

The Great Flood

(Evidence for Creation)

God is Pure and Holy

Spiritual Awareness: God judges sin

The Great Flood is often seen as a fairy tale, creating the scene for a delightful children's story, in which animals of all kinds board a boat. However, the Noah's Ark story is not primarily about animals. It is about God's judgment of sin. Being a pure and holy God, the Creator sent a great flood to destroy the wickedness of man. Only one family could be found, pure and holy enough to escape God's judgment. God chose Noah and his family to be the descendants of the today's human race.

As with the illustration of Jeremiah at the potter's house, (Jeremiah 18), God sometimes chooses to destroy something and then rebuild it in a way that is pleasing to him. The destruction of life in the event of the Great Flood, was God's way of giving the world another chance.

Our response to 'God is Pure and Holy'

Because God is Pure and Holy I will...

- Obey Him.
- Try to do the things He wants me to do.
- Ask God to forgive me when I sin.
- Ask Him to make me clean inside.
- Admit when I make mistakes.
- Remember the fruits of the Spirit and try to show them in my life.
- Have respect for other people.
- Put God first in my life.

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies Level 6 & 7, (Creator): God is a perfect creator
Themes for Christian Studies Level 7, (Pure): What happened to God's perfect creation?

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

Genesis 6-8 The Great Flood

Jeremiah 18 Jeremiah at the potter's house.

Matthew 21:12-13 Jesus didn't tolerate sin in His Father's house.

1 Chronicles 16:28-33 God rules the earth.

Psalm 97 God uses the creation to proclaim His righteousness.

Memory verses

Romans 3:23 Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence.

Psalm 7:11 God is a righteous judge.

Psalm 96:13 When the Lord comes to rule the earth He will rule the people of the world with justice and fairness.

Psalm 97:10 – The Lord loves those who hate evil; He protects the lives of His people; He rescues them from the power of the wicked.

Key Questions

How does the Great Flood show us that God is Pure and Holy?

How do you think God may have felt about man's sin and the destruction of the earth?

Why did God send the rainbow?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- study the Biblical account of Noah's ark as history
- understand God's purpose in sending the flood
- examine rocks and fossils, and to explain them within the context of the Great Flood
- research answers to questions about Noah's ark

Skills

- research
- query
- record information

Values

- accept the Bible as truth
- be confident in God's promises

Activities

Read Genesis chapter 7 and find out:

- God's instructions to Noah from Genesis 6:18-21.
- The height of the floods.

Read Genesis chapter 8 and find out:

- How Noah knew that the water had not dried up.
- What Noah learned from the dove, on each of the three occasions he sent it out (verses 10 - 12).
- What God told Noah to do (verses 15-17)
- What God promised (verse 21).

- Make a wall story or cartoon strip of the Biblical account showing
 - a) the world before the flood
 - b) building the ark
 - c) boarding the ark
 - d) 40 days of rain
 - e) sending out the dove
 - f) release from the ark and the promise

- Research the formation of the Grand Canyon.
- Classify the different types of living things that may have been buried in the Great Flood.
- Observe fossil specimens and photographs.

- Classify fossils according to their type: impressions formed by burial; petrified fossils; fossils preserved in ice; coal.
- Make a fossil cast using a sand tray. Make an imprint in the sand using shells or bones. Pour Plaster of Paris over top of impression and allow to set. Remove set plaster from sand.
- Research the work of a paleontologist.
- Read the Aboriginal flood story from *Themes Level 7, God is Creator*.
- Investigate other Flood stories around the world. What do these stories tell us?

Questions about the biblical record

Read Genesis 6-8 and discuss the following questions:

Did the Great Flood actually happen?

Genesis is an actual historical account of the history of the world. There are stories of the global flood in every continent of the world, passed down through the generations.

Why did God send the Great Flood?

The sin of mankind was so great. God had to purify the earth.

Why was Noah chosen to build the ark?

He and his family were the only one's who still obeyed God.

What difficulties did Noah face?

Rain had never fallen on the earth before...only dew. People therefore would not believe that the flood was coming. They mocked him.

Who closed the door of the ark?

God. (Genesis 7:16)

How long did the Great Flood last?

The rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights, but for 110 more days the waters covered the earth, (Genesis 7:24). The ark then landed on Mt. Ararat, but Noah and his family waited on the ark for another 221 days, while the water continued to go down, (Genesis 8:1). Noah and his family were aboard the ark 378 days - this includes 7 days before the rain started.

What happened to the people and animals that were not aboard the ark?

They were drowned. Millions of dead things were laid down in layers of mud. These became fossils.

Do you think God would have saved anyone if they had believed and turned from their sin?

God promises to forgive us if we are truly sorry for our sin. Therefore we can assume that there were no others who trusted in God.

Are fossils really millions of years old, as most people believe?

Most fossils found today were laid down at the time of the Great Flood. Billions of dead things were packed within the layers of mud, making it look as

if they could have been formed over millions of years, but in actual fact they were formed suddenly, as the result of one major event. They are thousands, not millions of years old. The earth is in fact only six thousand years old. Dating methods used by evolutionists are inaccurate, inconsistent, and biased (dating methods are devised, based on the presumption that evolution is valid).

How could Noah build such a boat?

Noah and his sons had close to 120 years to build the Ark.

How did the animals get to the ark?

God sent the animals to Noah. Noah didn't have to go out gathering the animals. The world before the flood had no oceans dividing continents.

How did Noah fit the animals inside the Ark?

*The ark was big enough to hold 50,000 animals, many of which were probably young animals. God sent two of every **kind**, and seven of some. A 'kind' represented a group of animals, meaning two dogs, and not two of every breed of dog. Each animal kind had a large enough genetic pool to account for all the different types of animals we see today.*

Were there dinosaurs aboard?

All land-dwelling dinosaurs were aboard.

How could the flood cover tall mountains?

The mountains we see today are higher than those in the original creation. During the Flood, many layers of mud were stacked on top of each other.

Where did all the water go?

The deep ocean floors formed as a result of the Flood, separating the continents.

How did the weather change after the Flood?

For about 700 years the earth experienced an Ice Age.

What happened to the dinosaurs?

They died out just like other extinct animals.

Assessment

1. Place questions about the Great Flood into a box. Form teams and play a game to see which team can answer the most questions. Take turns to pull questions out of the box.
2. What have we learned from the study of the Great Flood...
 - a. about God?
 - b. about doing what God wants me to do?
 - c. about the Bible?

Beacon Media resources: *The Great Flood – Science & Social Studies Student Activities; Fossils and dinosaurs – Visual Language Unit*