

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 1 God Creating (1)**

Point to Emphasize: We should work on something diligently until we complete it.

Reference Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:3

Memory Verse: For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day... (Exodus 20:11a)

### Story Sample

Have you ever looked at the beauty in creation and thought, "Wow, I wonder how God created all this? And how long did it take Him?" I certainly have, especially when I think about the way we get night and day reliably each day. Or about how we have four seasons at around the same time each year. Or what about all the different kinds of animals there are in the world?

Today, we're going to talk about what God did in six days. There is no way any of us could do what God did in six days. Well, our God is pretty amazing. So let's see what the Bible says God created on each day. *[Write the days on the board, and as you go through each day, write down or draw something related to what God created on that day.]*

On the first day, God said, Let there be light; and there was light. Can you imagine that before the first day, it was so dark because there was no light? Can you imagine you are somewhere and it's just dark all the time! Well, it's a good thing God created light! He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. Did He stop here? No! This was just the beginning.

There was only water covering the earth, so on the second day, God created the heavens. The heavens include the universe and our atmosphere. What's the atmosphere? Yes, it's our sky and the air we breathe. Did God stop here? No! There was so much more to do.

On the third day, God put all the water into one place, and from the water, dry land appeared. This dry land was called Earth, and the waters were called Seas. Then what do you think God created on the dry land? He said let the earth sprout grass, herbs with seeds, and fruit trees according to their kind. So on the third day, God also created plants! Did He stop here? No! He still wasn't satisfied!

On the fourth day, God created things in the heavens that would give light on the earth and that would separate the light from the darkness. What do you think these are? Yes, the sun, moon, and stars! They separate day from night and help us tell seasons and days and years. Did He stop here? No! But we are getting closer.

On the fifth day, God created animals in the water and in the air. He created sea creatures in the waters and birds in the air. And He told them to multiply and to fill the seas and the heavens. Can you name a few of the animals we can find in the seas? (e.g. whales, jellyfish, starfish, sea horses, etc.) That's only a few of them. There are so many varieties of sea and air creatures, aren't there? Did God stop here? No! I can hardly wait to hear what He saved for the last day!

On the sixth day, God created animals on the earth, cattle and creeping things, each according to their kind. And then God created the most important thing—can you guess what it is? He saved the best for last. Yes, man! He created male and female and He blessed them.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and He said it was very good. He was so satisfied. Now He is done!

So what do you think He did on the seventh day? Well, each day after God created something, He said that it was good. But on the sixth day, He said it was **very** good. So after six days of creation, God was very satisfied with what He had done. So on the seventh day He rested.

When I was younger, I liked doing puzzles with my older cousins. They would buy these big 10,000-piece puzzles that you can frame and hang on the wall when you complete them. These puzzles can't be completed in a day or even a week. First, we would group the pieces by color. Then each one of us would work on a particular color area every day. We would work at it until we completed our areas, then we would put everything together. When the entire puzzle was done and we would see that not one piece was missing, we were so excited! Our huge puzzle looked exactly like the picture on the box, and it was beautiful! It was even more beautiful to us because we had worked so hard and diligently on it until we finished it. We were so satisfied at the end. *[Discuss with the children: Think of working on a big project, staying with it, doing a little each day, then finishing it—you want to sit back and relax after you're done, and you feel so satisfied.]*

Aren't you glad God did all these wonderful things? Aren't you glad He didn't just stop after the second day or the third day and said He was done? We have such an amazing God who created all these things for us and created us!

## Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 2 God Creating (2)

Point to Emphasize: We can be careful and thorough in all our work.

Reference Reading: Genesis 1—2

Memory Verse: Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

### Story Sample

The very beginning of the Bible tells us an incredible story of how God created so many things. He made the heavens, the earth, the plants. Oh, and then wow, all the animals! Can you imagine how that happened? God spoke and it came into being. That's right, out of nothing it just became.

Now listen to this: on the sixth day, after everything else was prepared, God created man! But wait a minute, how did God create man? Did He just speak "ADAM" and there he was? You will be happy to know that actually, He took His time and carefully considered, making a plan, and then He began to make man. Wow, this is different from everything else. With the plants and the animals God spoke, and it was done. However, with man, He thought about His creation, He made a plan, and then He set to work.

Does this ever happen to you? Some things you do are so important that you make a plan, right? Maybe you make some drawings first, and you think about your plan step by step. You have to gather the right materials. Or maybe you talk to some other helpers about how best to make it, right? What if this is a super important project at school? [*Discuss*] This kind of work requires us to be very careful and thorough. And that's what God did too. The Bible tells us that God **FORMED** [*Emphasize this word and write it on the board.*] man out of the dust of the ground. Did you know that our body contains the same basic ingredients that are found in dust: salt, copper, iron, and other minerals? And what did God do with this dust? He formed it, He shaped it, He took that material and made the form of a wonderful man. Awesome!

Then the Bible tells us something even more amazing. Because that form of a man made from the dust wasn't alive yet, right, how could it get to be alive? Did God speak it alive? Listen, God took that form of a man and He **BREATHED** [*Emphasize this word and write on board. Demonstrate by blowing into your hands.*] into his nostrils. And the Bible says that breath was not just any kind of breath. No, it was the breath of **LIFE**. And right then man became alive!

Remember the creation of the plants and of the animals? God spoke and the plants and the animals came into being. He didn't form those from dust. He didn't breathe into the plants to make them alive or breathe into the animals either. Aha, but here, in the creation of man, we see how careful God was. He formed man out of the dust of the ground and then God breathed into man the breath of life. What great care God took in His creation of man!

But God wasn't done yet. God cared for this man named Adam so much. He knew it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. He needed someone to stand by him and help him. So God took another step and created a woman. That's right, Adam would have a wife to be his companion. And because this was so important, again, God did this in a very careful and thorough way. He didn't just speak, "Let there be a woman." No, listen to this. God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. And while he was sleeping, God opened his side and took out one of his ribs. That's

right—one of his bones— God actually removed it! He took it out while Adam was sleeping and carefully closed him back up. Then He took that rib, which had been in Adam before, and now **BUILT** [*Emphasize this word, write on board if possible*] a woman. Isn't this amazing? How thorough and careful God was in His creation of a man and now also in His creation of a woman.

Aren't you happy at how wonderfully you were made? Wow, so many parts and pieces that all work together! Our ears were designed so we can hear. Our eyes were designed so we can see. Even think about how our face looks. What if our nose was upside down? That would be a big problem on a rainy day! But look how God purposely designed everything just right. How careful and thorough He was. Look at your hands. You have one thumb and four fingers. What if, instead of this, you had five thumbs? You might have a hard time picking up your fork to eat. But with your hands you can do anything. We were truly made by God so wonderfully!

So I hope you will really consider how important it is to be thorough and careful. Many times at home we have responsibilities we have to do. One of the chores in our house is for the children to set the table for dinner. Sometimes they do a very careful job remembering to place the fork on top of the napkin, to the left of the plate and the knife and spoon to the right of the plate. They put the glass in its place and everything looks so nice and orderly as we sit down for dinner. The meal is served and we can all enjoy it together. But what if the job was not done carefully? "Oh no! Where's my fork?" "Hey! I need a drink!" Oh my – you see what a disappointment that would be for everyone. [*Insert your own story, which demonstrates being thorough and careful in the work you do.*]

Aren't we all glad to hear that God didn't act so careless in His creation? He took the time to make a plan for His creation of man and woman. And He completed all the steps in the most perfect way. So in this next week, let's also try to be thorough and careful in all our responsibilities at school and at home.

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 3**

### **Adam and Eve Were Given a Choice**

Point to Emphasize: We have choices we can make.

Reference Reading: Genesis 2

Memory Verse: Who then is the man who fears Jehovah? Him will He instruct concerning the way that he should choose. (Psalm 25:12)

#### Story Sample

Now Adam and Eve were living in the place that God had prepared for them, the garden of Eden. Adam's job was to work in the garden and keep it just as God had made it. I know a gardener and he just loves his job! He said it makes him feel so good to be outside, enjoying God's creation. He can watch the grass and flowers and trees grow; then he cuts, trims, and digs up the soil so that it will keep growing. He told me it makes him feel very good when he is done and he can see how pretty everything looks. So Adam had a very good job!

God not only placed this couple in a wonderful place, He also provided them with the best food. He could have given them many instructions, but He gave them only one. He told them that they could eat from every tree in the garden - EXCEPT from one. He instructed them that they could not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned them that if they did that, it would only lead to trouble.

God gave them the choice. He could have just decided to not put that tree in the garden and everything would have been fine. But He wanted them to make a choice – to choose what God wanted.

We make choices every day, especially about our food, don't we? When I was young, sometimes I would go in the kitchen to get my breakfast ready and I would see leftover pie from the night before sitting there. Even though my mom had told me a hundred times that it is not good to eat sugar for breakfast, I would still be tempted to choose the pie over the egg that was so much healthier. You know what I mean? Veggies for a snack are better than chips, but how often do you choose the chips over the carrots? *[Insert a personal example of making the right choices for a 7/8 year old.]*

Our days are filled with choices! Should we choose to say something mean or something nice? Should we disobey our parents or should we obey them? Should we choose friends that are always getting in trouble or should we choose friends that want to do what is right? So many choices to make!

I have to admit that sometimes I have made the wrong choices. I can tell you that every time I had to choose between pie and an egg, I didn't always choose the right thing. It's okay if yesterday you made a mistake. Today is a new day to go on. We can decide, "Today I want to make the right choice."

So God not only created man, He also gave him the best place to live, the best things to eat and most of all, He gave him the ability to make a choice about what to do. So this week let's all try to make the best choices in everything we do or say!

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 4**

### **Adam and Eve Received God's Forgiveness**

Point to Emphasize: We should admit when we have done something wrong.

Reference Reading: Genesis 3

Memory Verse: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

#### Story Sample

In the garden God had provided food for Adam and Eve, but He told them that there was one tree they should not eat from and warned them there would be consequences if they disobeyed. He gave them the choice to pick what He had provided for them. But do you know what happened? Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They ate of the fruit of the tree that God specifically told them not to eat. They failed. They were so ashamed. They knew they were wrong and they had failed, so they sewed fig leaves together to try to cover themselves and then they ran away and hid themselves. Then God came to look for them. They heard God's voice...and what do you think they did? Did they continue hiding?

What do you do when you do something wrong? Have you ever lied? Have you ever disobeyed? Have you ever hidden when you heard your dad coming in the door? How did you feel? *[Engage the children around these questions. Take some time to discuss these questions with the children and have them tell their experiences.]*

Let me tell you a story about my husband when he was a little boy. He really liked to play with balls. His mom had told him repeatedly that he was not supposed to play with balls inside the house as he may break something. Well, one day his mom stepped outside to do some gardening while he played inside. He got bored of his toys and started playing with his favorite ball...inside the house! He was good with balls, so he figured he could always catch the ball before it hit or broke anything. Well, it didn't happen immediately, but after a few minutes, he threw the ball a little too hard, and it went a little too far. Before he knew it, it had hit one of his mom's favorite picture frames! The frame fell from the wall where it hung, and when it hit the ground the glass shattered into a million pieces! Oh no! What do you think he did when his mom saw what he had done?! *[Use your own personal example.]*

When God came to find Adam and Eve, they didn't keep hiding. They came to God. But when God asked Adam what happened, do you think Adam admitted immediately that he did something wrong? Well, actually, he blamed Eve; then Eve blamed the serpent. Aren't we like this, too? Even after we get caught doing something wrong, we still try to blame it on something or someone else. Maybe if you have a little brother or sister, you would blame him or her. Or you may blame the wrongdoing on your dog.

Adam and Eve realized that they had a big failure, but they didn't take the way of staying hidden. Even though they didn't admit to it right away, they knew they were guilty and they needed forgiveness. They couldn't keep running from God!

Well, God again provided for them. He replaced their fig leaf coverings with coats of skin and clothed them. God loved them very much. But they could no longer stay in the garden. They had to leave, find shelter, and work hard for their food. It must not have been easy. But it was a price they had to pay for failing God and disobeying His commandment. Even though they

had to leave the garden, God sent them with provisions. He told them to work the land so they could raise food. They tended sheep, too.

When we do something wrong or when we disobey our parents, we need to acknowledge what we've done and admit that we are guilty. And we apologize. It might be easy for us to say a quick, "Sorry," but sometimes that is not enough. We need to be prepared to do whatever it takes to correct our mistakes. In my husband's case, yes, his mom was upset that he broke her favorite frame AND was disappointed that he disobeyed her! But she forgave him because, of course, she loved him more than she loved the broken picture frame. But do you think that was it? Should his mom just have said, "That's okay."? No. Even though he was forgiven, the frame was still broken. He needed to fix what he broke. He had to go get his piggy bank and take out the money he had been saving. Instead of using the money to buy something he REALLY wanted, he had to use it to buy his mom a new frame. Not only that, he got punished for disobeying, too. But you know what, he asked for forgiveness, he received forgiveness, he paid for what he had done, and his relationship with his mom was restored. *[Use your own example of righting a wrong.]*

God and our parents love us so much. There will be times when we will fail, whether on purpose or not. When we do something wrong, we should not be afraid to admit fully to what we have done. It is by this that we can receive forgiveness. But we also should ask our parents what we can do to take care of the situation. We need to be prepared to accept the consequences. It is by this that we can find a solution to the problem that was caused. This way, we can be reconciled.

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 5** **Honoring God—Cain and Abel**

Point to Emphasize: We should honor God by following God's way.

Reference Reading: Genesis 4:1-25

Memory Verse: ...But now Jehovah declares, Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who spurn Me will be lightly esteemed. (1 Samuel 2:30b)

### Story Sample

After Adam and Eve left the garden they began a family. Their first son was named Cain and their second son was named Abel. Both boys were raised together in a household that believed in God and followed God's way. As these boys grew, they took different jobs. Cain became a tiller of the ground. This means that he planted vegetables and crops for his family to eat. Abel became a tender of sheep, like a shepherd.

When Adam and Eve left the garden, God made coats of animal skin to clothe them. These were made by God and they made Adam and Eve acceptable in the eyes of God. So for Abel to decide that he wanted to raise sheep, it meant the sheep were only for this purpose: to clothe them and keep them acceptable to God. His actions were an honoring of God. He was taking care of God's need.

One day both Cain and Abel brought an offering to God. Do you know what an offering is? *[Give the children a chance to answer.]* An offering is to give a portion of what you have made or produced to God. Cain brought an offering from the things he had grown. He thought this was the best to offer to God. Abel brought an offering from the lambs he was caring for. Based on all that he had learned from his parents, Abel gave this to God. To God, Abel's offering was very special. His offering showed that he had followed all that he had learned from his parents in honoring God and following God's way. This really made God happy.

When Cain saw that God was pleased with Abel's offering he became very angry. Cain didn't honor God with his offering but instead did what he thought was better. Then when God was more pleased with Abel's offering, Cain got angry and jealous. God warned him not to be angry, but Cain didn't listen to this warning. Instead he came up with a plan to seek revenge upon his brother. Do you think Cain's further action was an honoring to God? No way! This should be a warning to us when we get angry or upset. How do we handle our feelings? Have you even had an experience like this? You get upset over something someone else did because his or her way turned out to be better than yours. How do you feel when at the dinner table your older sibling gets praise or tells everyone about a reward he or she received at school? How do you respond? Can you be happy for your brother or sister? *[Share a personal experience or allow others to share an experience.]* What do you think is a good way to handle those feelings?

Anyway, Cain brought his brother to a field and killed him. Can you believe it? How terrible Cain's actions were. Surely he made many poor choices. He chose to come up with his own way in presenting an offering to God. He then became jealous and angry toward his brother when he realized his brother's actions were more honorable to God. And instead of following God's warning to not give in to his anger, he killed Abel.

Abel was a son who chose to honor God. He listened carefully to his parents' instructions on living a life to honor God and he followed this way. His offering to God was an honoring of God.

He didn't put his own ideas first, before what God's need was. He is a good reminder to us that we need to follow God's way and honor Him. After Cain and Abel, Eve had another son she named Seth. Adam and Eve, again, raised Seth in the way of honoring God. Seth must have learned the lesson from what happened with his older brothers, that it was better to follow God's way. Seth, too, chose to follow God's way and honor Him first. This lesson is not just for Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, and Seth. It is for all of us. Let's do our best to honor God this week by following our parents' instructions. Then we, too, can be pleasing to the Lord.

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 6 Depending on God**

Point to Emphasize: We can learn from Enosh and Enoch to live our life depending on God.

Reference Reading: Genesis 4:16—5:32

Memory Verse: Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, / And do not rely on your own understanding; (Proverbs 3:5)

### Story Sample

At the very beginning, there was Adam. And Adam's family kept growing. Years after Adam came Enosh; and years later came Enoch. Enosh and Enoch were part of the same family, and they both had in common a very important characteristic: they lived their life depending on God.

First of all, what do you understand by the word "depend"? What does it mean to depend on something? To depend on something or on someone means that you can't live without that thing or that person. Let's list some of the things that we simply can't live without. *[Write on the board: "We depend on..." and "We don't depend on...". Help the children to name items like food, water, air, sleep, family and write these under the first column. Things we don't depend on can be video games, soda, toys. (Don't spend too much time on the second list.)]* So, it doesn't matter what your age is. It doesn't matter what grade you are in. It doesn't matter if you are an 8 year old boy or a 42 year old dad. We all need food, water, air, sleep and a family. Without these things in our lives, we can't live. Now, where does God fall on these two lists? Of course! We can depend on God! Yes, God! God is like food, like the air, like the water. We need God as part of our life every single day!

Ok, let's go back to Adam's family. Enosh was part of the third generation in the Bible. And Enosh realized that the human life was weak, fragile. So he started to call, to cry out, the name of Jehovah. He was in trouble; he didn't know how to live his life, so he decided to call "JEHOVAH". Enosh depended on God to live his life. What do you do when you need help? Yes, you call, "Mom, help!" or, "Dad, help!" After Enosh called Jehovah, I know he was so relieved that whenever he was lonely, whenever he was sad, or even when he was happy, he could call, "JEHOVAH". So, don't think you need to "do it all". It is okay to ask for your parent's help or your teacher's help or your serving one's help. You can ask for help!

Years later came Enoch, and Enoch went even further when he decided how to live his life. The Bible tells us that Enoch walked with God. If we read Genesis 5:21-24 carefully, we will see that Enoch began walking with God at the age of sixty-five and continued walking with God for three hundred years. WOW! That is a giant number! To walk with God means that Enoch didn't do things as he wanted. Enoch was always with God, and God was always with Enoch every day of his life. So Enoch lived his whole life depending on God! This means that when he got up in the morning, God was there. When he was eating his meals, God was there. When he was doing his chores, God was there. That is awesome! I'm sure Enoch knew how to do his chores. He didn't need anyone to do it with him. But Enoch decided to depend on God for everything!

So, both Enosh and Enoch lived their lives depending on God. Enosh sought God when he was weak. But what about when you are doing something that you can do by yourself? Do you need God for that? Well, that is the way Enoch lived. Even when he was not a young boy anymore

and was an older man, he could have lived his life by himself and the way he wanted; but Enoch decided to live his life depending on God.

Children, there are many people around us who do not know God as Enosh and Enoch. They think of God as someone to go to only when they are in need. But we know that we can talk to God and we can walk or live with God every single day! Do you know that each one of you, just like Enosh and Enoch, can talk to God? We can tell God so many things! He is our Creator. He placed us in a family. He provides for our needs. He is our wonderful God! There are so many things for which we can give thanks to God!

So we see that Enosh and Enoch could have lived the way they wanted. They could have done the things they thought were best for them. I am sure they had their own abilities and they were more than capable to make a living for themselves. Why did they live their lives depending on God? They all realized that the only way to follow God's way was to depend on God. They knew God was the one that was fit and capable to lead them. They constantly, day by day and moment by moment, depended on God by talking to God and walking and living with God. Let's follow their example this week!

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 7**

### **Noah—Preparing for the Flood**

Point to Emphasize: We can prepare by following instructions.

Reference Reading: Genesis 6

Memory Verse: Heed instruction and be wise; and do not neglect it. (Proverbs 8:33)

#### Story Sample

We have been talking about some very important men in the Bible, haven't we? Starting this week, we will see who Noah was and what he did. Remember Adam, Abel, Seth, Enosh, and Enoch? Well, they continued to have more children, and Noah was one of the descendants. Has anyone ever heard of Noah's story?

Noah was a righteous man and he walked with God, yes, just like all the men we have talked about so far. He was on God's side at a time when no one else was. God was so troubled that He could not find anyone else righteous. Look at how much God cares about man and his condition. He looked at the terrible condition the earth was in and the Bible says, "it grieved Him in His heart". To grieve somebody means to cause great sorrow to that person; so, He was very sad in His heart. God, full of consideration and purpose, told Noah that He would destroy the living things on the earth with a flood. It was time for a fresh start and God was going to use Noah!

God gave Noah a very important job—he was to build an ark. Do you know what an ark is? It's like a large boat or ship. Noah was to build an ark to prepare for the coming flood. It was a very big job, because the ark would be for him and his family, as well as their food and all the animals.

Noah had to prepare to build the ark. This was a massive job so God gave him specific instructions. He told Noah the ark needed to be made of gopher wood. Do you think Noah could just go to the home improvement store and buy the gopher wood? No way! He had to go to the forest, cut down the trees, and haul them back to where he was building. God also told Noah to cover the ark with pitch both on the inside and on the outside. Pitch is something that can be used to make wood waterproof, probably like tar. So let's consider: Noah had to go to the forest, cut the trees, haul them back to the building site, and cover all of the logs with pitch so that the ark would be waterproof. Does that sound like an easy job? Well, maybe it's not bad if it was a small boat. But then God told him how long and how high to make the ark. This ark had to be long enough to hold Noah, his family, and the animals. How long do you think it needed to be? Maybe as long as a basketball court? Not long enough. Maybe as long as this building we are in? Not even close. The ark needed to be 450 feet long, that's longer than a football field! And the ark had to be wide – 75 feet wide. That's about as long as a tennis court. AND the ark had to be tall. It was 45 feet tall! That is taller than a three story building! That's A LOT of wood Noah needed to get and that is A LOT of logs Noah needed to cover with pitch. God told Noah to make an opening for light in the ark—like a skylight. He also said that the entrance of the ark would be in its side, and that the ark would have three stories. So what do you think Noah did when God gave him all these instructions? Do you think he said "no"? Do you think he told God "not now"? No! He got to work! God had given him this very important job, and Noah began preparing right away. The Bible says, "according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

After Noah built the ark, God had more instructions for him. God said that after the ark was built, Noah would enter the ark with his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives. Then he also needed to fill the ark with two of every kind of living thing, a male and a female, of everything according to its kind, to preserve them alive. Then God also told Noah to take some of every kind of food for him and his family, as well as for the living things that were in the ark with them. That takes a lot of preparation. Think about all the food they had to prepare for the family, and all the hay, birdseed, and food they had to collect for the animals. He had to gather everyone and everything they needed, as well as all the animals God told him to take with them. And you know what? Noah did all that God commanded him. Because Noah followed God's instructions, he and his family were very well-prepared for the coming flood.

Just like Noah who had to prepare for the task God had given him, we also have experiences of having to prepare for things. When it is time for the summer or winter training, we open our home to have hospitality. Saints from all around the world are coming to the meetings, and they need a place to stay. In our house this means that one of the children has to give up their room and move in with their sibling. We all need to pitch in and get our home ready for our guests. We have to first clean up all the toys that are often left out and store them in the closets. We have to dust, sweep, and prepare fresh bedding. We have to clear space in the closet for the visiting saints to hang up their clothes. We have to make sure the bathrooms are ready for our guests, too. We also need to get the rest of the house ready. I'm sure my children would rather go out and play with their friends or do other things than prepare their room, but they can't. They need to follow our instructions and help prepare for our hospitality. Sure they have to miss out on other opportunities, but you know what? They are always so happy when the saints arrive and are in our home. So maybe Noah's sons were like this, too. I have a feeling that they probably had to miss out on some opportunities and help their father build the ark. But don't you think they were happy when all the work was completed? Yes, indeed!

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 8**

### **Noah—Choosing to Enter the Ark**

Point to Emphasize: We should enter into the things that God has prepared for us.

Reference Reading: Genesis 7:1-16

Memory Verse: Because God has provided something better for us... (Hebrews 11:40a)

#### Story Sample

After many years of building the ark and preparing for the flood, finally the ark was ready! God told Noah to enter the ark and, after seven days, God caused it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights. Now, do you remember who was supposed to get into the ark? Right. Noah, his wife, Noah's sons and his sons' wives were all supposed to enter. Then, he also had to take some animals. God told him to take seven pairs, a male and female, of every clean animal, then another seven pairs of every unclean animal. Noah also took seven pairs of the birds of heaven, as well as of the cattle and of everything that creeps upon the ground. And two by two, a male and a female, the animals entered into the ark, just as God had commanded.

So, that day Noah made a very important decision. Noah and his wife chose to enter into the ark that God had planned for them. So, picture this with me. Noah and his wife —dad and mom— are inside the ark. But, what about Noah's sons? What did they do? Did they go inside the ark right away? Did they follow dad and mom inside the ark? I picture Noah's sons standing there in front of that huge ark, and they see their parents entering the ark following God; but they had other choices, you see. Maybe they looked up and it wasn't even raining and they saw everyone else outside perhaps laughing at them thinking they were all crazy. It must have been a tough and hard decision for Noah's sons to make. Wouldn't you think so? The sky was clear, yet these eight people were leaving their homes and everything else and just going into an ark. What would you have done? Well, Noah's sons and their wives followed Noah and they all too chose to enter the ark. God didn't force them to enter. Noah's sons had options, but they made the right choice to enter the ark with their parents following God!

The Bible says in Genesis 7:16 that when they were all inside, "Jehovah shut the door behind them". And then, not just drops started coming down, but the Bible says that "all the springs of the great deep burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened...waters increased and lifted up the ark, and rose it high above the earth...and the ark went about on the surface of the waters...all the high mountains that were under the entire heaven were covered." WOW!! It happened just as God had told Noah! Can you imagine?! This huge ark was being lifted up and was floating above the water? It wasn't a little tug boat, you know! Now, take a minute to think with me. How do you think Noah's sons felt at that moment? How do you think they felt when the ark was being lifted up off the ground? How about when the ark started moving? What did it sound like when all you heard was water coming from everywhere? What were they thinking? How were they feeling? I'm sure they felt safe, cared for not only by their parents but by God. *[Guide the children to say, happy they were inside the ark, relieved they made the right choice by entering with their parents, glad they followed their dad Noah, thankful to God for such a provision, etc.]*

I'll let you know what happened to me one day. My parents took me to every church meeting they went to. Sometimes, there were no children's meetings, and we were supposed to bring our books to read or paper to draw on and stay quietly next to them. For me, it was kind of

boring at times. So that day, I decided not to enter and stay outside playing with other kids. But my sister decided to enter and stay with my parents. What happened next, I will never forget. The children outside started to throw rocks at each other. I took just one rock and threw it and guess what... It landed on one of my friend's face and oh, it was terrible. We had to rush to the meeting to get our parents out. My dad was not happy with me. And inside of me I felt just terrible. I wish that day I would have entered that meeting and followed my parents. *[Give your personal example of choosing to follow your parents to do something and feeling relieved you did.]*

While growing up you will face this situation many, many times. God has prepared many things for you to be safe and be rescued. Let's name a few. God has prepared a home for you. He has provided you with a family. How about having the proper companions? Aren't you happy you are in the children's meeting? There are many wonderful things that God has prepared for each one of you. You are in the best place! And as you grow older, you will even see more and more things that God has planned for you. You need to keep your eyes open! But, God will not force you to choose these things. Will you go in following what God prepared for you? Or will you take another way? I assure you that when you follow God and you choose to enter into the things God has planned and prepared for you, you will feel safe and rescued. Just like Noah's sons must have felt when they were inside the ark as it started raining, in the same way, you will have the sense that you are in the best place! I want to encourage you to make the right choices by entering into the things God has planned and prepared for you!

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 9** **Noah—Passing Through the Flood**

Point to Emphasize: Noah was faithful to God and God remembered him.

Reference Reading: Genesis 7:17—8:3

Memory Verse: Know therefore that it is Jehovah your God who is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and lovingkindness to the thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

### Story Sample

Can someone remind us what we have learned about Noah so far? Yes, Noah was a man who was given a very important job by God. He was to build an ark, fill it with animals, and then enter into it with his family. So Noah did all that God had told him to do. He prepared the ark and he gathered in all the animals. He, his wife, his sons and his sons' wives all went into the ark, and then God shut the door behind them.

On the same day they went into the ark, it began to rain. It rained and it rained and it rained! It rained for forty days and forty nights. What happened when it rained non-stop for so many days? A flood came. But Noah and his family were protected and safe within the ark. Because Noah followed God's directions in preparing the ark, he followed the exact measurements and used the special materials that God had told him to use, he, his family, and all the animals within were saved. They had enough food to eat, they stayed dry, and the animals were well cared for, all because Noah was faithful to follow God's directions.

While Noah and his family were safe in the ark, God cleaned up the earth. The earth, in its terrible condition, was thoroughly washed clean. As the waters filled the earth, the ark was safe. The waters eventually got so high that even the highest mountains were covered. The water stayed on the earth for one hundred and fifty days. That's about five months. Yet, because Noah was so careful to listen to God's instructions, he, his family, and all the animals were well cared for.

Have you ever gone on a long car trip with your family? When I was younger I traveled with my family by car across the whole United States. That trip didn't take one or two hours, but it took many days. Now don't you think that during that time in the car we might have gotten bored, or hungry, or even sleepy? We sure did. But we were all well cared for because my parents were prepared. They made a plan of where we would stop to sleep. They packed a large cooler of food to eat. And they made sure my siblings and I packed lots of activities for the long hours in the car. So while we were in that car for so many long days, we didn't have any complaints. Instead, we really enjoyed our journey and all the provisions we had. My parents were faithful to follow their plan and everything was taken care of. *[Storyteller: insert your own story of being faithful to follow a plan and how all things were taken care of as a result of following that plan.]*

Noah carefully took care of the plan and directions that God had given him. They were in the ark for five months! Wow! That's a long time to be in that ark. During that time, as the waters rose and covered the earth, Noah and his family didn't have to worry. They waited patiently for God to accomplish His plan of cleaning the earth.

How do you think you might feel living in an ark for five months? Do you think you might ask, "Are we there yet?" I know if I were one of the parents in the ark, my children would definitely be asking, "How much longer?" For five months, Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives were in that ark! But they didn't know how long their journey would last. They just trusted in God's faithfulness to take care of them.

Let's think about that period of time they were passing through the flood. How do you think it felt like to be in that ark for that long? Remember all the animals were in there with them. How do you think it smelled? What do you think they thought when the food began to dwindle? Would you start to worry if you were them in the ark? Would you be tired of cleaning up after the animals or making sure they all were fed? Do you know that the Bible says, "And God remembered Noah and all the animals and all the cattle that were with him in the ark." God remembered Noah. What does this mean? He not only remembered him, but He actively did something to take care of Noah's situation. The next verse in the Bible says, "God made a wind pass over the earth, and the water subsided." This was God working to dry up all those flood waters. Not only did the wind come, but the Bible says, "The springs of the deep and the windows of heaven also stopped, and the rain from the heavens was restrained. And the waters receded steadily upon the earth." Who can tell us what this means? *[Allow children to explain, if possible.]* Yes, God caused the rain to stop and the flood waters to gradually go down. God remembered Noah. He could have forgotten about him and the ark. But He didn't!

Because God took great care in giving Noah directions and Noah was faithful to follow this plan, he, his family, and all the animals were remembered by God, passed safely through the flood, and ALL their needs were taken care of. How can we experience this? By being careful to follow the directions our parents give us like Noah was in following God's directions. We can also be faithful in taking care of our responsibilities at home like Noah was when he had to prepare the ark and animals. I'm sure that if you do this, your parents will remember you and be so pleased with your faithfulness. I encourage you all to practice this in this coming week. Let's be those who are faithful!

## **Intermediate Level, Block 1, Week 10**

### **Noah—The End of the Flood**

Point to Emphasize: God was faithful to bring Noah through the flood and God made a promise.

Reference Reading: Genesis 8—9:17

Memory Verse: And call upon Me in the day of trouble: / I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me. (Psalms 50:15)

#### Story Sample

After it stopped raining and the flood waters no longer rose, the water slowly started to dry up. Can you imagine a flood that lasted one hundred and fifty days? The ark had been floating in these waters for such a long time and then one day it came to rest upon a mountain top. Little by little the water that covered the earth began to dry up and soon more tops of mountains could be seen.

After forty more days, Noah opened up the window of the ark and he let a raven fly out. Seven days later he let a dove fly out. Do you know that later that day the dove came back and it had something in its beak? It had an olive leaf. The dove saw the fresh olive leaf and plucked it. Where did it get a leaf? Only from a tree. That meant that the waters had receded enough so that new life, like the olive tree, began to grow again. This was a good sign to Noah. Then after another seven days Noah sent out the dove again. This time she did not return. It must have been dry enough for her to make a home and not need to come back to the ark.

So after some time Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that the ground was dry. God spoke to Noah telling him that it was time for him and his family to leave the ark, release the animals, fill up the earth again with new life and have a new living on earth. So Noah, his wife, his sons and his sons' wives all left the ark. They brought out all the animals and they too went out into the new earth to make new homes and new families.

Do you know the first thing Noah did after leaving the ark? Did he first go to find a spot for his new home or look for the best area to start growing a garden? No, he didn't! Noah built an altar to Jehovah and gave an offering to Him. This was to thank God for His faithfulness to Noah and his family. He was so thankful that he wanted to offer something to God before he did anything else. This really made God happy.

God continued to speak to Noah and to give him instructions on how they were to continue to eat and live. And at the end of the instructions God made a promise to Noah. Isn't that special? God made a promise not only to Noah but to His people, all the future generations that would come—so that includes us. He said never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. To give Noah a sign of His promise God put a rainbow in the clouds. Have you ever seen a rainbow? It's so special to see one in the sky. Can anyone share with us about the time when they saw one? [*Serving one: speak of your experience when you saw a rainbow.*] What makes those colors appear? What a neat experience to see one. Well, God told Noah that every time He looks upon the rainbow He will remember this promise. Every time I see a rainbow in the sky, it surely makes me think of God's promise and His faithfulness. It is so wonderful that God made such a promise to Noah and all of mankind!

How encouraging this story of Noah is! We need to remember that no matter what we go through, whether we have a hard day or get a bad grade on our homework, we don't need to

look at our failures. Instead, remember that in the same way God was faithful to Noah to bring him through a hard situation, He will also be faithful to us by caring for us and bringing us through all of our situations, too. Don't worry if something goes wrong in your life. God will do what He said He would do. The Bible is a book full of God's promises to us. And in our experience, we can tell you, no matter what we go through He will be faithful to remember us and care for us. There is even a verse in the Bible that says, "He remains faithful" (2 Tim. 2:13). So God made a promise to Noah and all of us, and to this day, He is still faithful to that promise.