

The Course Overview gives a thorough description of this course.



COURSE OVERVIEW INTRODUCTION, AND SCHEDULING



THEME

“By faith Noah . . . built an ark to save his family.” Hebrews 11:7

ABOUT THE COURSE

Most children have at least a passing idea of the story of Noah’s ark. It’s often presented as a fun Bible story, and you can’t miss the cutesy, round ark with the giraffe’s head poking out the roof on wallpaper, light switches, games, and toys. Sadly many children have little or no concept of the truths behind the real story. It is the purpose of *Let’s Build an Ark* to give children a true account of this story, along with five other Bible stories that reinforce the Bible truths.

Not only will the children learn more about the Genesis account through various presentations, but they will also work as a group to construct a six-foot model of the ark. Every aspect of this curriculum will lead your children to a better understanding of God’s justice, care, goodness, guidance, and promises. The materials included with this course are designed to provide a complete, cost-effective, informative, enjoyable, scriptural, exciting, and memorable experience. All the materials you will need to carry out a complete five-day program for preschool to adults are included on this disk.

Note that this disk includes daily lesson stories in both NIV and KJV versions of the Holy Bible.

LESSONS

This course includes five levels of lessons.

- Level 1 Preschool-Kindergarten
- Level 2 Grades 1-2
- Level 3 Grades 3-4
- Level 4 Grades 5-6
- Level 5 Youth and Adult

You can also print them out in color or black and white.

With a course title like *Let’s Build an Ark*, it is obvious that during the five sessions the children will be taught the account of the great flood and Noah and the ark. However, there is much more to this curriculum. The writers included not one but **two** Bible stories each day. How will that work? The story of Noah was divided into five sessions. Each session was assigned a theme for the day. (For instance, on day one we will learn about the world’s wickedness at the time of Noah and God’s promise to send a flood. The theme for day one is **God Is Just**.) So each consecutive day the students will progress further through the story of the flood. However, along with each day’s story of the flood there will be a parallel story from the Bible that reinforces the day’s theme. (For instance, on day one the parallel story is about God’s judgment on Achan at Jericho.)

The account of Noah and the parallel story are presented differently. The parallel stories will be taught in the classroom by the teacher. Noah’s story of the flood will be presented by Noah and his family as they speak to the children assembled each day.

DAY ONE THEME: GOD IS JUST

Noah's presentation: God was just in destroying the world with a flood.

Classroom story: God was just in Achan's judgment at Jericho.

DAY TWO THEME: GOD IS GOOD

Shem, Ham, and Japheth's presentation: God was good to Noah and his family.

Classroom story: God was good to baby Moses and his family.

DAY THREE THEME: GOD IS OUR GUIDE

Noah's wife's presentation: God showed Noah how to build an ark to save his family and the animals.

Classroom story: God showed Moses how to build a bronze snake to deliver God's people..

DAY FOUR THEME: GOD CARES

Noah's presentation: God cared for Noah and his family while in the ark.

Classroom story: God cared for Elijah during a famine.

DAY FIVE THEME: GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Noah's presentation: The rainbow promise

Classroom story: The ascension promise

All lessons come in both NIV and KJV and are also on this disk in black and white and full color. Each lesson presents the story and an attached activity page. The preschool/kindergarten level also includes a parent page. The youth and adult lessons come with two opening options.



BUILDING THE ARK MODEL

This course comes with a six-foot, heavy paper model of the ark. Throughout the week the various grade levels will work on different parts of the model display. This will give children an opportunity to work together as classmates and schoolmates.



Preschool-Kindergarten THE ZOOKEEPERS

Making the animals

Grades 1-2 THE RAINBOW PAINTERS

Painting the rainbow

Grades 3-4 THE MOUNTAIN MAKERS

Preparing the table surface

Grades 5-6 THE SHIPBUILDERS

Constructing Noah's ark



This model will serve as a great display for your closing service and for your church, and can also be used as a marketing tool to invite local newspapers or local TV stations to tell the community about your VBS course.



You get everything necessary for a complete VBS on one disk!

NOAH SPEAKS

As mentioned earlier, each of the five sessions includes a presentation in which Noah and his family speak to the children about the great flood. This course includes the complete dialogue for the actors. Children will enjoy hearing the real story of the flood, the ark, its precious cargo, and what God's promise of the rainbow is all about. Simple instructions are included for you to construct an optional diorama wall of Noah's workshop to serve as a backdrop for the Noah presentations. AND . . . Noah will also play an important part in the musical that comes with this course. These daily presentations can easily serve as your devotion time with the entire assembly.

TEACHER GUIDES

Teacher guides for Noah's Crew Members are provided for each lesson. They include a brief schedule, story aim, truth, summary, and application. There are also special files on the course disk titled "Parallel Story Background and Application," which give teachers much more information about each story.

ACTIVITIES

Lessons in levels 1-4 have accompanying activity pages that are both enjoyable and educational.

DECORATIONS

It's fun to decorate your classrooms and hallways to reinforce the VBS theme. This year is no exception. Please visit the decoration file on this disk.

SNACKS

The snack file also contains both food and drink ideas for Noah's little helpers. You are welcome to use these or snack ideas of your own that once again bring out the theme of Noah's ark.



MUSIC

This is the first year that Kremer Publications has written a complete children's musical into the curriculum. This easy presentation requires no staging or costumes and includes easy recitations in verse and song. Special time has been set aside in the suggested daily schedules for musical practice. An additional file is included with simple campfire-type songs.

GAMES

You can have great indoor or outdoor fun with the many game suggestions on this disk. There is also a file for face painting.

TEMPLATES

The template file is designed for you to make copies of doorknob hangers, bulletin inserts, small posters, attendance charts, certificates, etc. Note that some of the templates are "typeable." These are designed so you can type in the information on your computer screen and then print that information.

WEB IDEAS

On this disk you will find a section that includes a church Web site attachment, Web activity pages for the kids to visit, and other suggestions.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Each course ordered includes the full course CD (or sent by Internet), musical accompaniment/sing-along CD (or sent by Internet in MP3 format), large wall blueprint of Noah's ark, and ark model. (Orders placed by Internet will be shipped the ark model and blueprint. Outdoor banners may be ordered separately. (Available only while supplies last.) Churches may also purchase miniature ark models for the children, and the DVD "Noah's Ark: Thinking Outside the Box". These items will be available while supplies last.

Look at all these extra items that are on the disk!

This course can easily be taught with a classroom approach or departmentalized.

TEACHING

Some churches prefer to teach in the traditional classroom method, and others prefer a departmental or wheel-and-hub style. You can easily adapt this curriculum to do either. The following schedule suggestions will get you started.

Since the various grades will spend time working together on joint projects, there will be several times that they will meet as a larger group. Those instances would include the presentation by Noah and his family, work on the ark project, and musical rehearsal. Two suggested daily schedules follow.

Suggestion 1

9:00 – 9:20	Noah's Family Speaks to Children (Serves as opening devotion)
9:20 – 9:50	Lesson/Activity
9:50 – 10:10	Restroom/Snack
10:10 – 10:30	Game Time (See game suggestions on this disk. Some games can be played by all grades.)
10:30 – 11:00	Work on Model (As separate grades Monday – Thursday, assemble project on Friday.)
11:00 – 11:30	Work on Musical (As separate grades Monday – Wednesday, together on Thursday and Friday.)

Suggestion #2

9:00 – 9:30	Work on Musical (As separate grades Monday – Wednesday, together on Thursday and Friday.)
9:30 – 10:00	Lesson/Activity
10:00 – 10:20	Restroom/Snack
10:20 – 10:40	Game Time (See game suggestions on this disk. Some games can be played by all grades.)
10:40 – 11:00	Noah's Family Speaks to Children
11:00 – 11:30	Work on Model (As separate grades Monday – Thursday, assemble project on Friday.)

SUPPORT

If you have any questions regarding the course or content, feel free to contact us at:

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THANKS

Special thanks are given to Mr. Eugene A. Sattler and the **Creation Education Association** for consulting assistance.

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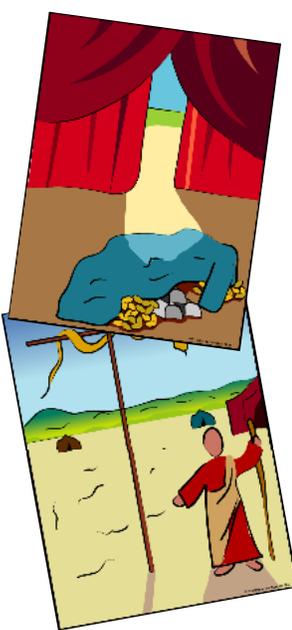
These pages provide valuable teacher information on each story.



PARALLEL STORY BACKGROUND AND APPLICATION

Let's Build an Ark includes two stories for the children to enjoy each day. Each day is assigned a specific theme. That theme is developed in the Flood story (presented by Noah and his family) and in an additional Bible story taught by the classroom teachers.

The backgrounds and applications on the following pages apply especially to the classroom stories.



DAY ONE THEME: GOD IS JUST

Noah's presentation: God was just in destroying the world with a flood.
Classroom story: God was just in Achan's judgment at Jericho.

DAY TWO THEME: GOD IS GOOD

Shem, Ham, and Japheth's presentation: God was good to Noah and his family.
Classroom story: God was good to baby Moses and his family.



DAY THREE THEME: GOD IS OUR GUIDE

Noah's wife's presentation: God showed Noah how to build an ark to save his family and the animals.
Classroom story: God showed Moses how to build a bronze snake to deliver his people.

DAY FOUR THEME: GOD CARES

Noah's presentation: God cared for Noah and his family while in the ark.
Classroom story: God cared for Elijah during a famine.

DAY FIVE THEME: GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Noah's presentation: The rainbow promise.
Classroom story: The ascension promise.



DAY ONE THEME: GOD IS JUST

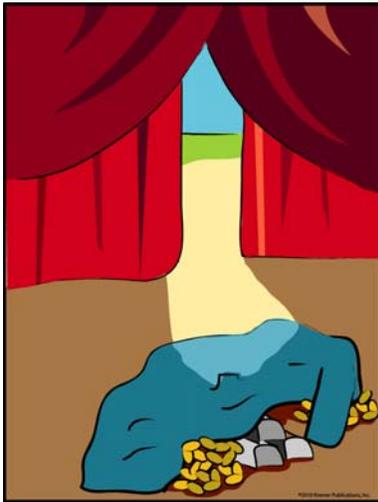
Classroom story: God was just in Achan's judgment at Jericho.

BACKGROUND

The Israelites had finally arrived in the Promised Land. The 40-year ordeal was over. Egypt was now completely behind them as they embarked on a new beginning in the land of Canaan. Joshua chapter 5 tells us that after they crossed the Jordan River, they celebrated the Passover, the holy day that was set as a reminder of their bondage in Egypt and the liberation by the Lord God. We also read that the manna ceased the day after they ate from the crops of Canaan.

Their next project was to begin clearing the heathen from the land. There were cities to destroy, enemies to conquer, and land to claim. Certainly Joshua made a fine leader because he was a professional warrior, a necessary talent at this point in Israelite history.

The first major obstacle facing the Israelites was Jericho, a walled city just west of the Jordan River. Perhaps some of the children remember the story in which the army of God marched around the city, blew their trumpets, and the walls fell down. That was a great victory for God's people.



STORY

Joshua 6:15-27

As in the wilderness, God frequently visited with Moses and Joshua with plans for the next stage of their journey. It was God who told Joshua how to be victorious over Jericho. Plans were carefully laid out to the last detail. Yet there was one final command of the Lord before they moved into the city: keep away from the devoted things—the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron—for they must go into the Lord's treasury. If any of these things were taken, it would bring about not only one's own destruction but also the destruction of Israel. It was a command that was simple to understand but difficult for one man in particular to follow.

Joshua 7:1

Achan thought he could get away with disobeying God's order. He came upon some of the gold and silver of Jericho that he coveted and stole, secretly keeping it for himself instead of turning it over for the

treasury of the Lord. Scripture tells us that because of this one sin, the Lord's anger burned against Israel.

Joshua 7:2-9

After Jericho fell, the Israelites set their sites on the city of Ai. This city of about 12,000 inhabitants was to be an easy victory for the mighty army of Israel. Consequently, Joshua sent only a small portion of his army to go against the few armed men of Ai. Yet the battle proved far more difficult than they anticipated. Instead of victory, Joshua's army was routed and forced to retreat. It was a scathing defeat for Israel. What could have possibly gone wrong? Scripture says the hearts of the people melted like water. Joshua tore his clothes and knelt before the ark of the covenant to ask the Lord why they had been defeated. He was very concerned that word of this defeat would spread throughout Canaan and they would become vulnerable to their enemies.

Joshua 7:10-23

The Lord spoke to Joshua with an angry tone telling him exactly why the Israelites lost the battle. It was because they violated God's command by taking some of the items in Jericho that were to be devoted to the Lord. These defeats would continue until the evil in the Israelite camp was removed.

So the next morning lots were taken to find the evil among the people. This was a practice commonly used in Bible times. It was a way in which the Lord would lead the people to a proper answer. Sometimes this was done by placing white stones and one black stone in a bag. The stones were then taken out one by one by the people. The one with the black stone was the lot's chosen one. Joshua did this in an orderly way to find the perpetrator. First, lots were drawn from the 12 tribes, then the clans in the chosen tribe, then the houses of the father in the chosen clan, and finally on the families in the houses. Eventually Joshua narrowed it down to the man Achan.

Achan finally admitted his wrongdoing. He saw the gold and silver, coveted them, and hid them in his tent. Achan both confessed his sin and admitted that God's judgment was just. Yet the confession was not enough. Achan, his family (who likely concealed the crime), and all his possessions were destroyed—Achan by stoning and the rest by fire. A monument was then erected on that spot, and it was named the Valley of Trouble. Scripture tells us that only then did the Lord turn away from his anger.

APPLICATION

There are many points that surface in this lesson, not the least being that God sees and knows everything. No matter how we try to hide our sins, they can certainly be seen by God. However, the main point today is that **God is a just God**. That means that God has the right to make the rules and carry them out as he sees fit. No doubt many of the children think it was mean of God to first command the people not to plunder and then to be so extreme in carrying out his judgment. We live in a society today that constantly repeats the phrase "everyone deserves a second chance." It seems no matter what the crime, we feel obligated to give second chances. We also hear the constant falsehoods regarding God's commands. Many people seem to think that if they appear unjust in our eyes, we need not obey them. Since God's views on homosexuality, abortion, sexuality, etc., seem extreme, we can simply ignore them and label them as being archaic. That is not God's way. First, because God is the Creator and preserver of everything, it is he alone who has the right to control things as he desires. It is God who makes the rules and doles out the punishment. There are times when that punishment is swift and terrible, as it was with Achan and at the time of the flood. Yet we must remember that God warned Achan as well as the people in Noah's day. When we look at stories such as these, it causes us to fall on our knees and thank God for his long suffering and patience with us. This is God's form of justice. No one can figure it out or understand why God acts as he does in each situation. Suffice to say that God's wisdom far surpasses ours. Instead we praise the Lord for being a just God.

Be certain not to leave the children without an explanation as to why God makes rules and commands for us to follow. We don't want them to see God only as a cruel and harsh God. There is a reason for the law. God has given us these rules to follow because he is a God of love. To many unbelievers this seems contradictory. But it is his love for us that causes him to want us to stay away from sin and its consequences because God knows what the result will be. God's will is that all people will be saved. That's why we have the rules. They are not a sign of a cruel God; rather, they are a necessary part of his loving plan for us.

TEACHER'S PAGES

GRADE 1-2

Teacher pages are concise without pages and pages to read.

Welcome to *Let's Build an Ark*. This program is designed to give children an opportunity to become familiar with the story of Noah and the ark and give valuable insights into God's love and faithfulness. It is based on Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah built an ark to save his family."

COURSE DESIGN AND LESSONS

It is important to understand the course design for *Let's Build an Ark*. There are some details that are slightly different from past Kremer VBS courses. Throughout this course the children will be spending some time each session building a 6-foot heavy paper model of Noah's ark. This will be done during the time that is normally allotted for crafts (however, if you have too many hands working on the model at one time, supplemental craft and game ideas are included on this disk). In addition to the normal VBS songs, the authors have included a complete 20-minute musical for presentation to parents and friends on the closing day. This would also take the place of the closing service.

Each session is assigned a theme for the day. (For instance, on day one we learn about the world's wickedness at the time of Noah and God's promise to send a flood. The theme for day one is **God Is Just**.) Each following day the students progress further through the story of the flood. However, along with each day's story of the flood there is a **parallel Bible story** that reinforces the day's theme. (For instance, on day one the parallel story under the theme **God Is Just** is about God's judgment on Achan at Jericho.)

The account of Noah and the flood and the parallel story are presented differently. Noah's story is presented by Noah and his family as they speak to the assembly each day. **The parallel stories will be taught in the classroom by the teacher.**

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DAY FOUR THEME: GOD CARES

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Classroom story: God cared for Elijah during a famine.

DAY FIVE THEME: GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Noah's presentation: The rainbow promise.
Classroom story: The ascension promise.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Since the various grades will spend time working together on joint projects, there will be several times that they will meet as a larger group. Those instances would include the presentation by Noah and his family, work on the ark project, and rehearsing the musical. Two suggested daily schedules follow.

Suggestion 1

9:00 – 9:20	Noah's Family Speaks Children (Serves as opening devotion.)
9:20 – 9:50	Lesson/Activity
9:50 – 10:10	Restroom/Snack
10:10 – 10:30	Game Time (See game suggestions on this disk. Some games can be played by all grades.)
10:30 – 11:00	Work on Model (As separate grades Monday–Thursday, assemble project on Friday.)
11:00 – 11:30	Work on Musical (As separate grades Monday–Wednesday, together on Thursday and Friday.)

Suggestion 2

9:00 – 9:30	Work on Musical (As separate grades Monday–Wednesday, together on Thursday and Friday.)
9:30 – 10:00	Lesson/Activity
10:00 – 10:20	Restroom/Snack
10:20 – 10:40	Game Time (See game suggestions on this disk. Some games can be played by all grades.)
10:40 – 11:00	Noah's Family Speaks to Children
11:00 – 11:30	Complete Model (As separate grades Monday–Thursday, assemble project on Friday.)

OPENING DEVOTION

Unlike most other Kremer VBS courses, this one does not include a specific opening devotion. Since this course includes the section **Noah's Family Speaks**, and since the presentations include Bible readings and applications, they would serve as daily devotions. If you would like to place a devotion at the beginning of the day, follow suggested schedule 1 above. Although a closing prayer is not included, remember to end each day in prayer with the children.

LESSON PREPARATION

To help prepare for each lesson, consult the Parallel Story Background/Application file. These helpful pages will give you important Bible study information about the day's lesson and will lead you to better understand the application of the story. It is essential that teachers be prepared for their lesson presentation, regardless of age level.

The following pages are a brief outline of each day's lesson. Kremer Publications strongly believes that it is unwise to overburden teachers with lengthy lesson plans and pages of teacher helps and confusing details. A truth, summary, and some preparation and scheduling thoughts are provided. No amount of teacher coaching can take the place of personal Bible study and classroom preparation. Be certain that you are adequately prepared to teach Christ's lambs, and you have ready and waiting all the materials you will need for the days' sessions.

THE CHILDREN

First and second grade children are inquisitive and love to ask questions. They are also eager to learn new things. Their faith is a simple child-like faith that is easily molded. Be certain to complete the information card on day one. (There is a card template on this disk.) This information should include the child's name, address, and phone (cell) numbers. Be certain to have the information available at all times in case an emergency arises. Make a special effort to get to know each child by name. Begin each lesson with the silent prayer in your teacher's guide and end each session with a prayer with your class.

NOTE

There are full-color teaching pictures provided on this disk.

GAMES, CRAFTS, ETC.

This course CD also includes files with outdoor game suggestions and crafts. These are only provided in case you have more than enough time to fill. The basic craft for this course is making the animals for the ark model.

The PDF files make
it easy to share
with your teachers.

LESSON 1: GOD IS JUST

The themes for this course are designed to fit as the story of Noah and the flood unfolds. Thus, on day one when we speak of the wickedness before the flood and God's judgment to destroy the world, the theme is **God Is Just**. Presenting the law first before the beautiful gospel message can be a very proper approach. Unfortunately, for young children, this theme can seem somewhat violent in nature, i.e., the deaths of all people during the flood and the stoning of Achan. Stress to the children that God gives us his laws and carries them out because of his great love. These laws keep us from destroying ourselves as they serve to show us our sins and lead us away from evil. Be certain your children leave the class today not only having heard the law but also the gospel message of God's love.

FLOOD CONNECTION: As God was just in Achan's judgment at Jericho, so he was just in destroying the world with the flood.

BIBLE REFERENCE: Joshua 6:15–7:26

AIM: What can we learn from Achan's death?

TRUTH: The death of Achan teaches us that God is just and his ways are right.

SUMMARY: God forbade the Israelites to take from the treasures of the city of Jericho. Achan disobeyed God and stole some treasures for himself. God punished Achan for his disobedience. God gives us rules that we might stay away from evil and remain close to him.

APPLICATION: See the detailed application in the Parallel Story Background/Application file.

PERSONAL PRAYER: *Lord God, heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach your precious Word to these little lambs. Give me the insight, wisdom, and words to show them your goodness and love. Be in my presentation and actions that I might impart your soul-saving truths to them. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lived and died for each of us. Amen.*

PREPARATION

- U Read the lesson carefully from the Bible and study the background and application provided.
- U Practice telling the story aloud to think through your delivery.
- U Prepare for the activity page.
- U Become familiar with the memory passage.

SCHEDULE PLAN

- U Today Noah will address the group.
- U Children will work with the individual teacher on the musical songs and recitations.
- U Your RAINBOW PAINTERS will be making the huge rainbow that hangs above the ark model. (Additional craft projects are available in the school musical file and the supplemental craft file.)

1. Welcome the students and get to know their names.
2. If name tags are available, complete them at this time.
3. Complete the registration card.
4. Present the title of the series.
5. Introduce and tell the story. Refer to the pictures on the page.
6. After telling the story, you may wish to read it to them.
7. Have the children color the pictures.
8. Do the activity with the children.
9. Leave time for snacks, games, and musical.
10. Discuss and practice the memory passage.
11. Close with prayer.

ACTIVITY PAGE

See instructions on the activity page. You will need scissors and crayons.

LEARN ABOUT GOD

Who takes care of you? We are all very fortunate that we have parents and families and friends to watch over us and care for us. Did you know that in some places around the world lonely little children must care for themselves? That is very difficult and very sad. What would you do if you were alone and had to care for yourself? You would have to find clothes and food and a safe place to stay. How would you do that?

Lessons are easy to follow and fun for the children.

FED BY THE BIRDS

1 Kings 17:1-6

Do you know who gives us food and clothing, nice cozy houses, protection, and health? It is God who takes care of us through many different people. God loves to care for his people.

One day there lived a godly man named Elijah. God asked him to teach the people about God's ways. Like Noah, Elijah also lived at a time when there were many wicked people. Wherever he went to preach and teach about God, the people refused to listen.

One day Elijah went to the king and told him that because of all the wickedness, God would not send any rain on the land for many years. God was angry because the king and his people refused to see his love.

Then God told Elijah to leave the country and hide in the wilderness near a small brook. Elijah could drink the water from the brook to help him stay alive. But what was he to eat? God planned to send black birds called ravens to Elijah every morning and every evening. They would always have morsels of meat and bread in their bills that they would share with Elijah. What a wonderful way for God to care for Elijah.

Before long the brook dried up. God told Elijah to move to the home of a widow woman and her son. There Elijah stayed as their guest. God sent Elijah there to share the love of God with these people. What a wonderful God we have.





POLLY ASKS



God cared for Elijah in a very unusual way. We've all seen people feeding the birds, but have you ever seen birds feeding people? Why did God do that for Elijah? God loves to care for his people. He even sends his angels to watch over us and to protect us. The Bible says that right now Jesus is in heaven getting a place ready for his people. Everyone who believes that Jesus died for their sins will go to heaven to live forever. What a great way for God to care for us!

WORDS FROM THE BIBLE

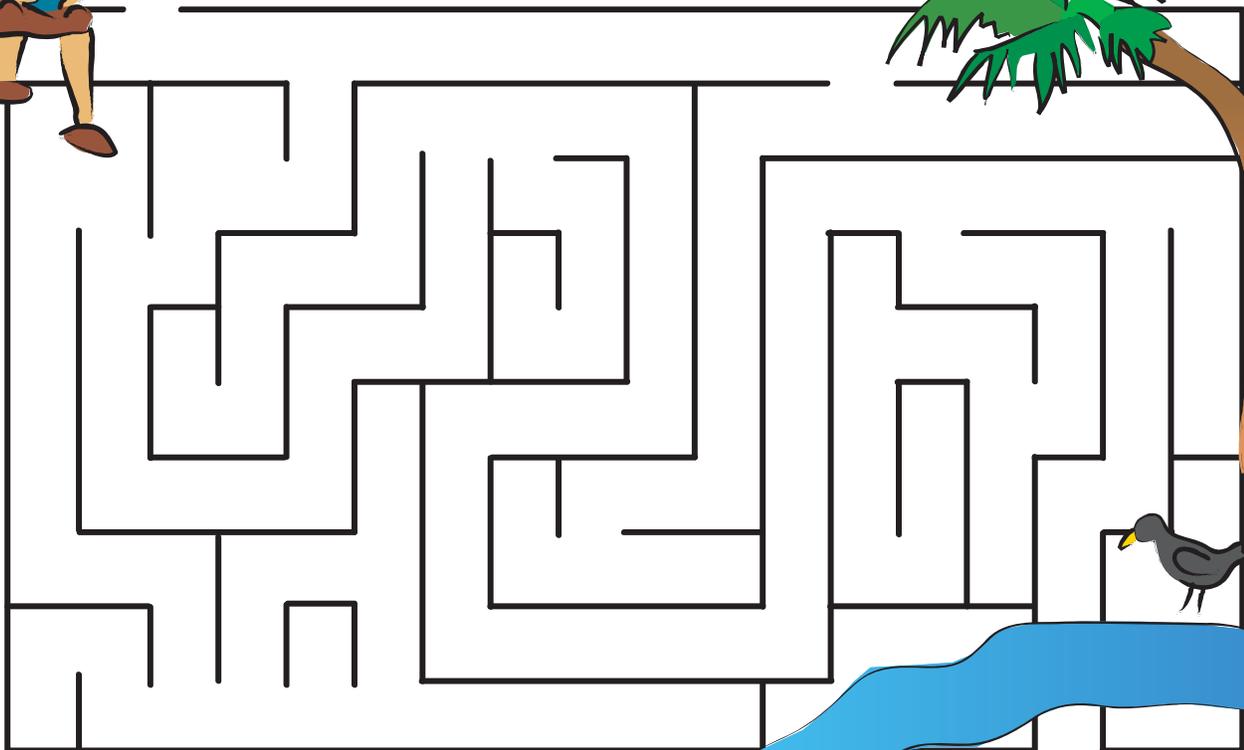
"He cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7 NIV

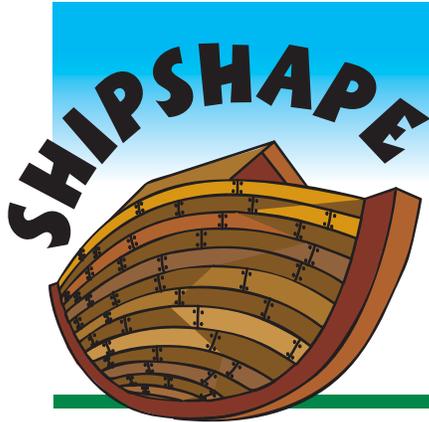
ACTIVITY:

Help get Elijah from the wicked king to the brook.

Each lessons includes a verse to memorize.



This is an example of a color lesson for Grades 3-4.



GOD TAKES CARE OF US

Do you have a pet? What kind? Pets give us lots of enjoyment and entertainment, but they can also be a lot of hard work. Pets need to be kept clean. We can take care of them by cleaning out their dirty cages, or even by giving baths. We know that pets also need to be fed. Birds need seed, hamsters need pellets of food, and dogs and cats need to eat too, every day. Without fresh food and water, our pets will become sick and even die. We know that people need to help feed their animals. But did you ever hear of an animal feeding a person? That sounds unusual, doesn't it? In our story today, we will see how God took care of his servant Elijah in a very unusual way.

FED BY THE BIRDS

1 Kings 17:1-6

Once there lived a godly man named Elijah. God chose him to preach to the people. Elijah lived during a very difficult time in Bible history. It was a time when most of the Children of Israel no longer believed in God as their Savior. Elijah lived during the reign of King Ahab. He was a wicked king who hated the Lord. Ahab did many evil things and spent his time following the devil.

One day Elijah came to King Ahab and told him that the Lord gave him a message to deliver to the king. The message was that because of their wickedness, God would refuse to send any rain on the land. God would not even give their crops a few drops of dew in the early morning. God was angry because his people had turned from him.

Then God told Elijah to leave the country and hide in the Kerith Ravine. There God would provide him with water from a small brook. But there was no food in the valley. Where would Elijah find food to eat? God had that planned too. He planned to send ravens to bring food to Elijah twice a day. The birds would bring bread and meat for him every morning and evening. The ravens became God's special waiters. God always takes care of his people.

Before long, the brook dried up. That was God's way of telling Elijah it was time to move to another place. God led Elijah to the home of a widow and her son. There Elijah stayed as a guest of the lady and her boy. God sent him there

to show them how much God loved them and that he wanted to show them the way to heaven.

God cared for Elijah in many other interesting stories. God cares for us today just as he did Elijah! Maybe you can share some of the ways God cares for you.



Each lesson is interesting and fun, but not at the expense of an accurate Bible account and an important Bible truth.

FROM THE TOOL BOX



What were some of the ways you thought of God caring for you? Did you mention all our wonderful food, our homes, our families, and our church? What about our fine clothes and our toys and games. God provides police officers, doctors, and nurses to watch over us and to care for us. Can you think of any more ways that God cares for us? He cares for us because he loves us. And the greatest way he cared for us was by sending his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so we can spend eternity with him in heaven. God is truly a caring God. What a wonderful God we have.

REMEMBER THE PLAN

“He cares for those who trust in him.”

Nahum 1:7 NIV

RELAXING ON DECK

You are very excited that Noah asked for your help with his project. Send an e-mail to your best friend telling him/her that you have been helping to build an ark.

To:

From:

Subject:

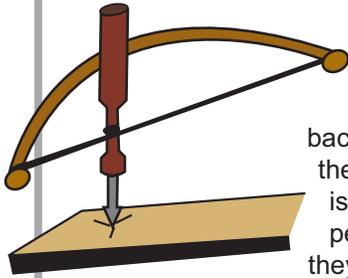
Message:



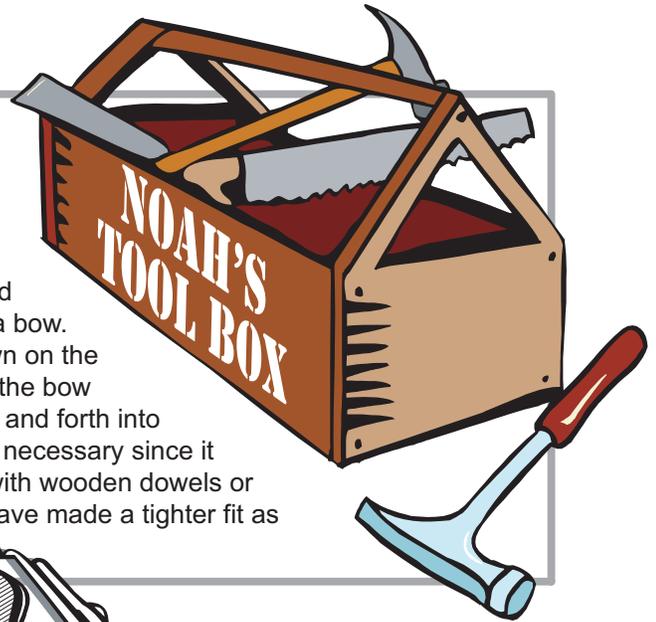
Grades 5-6 get
more material to
think about.

Drill

No doubt Noah would have enjoyed using our modern power tools. Thanks to technology, we can drill almost any size hole in almost any type of material. In the days of Noah, tools were somewhat more primitive. The drills used then looked more like



a bow and arrow. The string was wound around a drill bit and then attached to a bow. A block of wood was then pressed down on the bit with one hand while the other drew the bow back and forth causing the bit to rotate back and forth into the wood. Such a tool may have been very necessary since it is thought that the ark was held together with wooden dowels or pegs instead of nails. The dowels would have made a tighter fit as they swelled when they became wet.



MEASURING THE PROBLEM

God's Care

Animals need a lot of care. Any farmer will tell you that it is hard work feeding and caring for animals. They need straw for bedding, hay and grain for food, and warmth to keep them alive. Some animals need special care when they become ill. They all need to be kept safe from dangers that would harm them. Even if you have just one pet living in your home, you know the work it takes to give it tender loving care.

Can you imagine the work it takes for God to care for all of us? We need so many things to keep us alive and safe. Yet God loves to care for us and provide for our needs. Our story today shows us how God used an animal to care for the prophet Elijah.



THE PLANE TRUTH GOD CARES FOR ELIJAH

1 Kings 17:1-6

Elijah was a godly man who lived during the time when kings ruled the land of Israel. He was called a prophet because he preached and taught the people about the Lord. But when Elijah lived, the people no longer loved the Lord, and the rulers were wicked men who followed their own ways. One such king was named Ahab. Ahab was a very wicked king in Israel.

One day Elijah came to King Ahab and told him that the Lord had said that because of his wickedness God would refuse to send any rain for many years. God said he would not even leave dew in the morning on the leaves of the plants. God was angry because his people had turned away from him.

Then God told Elijah to leave the country and hide in the wilderness in a place called the Kerith Ravine. There God would see to Elijah's needs by providing water from a small brook that ran through the ravine. But what food was Elijah to eat? God had planned that out as well. He would send ravens twice a day to Elijah carrying food for him in their beaks. Every morning and evening Elijah was fed bread and meat by these special birds. God wanted Elijah to know that he would take care of him.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2 ►

"He cares for those who trust in him."

Nahum 1:7 NIV

GOD CARES FOR ELIJAH Continued

After awhile the brook dried up because of the famine. That meant that God wanted Elijah to pack up and move to another place. God led Elijah to the home of a widow and her son. Elijah stayed with them as their special guest. God sent Elijah there to show them how much God cared for them. God kept them fed through some wonderful miracles. And when the boy became sick and died, God brought him back to life through Elijah.

God's care for Elijah can be seen in many other interesting stories. God cares for us today just as he did for Elijah!



Nailing it Down

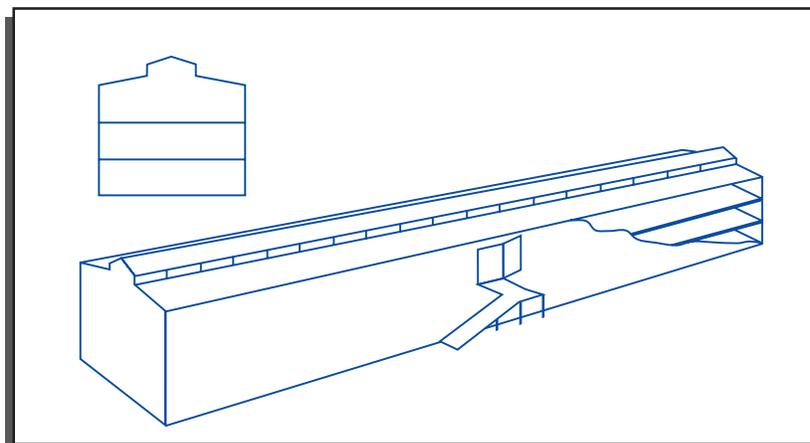
GOD CARES FOR NOAH

Just as God cared for Elijah, so he cared for Noah and his family. For over a year they lived in the ark while the world was being destroyed. Yet through all that time God watched over Noah and his family and kept them safe, warm, and well fed. God has not changed. He still cares for his people today just as he did many years ago. What a comfort it is to know that we have such a loving and caring God.

ARK BLUEPRINT

When God gave Noah the command to build an ark, it wasn't without providing some detail. Genesis chapter 5 gives rather interesting details about the size, openings, and deck levels. Engineers have studied these figures and agree that the dimensions given in Genesis certainly could work for a seaworthy vessel.

Using the Bible, a straightedge, and a large piece of white (use blue ink) or blue (use white chalk) paper, make your own blueprint of the ark. You can get an idea of shape and dimension from the display model you are working on. The blueprint should include a side view of the ark and a cutaway showing the deck levels.



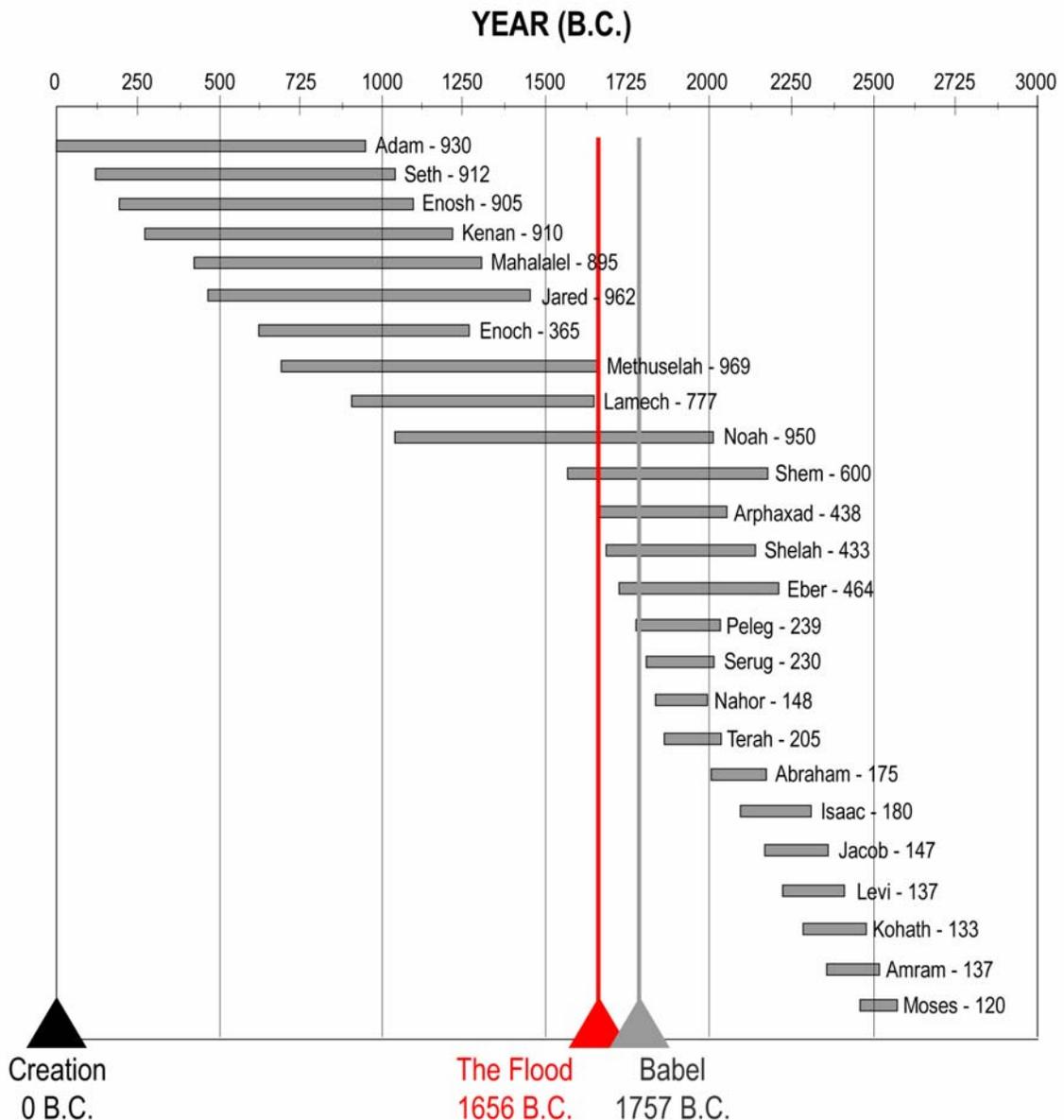
You have two options available to begin your lessons for youth and adults.

GOD CARES FOR US

Care: to be anxious, concerned

PREFLOOD AND POSTFLOOD LONGEVITY

There is an interesting change in longevity that occurred before and after the flood. The following chart shows life spans from Adam to Joseph as they are recorded in Genesis. At first glance there are some interesting comments to note.



- *Adam died in the year 930 while Noah's father, Lamech, was born in 874. Note the 56-year overlap between the two men.*
- *Methuselah, the man who lived the longest, 969 years, died the same year as the flood. It is likely he died just prior to the beginning of the flood.*
- *Noah died well after the incident at Babel.*
- *Shem (Noah's son) outlived Abraham. In fact, Shem outlived eight out of nine of the succeeding generations.*
- *Noah died when Abraham was 58.*
- *Shem (Noah's son) died when Jacob was 48 years old.*
- *The first eight patriarchs from Adam to Methuselah were all contemporaries of one another.*
- *The ten patriarchs before the flood averaged 912 years. Enoch was taken to heaven at age 365 (an interesting number), and Lamech died at age 777, although we do not know if he died of old age or another reason.*
- *After the flood (and after Noah) ages declined substantially.*
- *Moses died at age 120, which may have been very old for his day because he wrote in Psalm 90:10, "The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength." This leads us to believe that 70 to 80 was normal longevity for his day.*

The reason for such a decline in longevity can only be speculated. First, it seems that the worldwide flood had some connection with the change. One possible explanation is that there was a considerable change in genetics. Possible mutations in DNA or another reason may have been greatly responsible.

Another possible explanation is that prior to the flood there seems to have been a canopy of water surrounding the globe. This likely filtered out the sun's harmful rays, which cause rapid aging. The entire earth therefore was possibly at a constant temperature. When that canopy burst during the flood, it left the earth unprotected from the harmful rays, thus affecting the longevity of both animals and people. This could perhaps be a reason that dinosaurs lived to be so large prior to the flood. It could also have caused a the North and South Poles to plunge into an immediate ice age, perhaps explaining why palm trees and certain animals have been found under the ice at the poles.

Regardless of the reason that ages have changed, we must admit that ultimately God has a reason for the longevity of everyone who has or ever will live. After all, our times are truly in his hands!

Genesis 7:17–8:12 GOD CARED FOR NOAH

God takes care of us, no matter what may come our way. The prophets and apostles taught that over and over again. Jesus' every word and work on earth as well as in heaven, punctuates that very lesson. Today we rejoin Noah and his family as the waters rise while God lifts up their hearts and ours with this wonderful truth: God takes care of us!

LESSON 4, PAGE 3

Read Genesis 7:17-24

1. Some historians and even some Bible commentators have tried to explain the flood as merely a local event, confined to the Mediterranean region. How does the Lord make clear that this was a global rather than local event?
2. What effect would there likely have been on the landmasses when God opened up the “springs of the deep” (emptying out the huge amounts of water that God had placed below the surface at creation) and placed all the water from below and above on top of the surface of the earth’s continents?
3. For how many days did the rain come down? This was the very first of a number of other special occasions in the Bible that lasted 40 days. Try to think of some of these, and then see if you can come up with some commonality between them.

Read Genesis 8:1-12

4. The time of judgment was over. We see the redemptive hand of God in these next events as the Lord cares for his people. God caused the waters to recede. To where would they have receded? Where did the ark finally run aground?
5. Noah waited over a month after mountaintops became visible to send out some birds. Why did he send out the birds, and why a raven and a dove? What does the image of a dove carrying an olive branch signify today?
6. The following is from 1 Peter 3:20,21: *“God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”* Before this study, did you think primarily of the water of the flood as having destroyed people or as having saved people? What is the point of comparison that Peter is making?

During all that time in the ark, the Lord cared for his people. Noah sent a raven out to check out the water’s recession. In our next account, the God who saved people and ravens alike would use ravens to sustain and care for one of his prophets.

1 Kings 16:29-33; 17:1-6 GOD CARED FOR ELIJAH

Read 1 Kings 16:29-33

1. The great kingdom of Israel over which David and Solomon had ruled was torn in two. The northern kingdom was still known as Israel. The southern kingdom became identified by its predominant tribe, Judah. Ahab, son of Omri, became ruler of the northern kingdom, Israel. How good (or bad) a king was he? What did he do to earn such a reputation?
2. Have you ever given anyone the impression that the Lord Jesus was not your primary God? How can we avoid that from happening in the future?

Read 1 Kings 17:1

3. Who was the next great prophet the Lord sent to his people? What message did he have to give to King Ahab? Why would this particular judgment strike at the heart of Ahab and Jezebel’s false religion? What impact would this have had on the general public? To whom would the populace look during such tough times?

***Youth:** Imagine your university has a fantastic business program—that’s why you’re there, of course. Unfortunately, many of the teachers in your program are extremely liberal: they consider God to be a joke and often note the “idiocy” of “right-wing Jesus freaks and their scams.”*

How do you respond to such attacks against your faith?

- a) *Stay quiet. You're just one person, and you know you're not scamming anyone. You need these teachers to give you good grades if you're to succeed in the program and land a good job. And besides: your faith can also be seen in your actions, so if someone pays real close attention, they'll see your faith that way.*
- b) *Speak out. You don't attack the teacher's personal beliefs; why are they attacking yours? Besides, since when is name-calling considered professional behavior?*

Read 1 Kings 17:2-6

4. Can you think of a couple of reasons the Lord had Elijah leave the area? Under what circumstances has God directed his New Testament people to withdraw from others?

5. As God cared for his people during their 40 years in the wilderness by providing water from rocks and manna from heaven, so also he took care of Elijah. Where did Elijah spend these next months of his life? How did God take care of getting food to the prophet?

6. Elijah and all the people were reminded that our daily bread is not something we should take for granted. What can you do to help you avoid taking your daily bread for granted?

Plenty of discussion
and class participation.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

God Will Take Care of You

(For Youth)

You just got married—congratulations! You and Brad just could not wait; you met in March and married in August. You both share the same beliefs and the same dreams. On the downside of this, you also share some hefty credit card debt.

Neither of you have much money: he hasn't worked in a year; you work part time.

One month later, you discover you're pregnant. This means you won't be able to work in a few months. He *must* find a job. But he wants to enroll in classes online so he can become a psychologist. After all, psychologists make good money. But considering the time it will take for a degree and to get into a practice, you know that money won't be coming for at least a few years.

So now you two need to figure out what you'll do until he's working fulltime again. You won't be able to work much longer. Do you. . .

- a) apply for more credit cards.
- b) talk to your dad about the new landscaping business his friend started. Would the friend consider hiring Brad?

The important thing to remember is that in either method, you need to pray about the situation. Sometimes God lets things fall into our laps; sometimes we need to use the gifts God's given us with new fervor.

God Cares in His Own Way

(For Youth)

For years Danielle watched her mother become more and more dependent on alcohol. Danielle didn't want to be like her, but they lived in a small town that consisted of a gas station and three bars. Drinking seemed to be a way of life. *The way of life.*

Then she met Lee. He encouraged her to work hard for her dreams because they were worth it. Because of Lee's encouragement, Danielle applied for college and made plans to get into a counseling program. Nowadays, she works three jobs, plus goes to school and spends time with Lee. But all of this, she dreams, will be worth it:

she wants to be trained in counseling substance abusers. She knows that with new knowledge and strength, she will be able to help her family. Lee helped her reach this newfound determination.

Sometimes it takes one voice in the darkness to guide us out of the depths. Christ has always been that voice. His Word can be a loud cry for repentance or a quiet whisper of comfort. He may speak to us through our pastors or a Christian friend. He may talk to us through a Bible passage we learned when we were children or through a Christian bookmark given by Grandma years ago. He is always speaking. **What may happen when we fail to notice? Why should this change? How can this change?**

Five Questions about God's Care

(For Youth or Adult)

Divide the class into smaller groups. Have each group write five questions regarding the following Scripture passage. These questions can be related to something the students want clarified, answered, or simply discussed. After ten minutes, have each group report back to the large group and share its questions.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NIV) But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (KJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

You Are There!

(For Youth or Adult)

Give each student a piece of paper and tell the group that they are to think and feel as if they were Elijah. They should then write down five feelings they might have as they sat by the brook being fed by the ravens. Examples would include anger, thankfulness, inquisitiveness, etc. The students should be able to explain why they had those feelings. Share them with the class.

ARK REMARKS

These questions probably don't have answers, but they will make you think!

1. What do you think the unbelievers in the area thought as they watched the ark project progress?
2. Do you think Noah ever doubted if the flood would ever really happen? After all, it practically cost him a lifetime. (Do you ever wonder if you are wasting your time and life on being a Christian?)
3. What do you think went through the minds of Noah and his family members as they saw the great door of the ark close by itself?
4. How frightening do you think the storm was for Noah, his family, or the animals?
5. Do you think the plates of the earth shifted at this time to form its current configuration?
6. How many of the animals on board were new to Noah and his family?
7. Do you think the animals behaved differently while on board the ark?