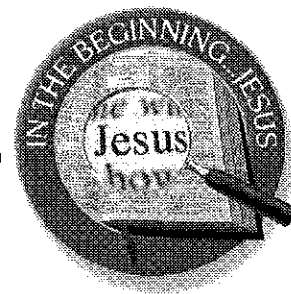


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 6

God Judges the World, but Has Favor on Noah

Themes:

- Man's wickedness increased on the earth.
- God is grieved by sin, and is right to judge sinners.
- God had unmerited favor on Noah, and provided a way for him to escape judgment.
- God is pleased when sinners trust in Him.
- God is faithful to all His promises.

Scripture:

Genesis 4:8,15; portions of Genesis 6-8

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:5b (and review verses 3-5a)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - GOD—MAN visual (from previous lesson).
 - JESUS IS THE KEY visual (from previous lessons).
 - I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT (from Lesson 4).
 - I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT (from Lesson 5).
 - GOD'S MERCY and GOD'S JUDGMENT—Glue these two visuals together, back to back.
 - NOAH.
 - PUZZLE #1 and #2—Cut out the puzzle pieces and place the pieces for each puzzle in a separate bag.
 - PUZZLE TEMPLATE A, B (these are identical).
 - Verse Cards #1-9.
 - Bible Clue Card # 7.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue card).
- Bag of treats (the bag must not be transparent)—Remove the treats from the bag and fill the bag with small pebbles, lima beans, or something similar.

- Transparent jar or container
- 2 tape dispensers

Lesson

Using the **GOD—MAN** visual as a guide, briefly review the key themes from Lesson 5 as follows:

- What is God's mercy? [His kindness to undeserving sinners.] Can you remember how God was merciful to Adam and Eve? [He provided them with animal skins to cover their sin. They didn't die right away. They had children.]
- Point to the animal skin on the visual and ask: Why was it important for God to cover their sin? [God is too pure (holy) to look at sin. They couldn't have a right relationship with God unless their sin was covered.]

Recall that we also learned about Adam and Eve's two sons, Cain and Abel, who were also sinners like their parents, and about the offerings they made to God.

Which brother thought he should decide what was the right kind of offering and which brother trusted God to decide what was the right kind of offering? Which brother's offering did God accept? [Abel's.]

Display the bag of treats. Tell the children that you have two more questions for them concerning Cain and Abel—something we didn't talk about in the previous lesson. If they know the answers, they should raise their hands. **[Note:** You may instruct the children to turn to **Genesis 4:8, 15.**] The first two children you call on who answer the questions correctly will be able to come up and take a treat from the bag.

Question #1: *After God had accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's, what did Cain do?* [He got very angry, and he went out and killed Abel.]

Question #2: *After Cain did this, God drove him away from His presence. But first God did something kind to Cain. What was it?* [God put a mark on him so no one would kill him.]

Have the two children with the correct answers come up to the front. Hold out the bag of treats to them. After they have looked inside, ask them what's wrong. [There isn't any candy inside. The bag is full of _____.]

Comment: But it looks like candy from the outside. Look at the picture on the bag!

Pour the contents of the bag into the transparent jar or container so the other children can see what was inside. Ask the children if they are disappointed about not finding

candy inside. Have them return to their seats. Tell the children that this illustration can help us to understand what happened next in God's story—the Bible.

After God had put a special mark on Cain, Cain went away. He and his wife had children, and he even built a city. Then his children had children, and their children had children. Even Adam and Eve had more and more children. And all these people lived not for 60, 70, or 80 years, but hundreds of years—some lived to be more than 900 years old! The earth was beginning to fill up with people. It appeared that everything was going well. It appeared as if maybe sin wasn't such a big deal after all. Display the bag of candy again: Just as this appeared to be a good bag of candy. But God saw something very different. What was it?

Have the children turn to **Genesis 6:5-6**:

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart.

Display the **I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** and **I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** visuals, and ask: *According to this verse, was the world being filled up with Cain-like people or Abel-like people? [Cain-like people.] Was God just looking at the outward appearance of the people? According to verse 5, what was God able to see? [The thoughts and intentions of their hearts.] What were these thoughts and intentions like? [Wicked and evil.] Were just some of their thoughts evil? Were their hearts evil just some of the time? [Every thought was evil. Their hearts were evil all of the time.]*

According to verse 6, how did God feel about their wickedness? [He was grieved by it.] What does it mean to be "grieved" by something? [To feel disappointment, pain, anger, and deep sadness.]

Is this the way God wants His world to be—filled with wicked and evil people? Do these people deserve God's kindness? What would a holy God have the right to do?

Choose a child to read **Genesis 6:7**:

So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Display the **GOD'S MERCY** sign. Does verse 7 sound like an example of God's mercy? [No.] Explain that this verse is describing something that is the opposite of

God's mercy. Can the children guess what that word might be? Turn over the sign to reveal: **GOD'S JUDGMENT**. Point out that just as God's mercy is His kindness to undeserving sinners, God's judgment is His giving sinners the punishment they deserve.

Ask: But wait a minute! Won't that be the end of the story if every living thing is wiped out?

Have the children look at the first word of verse 8. What is it? [But.] That means something else is coming. What is it? [Noah.] What is different about Noah? [He found favor with God.]

Note: The word "favor" in this context means unmerited favor—*grace* or *mercy*—and does not refer to some merit that Noah had in and of himself. This is very important for understanding the true meaning of verse 9.

Display the **I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** sign. Explain that Noah was also born a sinner like all other people. However, he was an Abel-like person. He trusted God to decide what is true and right. Lightly tape the **NOAH** sign over the **ABEL** sign on the **GOD—MAN** visual.

Is God pleased when a sinner trusts in Him to decide what is true and right? Would God choose to send His judgment upon Noah? Or would God be merciful to Noah? Let's see what happened next.

Explain to the children that you are going to review what happened next by doing two things: First, you are going to pass out **Verse Cards #1-9** from **Genesis 6-8** to several children to read (keep **Verse Card #1** for yourself). Next, you are going to ask two teams of children to put together a "picture" of the scene.

After passing out the verse cards, choose two two-person teams (e.g., two girls and two boys). Have them come up to the front. Tape each **PUZZLE TEMPLATE** on the wall within easy reach of each team. Give each team a bag with the **PUZZLE PIECES**. Tell both teams that when you begin to read **Verse Card #1**, they may begin to put the puzzle pieces together. [**Note:** It is preferable to have an adult helping each team tape the pieces in place.] The goal of each team will be to *quietly* finish the puzzle before the class finishes reading all of the Verse Cards. If a team finishes early, the children should stand quietly by their completed puzzle and listen to the verses being read. If they have trouble or questions, they must wait until all of the verses have been read to ask for help.

Make sure the children understand all the instructions and then begin by reading **Verse Card #1**. After you have finished reading, remember to call out for **Verse Card #2** to be read, then **#3**, etc. Also, depending on the reading level of your students, you may want to give adults some of the more difficult verses to read.

Verse Card #1—*And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh ... Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood."* (**Genesis 6:13-14a**)

Verse Card #2—*This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.* (**Genesis 6:15**)

Verse Card #3—*Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.* (**Genesis 6:16**)

Verse Card #4—*For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.* (**Genesis 6:17**)

Verse Card #5—*But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.* (**Genesis 6:18**)

Verse Card #6—*And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.* (**Genesis 6:19**)

Verse Card #7—*Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.* (**Genesis 6:21**)

Verse Card #8—*The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household."* (**Genesis 7:1a**)

Verse Card #9—*And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.* (**Genesis 7:7**)

After the verses have all been read, check on the progress of the teams building the puzzles. Did they finish in time? Did they have any problems? Ask the children:

Do the two pictures look the same? What's different? [One has two arks with two doors each and one has one ark with one door.] Which picture would make more sense? Wouldn't it be better to have two arks for all those animals? And wouldn't it be easier to load the animals into the arks if each one had more than one door?

Propose that it might make more sense for Noah to build two arks that each had two or more doors. That way there would be more room for everyone, and Noah and his sons

could get all of the animals in more quickly—two doors are better than one! Which picture is right? Or doesn't it make much difference?

Display Bible Clue Card #7. Choose a child to come up and insert it behind the red paper of the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

Clue under Window # 12

Choose a child to open Window #12 to reveal: **1 WAY.**

Display I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT again. Point out that Noah didn't make a second ark or make more doors in the ark. Instead, like Abel, he trusted God to decide what was right, and he did things God's way. Emphasize that God in His mercy had made only one way for Noah to be saved. That one way was by trusting God and doing things God's way! One ark and one door.

Did God keep His promise to Noah and save his family from the flood?

Read **Genesis 8:13, 15-16:**

In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you."

*Yes! God always keeps His promises. What about all the other people?
Did God keep His promise to destroy them with His judgment?*

Read **Genesis 7:23a:**

He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth.

Emphasize that just as Abel trusted God for what was true and right, so did Noah. And just as God was pleased with Abel, God was also pleased with Noah. Both were sinners and deserved God's judgment—His punishment—but God chose to show His mercy to both. And so God's story would go on even after the flood.

Application

- Ask the children, *Did you wonder who would finish first, the puzzle makers or the readers? About how much time did the two teams have to finish the ark puzzle? Do you know how much time Noah was given to finish the*

ark? Have the children turn to **Genesis 6:3**. Answer: 120 years. Is that a short or long time? Do you think that was enough time for the wicked people to trust in God? What does this tell us about God's judgment? Does God punish because He has a sudden temper tantrum and loses control? Why did God wait so long to send the flood? Read **2 Peter 3:9**. Did the people have any excuse for not paying attention to God's warning of the coming flood? Why not? Do you ever put off listening to God? Does God's patience last forever? Read and discuss **Romans 2:4-5**. What is repentance? Do you have a repentant heart?

- Have the children imagine for a moment that they are Noah and that they have been instructed by God to build a huge ark. Explain to the children that it had not yet rained on earth, only misted. What do you think your neighbors would think of you? Did that stop Noah from trusting and obeying God? Why not? How was Noah like Abel? Why did both men please God? Read **Hebrews 11:6-7**. *What is faith? Do you have faith in God? Can you tell us how you are trusting in God and what are you trusting Him to do for you? Do you need an "escape" from God's judgment like Noah did? Do you think you could escape God's judgment by doing things your own way?*
- Have the children read **Psalms 1:6**. What two promises are found in this verse? Who are "righteous" people? Are they sinless? [No. Abel was a sinner and so was Noah.] Explain that in this verse a righteous person is someone who is trusting in God to decide what is true and right. How do we know that Noah was trusting God? [He obeyed God and did things God's way. He depended on God to keep His promise and save him.] What happens to the wicked, those who say, "I will decide what is true and right. I'll do things my own way"? [They will perish.]
- Ask the children: How many arks were there? [One.] How many doors were on the one ark? [One.] Remind the children that these are clues that will help us solve the mystery of what happened to Jesus on the cross. What could this "one door" clue have to do with Jesus and the cross. [At this point, don't give the children an answer, just get them to wonder about it and make some guesses.]
- Remind the children about the bag of "candy." Did it appear okay from the outside? Can a person appear to be okay from the outside? Can you see inside a person's head and know what he is thinking? Can you see inside his heart and know what he is feeling? Can God do this? Review Genesis 6:5. What does this tell us about what God is like? [He knows everything about people—even their thoughts and feelings.] Ask: *How would you feel if you got the correct answer at the beginning of today's lesson, and reached in and pulled out _____ instead of candy? Angry? Sad? How much more would God be angry and sad (grieved) that the people that He*

*had created to love, trust, and obey Him had become totally evil in every way, all of the time! Review **Genesis 6:6**. Ask: Have you done things that have grieved God? Are some of your thoughts evil? Some of your feelings? Do you think you can change your thoughts and feelings all by yourself? Do you feel helpless? Who could you trust and depend upon to save you and change you?*

- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 6. In the notebook section, have them write the missing words to complete today's clue. [1 WAY.] Follow the instructions to complete the workbook page. What is missing on the picture of the ark? Have the children draw one door on the ark.
- Review the covenant God made with Noah in **Genesis 6:18**. Point out that the word "covenant" is a very important Bible word. What does it mean? A covenant is an agreement made between God and people. God tells the person or people how He is going to act toward them and how they must act toward Him. For example, God made an agreement with Noah to save him and his family from the flood. What did God require of Noah? To trust and obey Him and build the ark. Did God keep His end of the agreement? Yes. Did Noah keep his end of the agreement? Yes. Therefore, God had a special relationship with Noah: God was Noah's friend and Noah was God's friend. (The meaning of "covenant" will be developed more fully in later lessons.)

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