



# Noah Listens to God

In the account of Noah in Genesis 6-8, we see a serious and devastating judgment of the wickedness on the earth. We also see the escape plan God provided for anyone who would listen. Because Noah had a relationship with God, he did not hesitate to listen and obey. Pray every day and talk to God about what you are learning.



## Day #1: Corruption

Take a clean, white sheet of paper. Now make a mark on it with a pen or marker. You could say that the clean, white paper is now corrupt. What was pure is no longer pure. (Save this paper through the end of this week.) The verb **corrupt** means to *change from good to bad* in morals, manners, or actions.

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, gives an account of God's creation of the world. The Bible uses the Hebrew word "bara" for created. *Bara* is only used for create when God is doing the creating. It means to create something out of nothing. No one else has ever created something out of nothing. After each thing God made, He looked at what He had made. Genesis 1:31 tells us, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." It was pleasing, beneficial, and right. Because God is perfect, everything He made was good.

On the sixth day, God made Adam, the first person. God placed him in a beautiful garden. God spoke to Adam and told him he could eat from any tree in the garden, except for one. God told Adam that if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would die. Then God made Eve, a helper for Adam. All of their needs were met in the garden. Everything was good in the world God had created. Then Satan arrived in the form of a serpent (Revelation 20:2). He tempted Eve to eat from the one tree God warned them about. Satan told Eve they would not die, and they would become wise like God. Whom did Adam and Eve choose to listen to - God or Satan?

**+** *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. - Genesis 3:6*

Adam and Eve made a tragic decision. They chose to listen to Satan. They disobeyed God, which was sin. Sin entered the pure world that God had created. God's good world became corrupt. Adam's decision influenced the world forever more.

### Day #1 continued:

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. - Romans 5:12*



Sin always ruins what God has intended for good. Make a list of things that God has made to be good, but people have found a way to corrupt. Pray and ask for God's help so that you can LISTEN to Him and not corrupt the good things He has put in your life.

## Day #2: Noah's Generation

Get a calculator to help illustrate how many people may have been on the earth by the time Noah was born. Noah came in the ninth generation after Adam (Genesis 5). God had instructed Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and increase in number" and to "fill the whole earth" (Genesis 1:28). In the beginning, men lived between 700 and 1000 years! So it is safe to assume each couple would have had at least 10 children (but they probably had many more). Let's say each couple in each generation had ten children. Press  $5 \times 5 \times 10$  (The number 5 represents 5 couples, or 10 people.) That is nearly 4 million people born in these 10 generations. And if each couple had 20 children, there would have been 2 billion people on the earth.

Being only ten generations away from the time the earth was created and everything was good, what would you expect these people to be like? The Bible tells us that the corruption of sin had taken its toll.



*Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. - Genesis 6:11-12*

Genesis 6:5 says men had evil thoughts in their hearts at all times. God was sorry he had ever made man (Genesis 6:6). But one person was unlike the rest of his generation.

*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. - Genesis 6:8-9*

The Bible describes Noah as righteous and blameless. What made Noah different from everyone else? His relationship with the Father. He walked with God. That means he spent time with God and knew who He really was. And Noah knew how serious God was about sin. Because of their relationship, Noah listened to God.



God described Noah as righteous and blameless. How do you think people would describe you? How would you like to be described? Remember, time with God was the key to Noah's character.

## Day #3: The Plan

God is perfect, therefore He is just and He must punish sin. But this does not make God happy. Genesis 6:6 tells us that God's heart was filled with pain. Because Noah listened to His heavenly Father, God revealed His plan to Noah:



*So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people. They have filled the earth with their harmful acts. You can be sure that I am going to destroy both them and the earth. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it." Everything on earth will perish. - Genesis 6:13, 17*

This was very bad news. But God had a rescue plan for Noah! God gave Noah very specific instructions on how to build a big boat called an ark. God would send two of each kind of animal to the ark to be saved from the flood, along with Noah and his family. Genesis 6:22 says, "Noah did everything just as God commanded Him."

When God spoke to Noah about the flood, Noah listened. The flood marks the first time it ever rained on the earth. Imagine how much faith Noah must have had to build a huge boat, when he had never even seen rain before.

*By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith, he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. - Hebrews 11:7*

Because of their sin, millions of people were destroyed. Because of Noah's faith and obedience, God provided a way for his family (and mankind) to survive. If he had not listened to God, Noah would have died in the flood.



Obedience to God puts you under the umbrella of God's protection. Pray and ask God if there is an area of your life in which you are not being obedient. If so, turn from your disobedience and return to God's protection. Remember, God provides protection for children by placing them in the care of their parents. Obedience to parents is a form of obedience to God (Ephesians 6:1-3).

## Day #4: The Flood

Noah spent over 100 years building the ark. The Bible calls Noah a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). We can assume he told all those around him about the coming danger, but they did not listen. They went about their lives as if nothing were going to happen (Matthew 24:38).

After Noah had built the ark exactly as God instructed, God sent pairs of all the animals to Noah (Genesis 7:16). Genesis 7:17 says, "Everything happened exactly as the Lord had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in." Seven days after God shut the door, the waters came.



*On that day, all of the springs at the bottom of the oceans burst open. God opened the windows of the skies. Rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. - Genesis 7:11b,12*

*Every living thing on the earth was wiped out. People and animals were destroyed. The creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped out. Everything was destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark were left. - Genesis 7:23*

God is patient, but His punishment of sin is certain. God provided the way of salvation to those who would listen to Him and receive

## Day #4 continued:

the plan. His plan was the ONLY way. Those who were IN the ark were safe. Those who were OUTSIDE the ark were destroyed. It is chilling to imagine the stunned people trying to climb to higher ground, or grabbing hold of anything that could float - but nothing worked. No one could be saved any other way.

The ark is a picture of God's provision that was yet to come. The Bible tells us that sin leads to death (James 1:15). The final provision of salvation from death that God would provide was the Messiah - Jesus Christ. The ark had one door through which each person had to enter and be saved. Jesus said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved." (John 10:9a) Just knowing that there was an ark did not save anyone - only those who were inside lived. Likewise, just knowing facts about Jesus will not save a soul. We must place our trust in Jesus in order to be saved. Sadly, just as it was with the ark, many, many people choose not to enter into God's provision of faith in Jesus (Matthew 7:13-14).



Think about the quote by author and pastor, A. W. Tozer, "We take refuge *from* God, *in* God." How does this relate to the Ark and ultimately to Jesus? (It is from God's judgment that we must escape, but in His overwhelming grace, He has provided the WAY.)

## Day #5: Cleansed

Think of the worst rainstorm you have ever experienced. Genesis 7:20 says that in the great flood, the water was so deep, that even the highest mountains were 20 feet below the surface. The tallest mountain in the world today is Mount Everest, standing over 29,000 feet tall. That is equal to 96 football fields end to end! Today, a hurricane might produce 1-2 feet of rain in a day. In the flood, there would have been around 725 feet of water per day, pouring down for 40 days! This was no regular storm - it was catastrophic! This is what God deemed necessary to wash away the wickedness and make the earth clean again.

The Bible tells us the water covered the earth for 150 days before it began to recede. Noah and his family were on the ark just over a year. When the land was dry enough, God told Noah to come out. When they stepped off the ark, everything around them was pure and new. The earth had been cleansed, and new life was all around them.

We have a corruption problem. Just as the earth was corrupt with wickedness, each of us becomes corrupt when we choose to sin. Like having a pen mark on a white piece of paper, we cannot become "uncorrupt." The Bible tells us there is not one person who has not become corrupt (Psalm 14:3). When we trust and place our faith in Jesus, the One God provided to take away our sins, we become a new creation. Our sins are washed away. We do not have a better life, but a new life.



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! - 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you. - Ephesians 2:4-5*



Take the piece of paper that has a pen mark on it and throw it away. Get a new piece of paper. This is what Christ does for believers. He does not just clean up the old life. He gives new life!

