

Genesis 6

Once long ago many people lived on the earth and they were good people. They believed in God and tried to do what made God happy. But as time went by, the people began to fight and hurt each other. They took things away from each other and even killed some of the people. These people had become very bad and it made God very unhappy.

There was one family that still loved God and tried to do good to others and be kind and loving. The father in this family was named Noah and he had three grown sons called Shem, Ham and Japeth. Those are funny names, aren't they? One day Noah had a dream and God talked to him.

God said, "Noah, I want you to build a great big boat, called an Ark. I am going to get rid of all the bad people and you and your family are to go into the boat so you will be safe." This seemed strange to Noah, for they didn't live by a lake or ocean. Why would they need a boat? However, Noah believed God, so he told his sons to start gathering tools and lumber in order to build a very big boat



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Why did the boat need to be so big? God told Noah the boat was to hold two of every kind of animal there was. Dogs and elephants and kangaroos and giraffes and cows and pigs and many more animals, all would be saved. God was going to send a great flood of water on earth and only Noah and his family and the animals would be safe because they would be floating on the water inside the ark.

So Noah and his sons started to build the ark while their wives began to collect food for their families and food of all kinds of animals too. The ark was to have many rooms in it for each of the animals. It would be like a big floating zoo, wouldn't it? How would you like to float in a big boat full of all kinds of animals?

All the time Noah and his sons were building the ark, Noah tried to tell their friends and neighbors about God's word. He tried to get the people to quit fighting and hurting each other and to turn to God and love each other. But the people wouldn't listen. They just laughed at Noah.



Finally the ark was finished. My what a fine, big boat it was, but it was still just sitting on dry land and with no water anywhere. Then Noah and his family began putting the animals into the ark. How the people must have laughed to see all those animals going into that big boat sitting on dry land. Noah still tried to warn them to turn to God, but the people wouldn't listen.

Then God told Noah to take his wife and his sons and their wives and go into the ark, for God would shut the door and no one would be able to open it. God told Noah that it would soon begin to rain on the earth. After all the animals and Noah and his family were inside, the big door snapped shut. They sat there and waited, and waited. The animals meowed and roared and tweeted and barked. Can you make noises like some of the animals?



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Pretty soon Noah heard a little "pit-a-pat, pit-a-pat" on the roof of the ark. Then he heard "plop, plop plop" as the rain began to fall faster and faster and then "splash, splash" and finally a great roar sounded outside as rain poured down and the earth cracked open and water gushed out. The ark began to rock back and forth as the water got higher and higher. The wicked people suddenly stopped laughing and they began to cry out in fear, "save us, save us" they yelled as they pounded on the door; but God had shut the door and no one could open it.

Noah and his family and the animals rocked gently over the water as the flood got higher and higher. Pretty soon the water even covered all the mountains. That was a lot of water, wasn't it? It rained 40 days and 40 nights and then the rain slowly quit and the ark just rocked along while the earth began to dry up.

Inside the ark Shem, Ham and Japeth kept busy giving the animals food and water and keeping them calm. God had taken good care of all of Noah's family during this bad flood.



One day as the boat rocked along, there was a big "BUMP" and the ark quit moving. The ark had landed on a mountain. Noah wondered if it was safe to come out of the ark yet, so he opened the window in the top of the ark and took a big black bird called a Raven and sent it out of the window to see if there were trees growing where the Raven might sit.

The Raven flew back and forth but couldn't find any trees.

Noah waited a few days and then he took a small white bird called a Dove and he sent the Dove out the window. The dove flew back and forth but she couldn't find any trees, so Noah took the Dove back into the ark.



It was very hard to wait now that Noah and his family knew they were on the land. But the water wasn't dried up yet, so they waited some more. Finally Noah sent the little Dove out again, and do you know what? The little Dove returned to Noah with a green leaf in her bill. That meant there were trees growing.

Everyone in the ark shouted and jumped up and down for joy!

Then God opened the door of the ark.



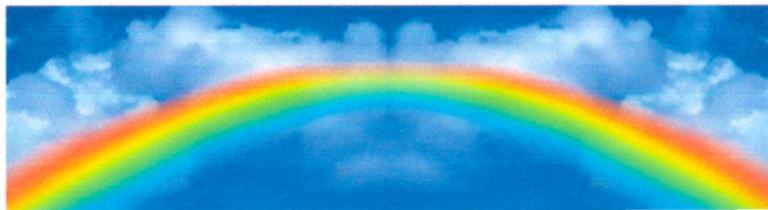
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How happy everyone was! The little lambs jumped and played, the monkeys chattered and turned in circles, the horses kicked up their heels and ran and ran and the lions roared in joy.

What do you think Noah did first? Did he plant some flowers? Did he cook some dinner? Did he build a house? No, first before he did anything, Noah prayed to God, to thank him for saving his family and all the animals. This made God very happy. God told Noah that never again would the earth have a big flood like this. It was a promise and God told Noah to look up in the sky.

What do you think he saw? Noah saw a beautiful rainbow with all kinds of pretty colors. God said this was a sign to show Noah that God would keep his word.

Everytime we see a rainbow in the sky, we can remember that God will always keep his promises.



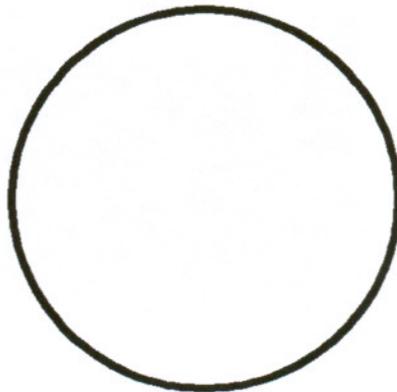
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Question Page

1. Were the people in Noah's time good or bad? Did they believe in God? Did Noah and his family believe in God?
2. How many sons did Noah have? (a) one son (b) two daughters (3) three sons?
3. Were Noah's sons named: Sammy, Joe, and Will? or Shem, Ham and Japeth?
4. What did God tell Noah to build?
5. Why were there so many rooms in the ark?
6. Can you name some of the animals Noah would have taken on the ark?
7. What happened when Noah and Shem, Ham, and Japeth and their wives were shut inside the ark?
8. What kind of bird did Noah send out of the ark the first time?
9. What did the little white dove bring back to Noah?
10. What was the first thing Noah did when he got out of the ark?

The rainbow shows us that God always keep his promises. This should make us very happy! A verse for you to learn is: "I rejoice in your promise.." Psa.119:162

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Noah's neighbors were wicked people who liked to steal things and hurt other people. This made God sad. Noah obeyed God and tried to do good things for others. This made God happy. On the face below draw a happy face and connect the lines to write Noah's name.



N O A H

Circle the things Noah would have taken on the ark



Use lots of beautiful colors to make a wonderful rainbow for Noah and draw Noah praying under the rainbow

