (a) 220 years (b) a week (c) 40 days.
15. How long was there water all over the earth? (a) two weeks (b) 40 days (c) 150 days

Can you help the animals find their way to the ark?



FINISH DRAWING THE ANIMALS

The animals have to find their mates so they can go into the ark, but they can't find them. Draw a line between the completed animal and its mate, and then complete drawing the mate. (putting in faces, spots)

