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Bible Lesson 5 (BTJ)

1. Introduction

This lesson teaches how God responded to the great wickedness of the people at the time of Noah. As the population increased upon the earth, so too did wickedness among mankind. Satan, the enemy of God, worked hard to get the people to sin against God. Most of the people lived sinfully with no regard for God. They did not worship God nor did they try to please him. They lived for themselves according to their evil desires. God does not want people to live this way.

At that time, a man named Noah lived who did not live wickedly like the rest of the people. Noah believed in God and worshiped him. God told Noah that he was going to judge the whole world and destroy it by sending a global flood because he could no longer tolerate the extreme wickedness of all the people.

God instructed Noah to build an ark which would provide a way of escape for him, his wife and his three sons and their wives. God gave exact instructions to Noah because he alone knew what to do to provide a way of escape for Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives.

God showed mercy and grace to Noah and his family because he had promised to Adam and Eve that someday he would send a Deliverer to save people from the penalty of their sins.

God acted righteously when he judged the wicked world with the global flood and preserved Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives in the ark.

This story teaches us that man has to come to God in God's way because he is a helpless sinner. It teaches us that God is loving, merciful, gracious, and long-suffering. It also teaches emphasize that God judges wicked people. People who die when they are separated from God go to the never-ending fire of punishment and they are there forever. Emphasize that it is utterly foolish to ignore God.

Emphasize that God did not unjustly destroy the wicked people of Noah's time. If they would have repented, he would have spared them. If they would have worshiped God as Abel and Noah did, he would have shown them mercy and grace because he does not want people to go to the fire of never-ending punishment.

2. Review

Setting: Some of the villagers heard Teacher and Abram discussing the teaching so they gathered around them to hear the discussion. They too wanted to understand every biblical truth teacher taught them.

Teacher: In our last meeting, you heard the story about life outside the Garden of Eden. Was living outside of the Garden of Eden the same as living inside the Garden of Eden? How was it different? What changed for Adam and Eve?

Abram: God made the Garden of Eden very good. Everything was good in the Garden of Eden until Adam and Eve sinned against God. They chose to follow their own thinking and they sinned against God. From then on, life was hard for Adam and Eve.

Teacher: That is true. God wanted Adam and Eve to obey him. He told them to not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or they would die. Adam and Eve turned away from the clear instruction of God and listened to Satan's lies and sinned against God. That is why their relationship with God changed and they had to leave the Garden of Eden.

Abram: If God had not shown them mercy, he would have killed them right away because they deserved death. When I heard how God was merciful to Adam and Eve I thought, "I hope God will be merciful to me because I am a sinner. I have sinned against God many times. I deserve death for my sins."

Teacher: God loved Adam and Eve very much. That is why he was merciful to them. God did not want them to die in their sins and go to the place of the never-ending fire of punishment. God wants all people to be saved from their sin. That is why it is important for all of you to come to these meetings and hear the Story I am teaching you. God wants you to hear this story and to believe it.

Abram: We have already decided that we will continue to come to the meetings because we want to be saved from the penalty and guilt of our many sins. We are very concerned about the fact that we are sinners because we know that we deserve to die. We want to understand the Bible's message for us. We do not want to die separated from God.

Teacher: What else did you learn about living outside of the Garden of Eden?

Abram: Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. They were born and raised outside of the Garden of Eden and they grew up in an imperfect world. They had to learn how to

grow food and take care of themselves. They brought offerings to the Lord because they were spiritually needy. Did God tell them to do this? How did they know that they should sacrifice to God?

Teacher: Most likely, Adam and Eve told Cain and Abel how God had provided garments made from animal skins and covered them when they had sinned in the Garden of Eden. Just like you teach your children about important things, so too Adam and Eve would have instructed Cain and Abel about the Lord. It is likely that they encouraged them to follow God's good ways and turn away from evil. What did you learn about the sacrifices Cain and Abel brought to the Lord?

Abram: Abel did the right thing. He brought an animal from his flock and offered it to the Lord. He knew that he was a sinner and needed God's mercy and grace. Abel admitted that he was helpless to save himself so he offered a blood sacrifice to the Lord. God accepted this offering because Abel had faith in God. He believed in God and knew that only God could forgive him of all his sins.

Teacher: That's right. Just as Abel had faith in God, so too it is necessary for all of us to believe what God says to us through the Bible. God wants everyone to have faith in him. Let me ask you this question. Do you struggle sometimes about whether or not to believe in God? Listen carefully. God wants you to choose the right way like Abel did. God wants you to believe in him.

Abram: Why did Cain not believe in God?

Teacher: Cain and Abel experienced the same things in life and they knew about God. Cain, was stubborn and he hardened his heart against God. He wanted to do things his way. That is why God could not have regard to his offering. Listen to this warning: Do not harden your heart against God like Cain did.

Abram: Sometimes we act just like Cain. We know that we are wrong but we are too stubborn to admit it. We try to make ourselves look good. When I heard how Cain killed Abel I thought, "I will not cover up the fact that I am a sinner before God. I know that I need God's mercy and grace or I will die in my sins. I do not want to die in my sins and go to the never-ending fire of punishment. I must submit to God."

Teacher: I am glad to hear you say that. It is important for everyone to admit that we need God to help us or we will die separated from him. God wants us to turn our backs on the way of Cain. Think about how Abel had faith in God. He is the right example for us.

Abram: We have had many discussions about Cain and Abel. We want you to teach us more about God so that we will have faith in him like Abel did. We want to have our sins forgiven. Please teach us more about God's message. We want to learn it, believe it and be forgiven of our sins.

3. Wickedness at the Time of Noah

Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters after Cain murdered Abel. One of their sons was named Seth. When Seth was living, people began to call upon the name of the Lord. They began to worship the Lord because he deserves to be worshiped. Those who worshiped God taught their children to do the same. This was pleasing to God.

However, not everyone who lived during the time of Seth called upon the name of the Lord. The descendants of Cain continued to multiply and live wickedly. They did not care about God but lived for themselves. They did whatever they wanted to do. This was very displeasing to God. God hates wickedness. He cannot put up with wickedness because he is holy and righteous. After many years, all of the people but Noah and his family lived wickedly. They did not serve God. They just lived wickedly and ignored God.

As the years went by, the population on the earth grew to a great number of people. Almost all of them did not worship God. They just lived for themselves and did not care about God. When a baby was born, its parents did not give thanks to God for their newborn baby. They did not teach their children about God. Many, many children grew up without knowing the truth about God. They lived in wickedness because their parents lived wickedly. These people followed the evil temptations of Satan and lived accordingly.

Do you think that God saw the exceeding wickedness of the whole world at that time? Remember this: God is everywhere present at the same time so he saw every wicked deed that anyone did. What do you think God thought about the people living so wickedly? Would he judge them for being wicked? Would he hold them accountable for not worshiping him? What would God do? Would he judge them or just let them go on living wickedly? When Lucifer rebelled against God, what did God do? When Adam and Eve sinned against God, what did God do? When Cain hardened his heart against God, what did God do?

Let's think about the fact that God judges sin and wickedness. Why does God judge people who live in sin? Is there a reason for God to judge sin and wickedness? Listen carefully so that you will understand why God judges sinful, wicked people. The reason that God cannot tolerate sin and wickedness is because he is holy and

righteous. To be holy means that he is totally good and without any flaw or sin. Everything God does is right. God does not have wrong motives for what he does because he is perfect.

When we think about ourselves, we know that we have done evil things. God is not like that. He is holy which means all of his ways are perfect. That means he has no faults. He does no wrong, ever. The holiness of God means he has to judge sin and wickedness. People who live in sin and wickedness will be judged by God for the things they do.

When God judges people, he always judges them rightly. God does not make any mistakes when he judges people because all of his ways are perfect. It does not matter who we are, when God judges people he makes the right decision about them because all of his ways are right. He is not like human judges who can be swayed in one way or another in their decision making. God knows everything and sees everything that happens. God knows everything about everyone. When he judges people, he does so righteously because he is holy and righteous. It does not matter who we are. God always judges people rightly.

Listen carefully as I teach you about the story of Noah. At the time of Noah, there were many people on the earth but they did not worship God. They did not serve him or even think much about him. They were very wicked and did many evil deeds. The Bible says that these people were so wicked that every imagination of their thoughts was only evil continually. These people did not think about God. They thought about things they wanted to do in their daily lives without any thought about God. They also thought about sinful deeds that they wanted to do. They did not care about God. They lived for themselves.

God saw the wickedness of the people who lived in Noah's time. He saw all the evil deeds they did and decided to destroy all of them. He decided to judge them and destroy them because they lived in violent wickedness. Every day all the people in the world lived wickedly. Noah alone served God.

What were these people doing that was so wicked? What did they do to incur the wrath of God? Why was God going to destroy all of them? Listen carefully so that you will know how these wicked people were living and why God decided to destroy them. Think about this: At the time of Noah, nearly everyone ignored God. They did not worship him. They did many evil things all the time. People were fighting and killing each other. Others were lying and stealing from each other. Others were gossiping and cheating and telling lies about others. Many were committing adultery and causing lots of trouble. The people lived wickedly and didn't care who knew about their wickedness. They did not worship

God nor did they want to do so. They wanted to sin and live violently, every person doing what they wanted to do regardless of the outcome.

Some people were less violent than others. However, they too ignored God and lived for themselves. They did not thank God for his goodness to them. Year after year God, the Creator of the earth, gave them sunshine and rain to make their food grow but they did not thank him for it. They glorified themselves in whatever they did but they refused to serve and worship God.

God saw the wickedness of those people and said. “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” God did not want them to continue living wickedly or they would die in their sins.

God wanted them to turn away from a life of sin and follow his right ways. That is why the Spirit of God convicted these people about their sinfulness. Many times the Spirit of God warned them to not do the sin they were planning to do. For example, as a man was planning to steal food from his neighbor’s garden, within himself he sensed something telling him that stealing was wrong. The people knew that they were living wickedly. The Spirit of God convicted them of their sinfulness but they ignored the convictions. Their consciences warned them of their sinfulness but they willingly turned away from serving God and lived for themselves. Satan also tempted the people to sin and live as they pleased. Satan hates God and he hates people too. He wants people to die in their sins.

On the other hand, God did not want them to die and go to the place of the never-ending fire of punishment. That is why the Spirit of God kept on convicting them of their sinfulness. God wanted them to believe in him and be in a right relationship with him. His Spirit kept convicting them of their sinfulness but they kept ignoring these convictions. The people kept on living for themselves however they pleased. Do you know how God responded to their continual disobedience and sinfulness?

Listen carefully to this story. God finally said that his Spirit would not be convicting them longer than another one hundred and twenty years. After that, he would judge them. If they turned away from their sinfulness and believed in him, he would have mercy upon them. He would not destroy them. However, if they continued to ignore him and live wickedly, he would destroy them. God wanted all of the people to believe in him and to worship him so that he would show mercy to them instead of destroying them.

Satan, the enemy of God, wanted all of these people to continue to live in sin. He hates God so he worked hard to get the people to ignore the convictions of God’s Spirit. Satan tempted people to ignore what God’s Spirit said to them. When God’s Spirit tried to get

people to turn away from wickedness, Satan spoke lies to them so that they would continue living wickedly.

Think about this truth. There are two ways in this life. We can follow God or ignore God. If we ignore God, it is the same as following the lies of Satan. Which way will you choose to follow? Will you believe God's Story and submit to him or will you follow your own ways like Cain did? Each person chooses which way he will follow. No one can make that choice for another person. God wants you to turn away from wickedness and believe in him. That is why his Spirit convicts you about the truthfulness of this teaching and the wrongness of other beliefs. Please do not ignore the conviction of God's Holy Spirit. God wants to help you with your sin problem. However, if you choose to ignore him, he will not help you and you will die in your sins. That would be very tragic indeed.

4. God Spoke to Noah

God was very grieved at the sinfulness and wickedness of all the people. He saw every thing they did and heard every word they spoke. He was extremely grieved at their continual desire to live wickedly and enjoy sinning. No one except Noah did what was right. None of the parents taught their children about God. They lived wickedly and were only interested in themselves. All of the children grew up to be wicked because they were not taught about God nor did they respond to the convicting work of God's Spirit within their hearts and minds.

Do you think God could ignore the wickedness of all the people in the world? Listen carefully to this story. It teaches us how God responded to such exceeding wickedness according to his holiness and righteousness. It teaches us that all sinners will be punished for not believing in God and for not serving and worshiping him.

God decided it was time to judge the whole world. He decided to destroy everyone and every living thing on the earth. The wickedness of the people was so bad that God said he was going to blot out every person, every animal, and every bird. Everything on the face of the earth was going to be destroyed. God was extremely grieved at the wickedness all over the world and he could no longer tolerate it.

God spoke to Noah and told him what he was going to do. Remember this. Noah had found favor in God's eyes. Even though everyone else lived wickedly, Noah believed in God and taught his family about God. He instructed them to worship God. Noah was a good man. Wisely, he chose to follow God's ways instead of living for himself like everyone else did. Noah was not worldly. He did not live for himself. He believed in God and he worshiped him and lived for him.

Let's think about Noah's choice to serve God. Even though everyone else was worldly and living for themselves, Noah lived for the Lord. He served and worshiped God. Do you think the people who knew Noah saw that he served God? Did they recognize that he was not like one of them? All the people who knew Noah saw his good ways of serving God. Whenever they saw Noah offering a sacrifice to God, they were convicted of their own sinfulness. Within themselves they knew that they were sinners. However, they would not submit to God. They just wanted to live for themselves. "Nothing bad will happen to us," they thought.

Even though Satan tempted Noah to be like everyone else, Noah said, "No. I will only worship God and serve him. I will not turn my back on God." Noah believed in God which meant he would not listen to Satan's temptations and lies. Noah did the right thing when he chose to believe in God. Noah's choice shows us the kind of choice God wants us to make. Whose example are you following today? Noah's or the people's? God wants you to choose to believe in him just like Noah did. God does not want you to harden your heart against him.

Noah made the right choice to believe in God. When God's Spirit showed Noah what he should do, he responded in obedience. Noah wanted to please God because God alone was good and worthy of his devotion. Every day Noah thought about God and desired to please him. He wanted to serve and worship God in God's way. Noah did not try to trick God or deceive him in any way. Noah had a good relationship with God because he submitted to God in everything he did. Noah's example shows us the kind of attitude God wants you to have toward him.

Noah was married to his wife and they had three sons. The names of these three sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth. Noah taught his wife, his sons and their wives about God. He taught them to believe in God and to worship him. He warned them about living for themselves. He taught them to listen to God's Spirit and follow his leading. Noah warned them against ignoring what God's Spirit said to them. "Do not turn against God's Spirit when he convicts you about sinful living. Submit to the leading of God's Spirit always." Noah warned his wife, his three sons and their wives against living wickedly as everyone else was doing at that time. He exhorted them, "You must believe in God and worship him. Do not worship anything else or live for yourself."

5. Instructions for the Ark

God spoke to Noah and said, "I have decided to put an end to all people. I will destroy them completely, because the world is full of their violent deeds." This is what God said

to Noah because he could no longer tolerate the wickedness of the whole world. He decided to destroy everyone. How was God going to destroy everyone in the whole world? If everyone was destroyed, who would be left through whom the deliverer would come?

Listen carefully to what happened next. God told Noah that he was going to destroy everyone on the earth except him and his wife, his sons and their wives. These eight individuals would be spared from being destroyed by God. God told Noah to build a large ark which would preserve them from being destroyed by the great flood that God was going to cause. The waters from this great flood would cover all the earth, even the highest mountains. Everything outside of the ark would be destroyed.

God chose Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives to be the only survivors of the great flood which he was going to send upon the whole earth. Why did God not destroy everyone? Why did he want Noah and his family to survive the flood?

Listen carefully so that you will understand more about God's mercy and grace toward mankind. God chose Noah and his family to live and not die by the flood which he planned to send. He wanted them to survive the flood and then repopulate the earth. If there were no survivors, then God could not fulfil his promise to Eve that a descendant of hers would be the Deliverer. God cannot lie so his promise had to be fulfilled. In due time he would fulfil his promise to Eve and then one of her descendants would be the Deliverer. God is faithful. He did not forget his promise to provide a Deliverer to save mankind from their sins. Because God loves people and wants them to be saved from their sins, he chose that Noah and his family would survive the flood.

God told Noah how to make the ark which would preserve him and his family. God said, "Build an ark for yourself out of good timber; make rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Make a roof for the boat and leave a space of 18 inches between the roof and the sides. Build it with three decks and put a door in the side." God gave Noah the exact instructions for building the ark which would save them from drowning in the great flood which he was going to bring upon the whole earth.

Noah heard God's instructions. Do you think Noah followed God's instructions or did he try to make an ark his own way? Listen carefully so that you will know what Noah, a good man who worshiped God, did. Noah believed everything that God said to him about making the ark. Noah believed that God was going to send a great flood to cover the whole earth. Noah and his sons began to build the ark according to the instructions God had given him even though at that time there had been no rainfall upon the earth. They

believed every word spoken by God and they began to build the ark according to his instructions.

God told Noah to put one door in the side of the ark. Though the ark was large, God told Noah to put only one door on one side. Noah obeyed God and built the ark just like God had told him to do. He built just one door on one side of the ark. Later, once it was time to enter the ark, Noah and his family would enter the ark through this doorway. Everything that would enter the ark would have to go through that one doorway. This is how God planned the construction of the ark. He knew how the ark should be built because he knows everything. He does not have to ask others how to do things such as how the ark should be built.

Many of the people living at that time of Noah saw him working on the ark. “What are you building, Noah?” they wondered. Noah told them about God’s plan to send a great flood and destroy all living things on the earth. Do you think the people were frightened? Do you think they quit sinning against God? Did they call upon the Lord to save them? No, they were not frightened nor did they believe what Noah told them. They laughed at him and mocked him. “Noah, why are you wasting your time building that ark?” they laughed at him. Everyone continued living wickedly and they enjoyed it.

Why did the ark which Noah built need to be so large? Would other things also be in the ark besides Noah and his family? Listen to what God said to Noah. God said, “Take into the ark with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and of every kind of bird, in order to keep them alive. Take along all kinds of food for you and for them.” God wanted some of the animals and birds to be preserved so that they could repopulate the earth after the flood was over. That meant the ark had to be very large indeed.

Noah obeyed God and built the ark just like God instructed him. Noah believed in God and wanted to please God so he obeyed God. Noah did not try to build the ark according to his own ideas. He just built the ark like God commanded him because that was the right thing to do. Noah willingly obeyed God and worked 120 years constructing the ark. That is a long time! During that time, Noah told many people that God was going to destroy all living beings because of their wickedness. Noah lived righteously in the midst of a wicked world. Noah worshiped God because he believed in God and knew that God alone deserved his worship. That is true today. God alone is worthy of the worship of all people everywhere.

What would Noah, his family and all the animals and birds eat inside the ark once the flood came? God told Noah, “Take along all kinds of food for you and for them.” God wanted Noah and his family to have plenty of food to eat while they were inside the ark during the flood. Animals and birds also need food to survive so God told Noah to gather

feed for them and put it in the ark. Noah and his family worked hard to do everything just like God instructed them so that they would be ready when God decided it was time for the flood to cover the whole earth.

Think about all that happened as Noah was building the ark. Every time Noah preached to the people about their wickedness, it was an opportunity for them to choose to believe in God and turn away from their sinfulness. The Spirit of God was convicting them of their sinfulness as Noah preached to them. “Noah is telling you the truth,” is how the Spirit of God convicted the people. The people saw that Noah and his family were different and were convicted of their sinfulness as they observed them living rightly before God among them. God wanted them to believe in him as Noah did. He did not want them to die in their sins.

At the same time, Satan worked hard to get them to continue in their wickedness and to just ignore Noah’s warnings. “You are okay. Don’t worry about what Noah says,” Satan lied to them. All of these people were on the wrong road which leads to the never-ending fire of punishment called hell. They enjoyed living in sin. Satan tempted them to keep on sinning and deceived them so that they were not afraid to keep on sinning against God. Whom will they obey? Do you think they will obey God and repent or will they keep on believing the lies of Satan? Will they be like Abel and choose to worship God? Or, will they keep on being like Cain who turned away from God?

6. The Flood

Noah continued working on the ark because he knew that God was going to judge the world with a flood which would destroy all living things upon the earth. Noah feared God. He knew that God always does what he says he will do. He knew that God does not make empty promises. Noah and his sons kept working on the ark, day after day, until they finished it according to God’s instructions.

Then God said to Noah. “Go into the ark with your whole family; I have found that you are the only one in all the world who does what is right.” God said this to Noah because Noah believed in him and followed all of his instructions. Even though many people laughed at Noah as he built the ark, Noah’s faith in God did not waver. He continued to worship God and walk with him because he knew that God is faithful. Noah’s example is a good one to follow.

God said to Noah, “Take with you seven pairs of each kind of ritually clean animal, but only one pair of each kind of unclean animal. Take also seven pairs of each kind of bird. Do this so that every kind of animal and bird will be kept alive to reproduce again on the earth. Seven days from now I am going to send rain that will fall for forty days and nights,

in order to destroy all the living beings that I have made.”

After one hundred and twenty years, the construction of the ark was complete. It was ready to be used to save Noah and his family and the animals according to God’s command. God told Noah to take the animals and birds he designated into the ark so they would be spared from the destruction by the flood. God wanted them to reproduce and populate the earth once the flood was over. This was God’s plan for filling the earth with animals and birds after the flood.

Noah heard God’s command and immediately got busy loading the animals and birds. He did not wait until later to obey God. “Everyone, let’s hurry because in seven days God is going to send the flood!” said Noah. There was much to do. How would all those animals and birds get loaded onto the ark in just seven days? Who would help Noah and his family with all the work? How would the animals and birds enter the ark?

Noah had lots of work to do to get everyone and everything in the ark before the flood started. Did he doubt that everything would get done on time? Did he fret and worry about all that he had to do? Noah knew that God would enable him to get everything done on time so he kept on working as God instructed him without complaining. Noah believed in God. He did not doubt that God knew how all the work would get done on time. Noah knew that God is faithful and trustworthy all the time.

Let’s think about all the living things on the earth. Who owns all the animals and creeping things? Who owns all the birds? Who controlled them so that they came willingly in pairs of male and female and entered the ark? God was in control of everything. The animals and creeping things which God wanted to enter the ark came in pairs of male and female and entered the ark. The birds, male and female, likewise flew into the ark and were ready for the flood to begin.

At the end of the seventh day, Noah and his wife along with his three sons and their wives entered the ark. The pairs of animals, creeping things and birds came to the ark and all went inside the ark to Noah. Now Noah and his family, the pairs of animals and birds were all inside the ark. Their food was already stored safely inside the ark. Then God closed the door. They were shut in the ark and everyone else was shut out of the ark.

Then God sent rain upon the earth. Outside of the ark all of the wicked people panicked and cried and pleaded for mercy. “Noah, Noah, please open the door! Please have mercy upon us!” It was too late. They were outside the ark and the water kept rising. The wicked people who had scoffed at Noah and God could not be saved by any means. God had shut the door which meant that they were shut out of the ark forever. Noah, his family and all the creatures were safely



Show #10: The Great Flood

shut in the ark. As the rain fell for the first time in history and the flood water began to cover the earth, people outside of the ark became hysterical. It was chaos as some climbed to higher places hoping to overcome the rising flood. They ran to the highest places only to see the water keep on rising and eventually they were destroyed by it. No one outside of the ark escaped God’s judgment. All of them perished.

God sent rain upon the earth for forty days and nights. The flood waters kept rising until the ark was floating on the water. Everything in the whole earth was covered with water. The highest mountains were covered with more than twenty feet of water. All flesh that moved on the earth perished. Every person outside of the ark died of the flood waters. Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird and insect that lived on land died during this flood. Only Noah and his family were saved from destruction by the flood. Only the animals, birds and creeping things inside the ark with Noah were saved by the ark. Everything outside the ark which lived on land died. It was a severe judgment upon the earth because of the exceeding wickedness of mankind.

Lets think about this important point. There are two ways to respond to God. A person can believe in God like Noah did and be saved or he can reject God and be destroyed. There is not a third way to follow. Think about it now. Who are you like? Do you believe in God like Noah did or not? Are you like Noah or like the wicked mockers who perished in the flood waters?

God wants everyone to believe in him and worship him. God will judge everyone who refuses to submit to him because they are guilty for having sinned against him. All who are guilty for their sins will die and go to the place of the never-ending fire of

punishment. Then, forever it will be too late to be saved by God like Noah was. Today is the day of opportunity to believe God's message for us. Right now is the time to choose to believe in God. Do not fail to submit to God or you will experience his righteous and final judgment upon you.

7. God Remembered Noah

Noah, his family and everything in the ark were safe in the ark floated on the flood water. Do you think that God remembered Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives inside the ark or did he forget about them? God did not forget Noah in the ark. He remembered Noah, his family members, and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the flood waters began to recede. The underground waters stopped flowing, and the torrential rains from the sky were stopped. God wanted Noah and his family to live again on earth and repopulate it. He wanted the animals and livestock and birds to reproduce on the earth so that it would be filled with livestock, animals, birds and other living things.

God caused a wind to blow across the earth and make the flood waters recede. The water gradually got lower and lower. One hundred and fifty days after the flood began, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Most of the earth was still covered with water so everyone had to continue living inside the ark in order to survive. God would tell them when it was time to leave ark.

The flood water continued to recede while the ark rested on Mt. Ararat for another two and a half months. After that, other mountain peaks became visible. However, most of the earth was still covered with water. Inside the ark Noah wondered about the condition of the earth. "Is there still a lot of water on the earth?" wondered Noah. He waited another forty days then opened the window that he had made in the ark. Then he released a raven to fly outside of the ark. The bird flew back and forth until the flood waters on the earth had dried up.

Noah also released a dove to see if the water had receded so that it could find dry ground. The dove did not stay outside of the ark because it could not find a place to land. Water still covered the ground so it returned to the ark. Noah saw the dove returning to the ark and held out his hand for it. It landed on his hand and he drew the dove back inside the ark. "There is still a lot of water covering the earth," thought Noah. Noah waited another seven days then he released the dove again. "Will the dove find dry land this time?" wondered Noah as the dove flew away.

Noah watched by the window and wondered what happened to the dove. “Will the dove return or will it stay outside?” wondered Noah. In the evening it returned to him with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. “Yes, the water has receded enough for vegetation to grow again,” rejoiced Noah. “The flood waters are almost gone,” said Noah to his family.

Noah waited another seven days and then released the dove again. “Will it return this time?” wondered Noah as he waited to see what would happen. This time the dove did not come back to the ark because the flood water had receded enough for it to remain safely outside of the ark. No doubt there was excitement between Noah and his family as they realized the day for leaving the ark was much nearer. God was faithful. He had not forgotten them in the ark, had he?

Noah was six hundred years old when he entered the ark and the flood began. One year later when he was six hundred and one year old, on the first day of the first month, the flood water was gone. Noah removed the covering of the ark, looked around, and saw that the ground was getting dry. Noah remained in the ark until the twenty-seventh day of the following month. By that time the earth was completely dry and ready for people and livestock to live upon it again.

Then God said to Noah, “Go out of the ark with your wife, your sons, and their wives. Take all the birds and animals out with you, so that they may reproduce and spread over all the earth.” Just as God gave the order for Noah to enter the ark, he gave the order to leave the ark. God was in control of everything that happened during the great flood that covered the whole earth. He is still in control of everything today.

8. Noah’s Offering

Noah heard God’s command and obeyed it. He went out of the ark with his wife, his sons, and their wives. All the animals and birds went out of the ark in groups of their own kind. The earth seemed so new to them. All the wicked people had perished. All animals, birds and creeping things had perished. As Noah and his family looked around, they were awed by the mercy and grace of God which spared them from the awful destruction by the great flood.

Then Noah built an altar to offer sacrifices to the Lord. With gratitude, thanksgiving and praise to God, Noah took one of each kind of ritually clean animal and bird, and burned them whole as a sacrifice on the altar. Noah did this to worship God for his incredible mercy and grace to him, his wife, his three sons and their wives. Noah worshiped God because he deserved it. Had God not shown mercy and grace to him and his family, they too would have perished in the flood waters. Noah offered these sacrifices to show God

his heartfelt gratitude for saving him from destruction. Even though all of Noah's other relatives perished in the flood, Noah worshiped God because he alone is righteous and worthy to be worshiped.

God saw all that Noah did and knew that his heart was right as he offered the sacrifices. The odor of the sacrifice pleased the Lord, and he said to himself, "Never again will I put the earth



Show #11: Noah sacrificed to God after the Great Flood

under a curse because of what people do; I know that from the time they are young their thoughts are evil. Never again will I destroy all living beings, as I have done this time. As long as the world exists, there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest. There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

After Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were out of the ark, God blessed them and told them to have children and repopulate the earth. God also placed the fear of man in animals, birds, creeping things and fish. That is why animals are naturally not tame, but are fearful of people.

God also said that people can eat meat instead of just eating fruit and vegetables. However, God forbade people from eating bloody meat because the life of animals, birds, creeping things and fish is in the blood. God also forbade people from killing other people. Violators of this command were to have their blood shed because mankind is made in the image of God.

God promised that he would not ever again send a global flood upon the earth. As a sign of this promise, God set the rainbow in the sky. It is a reminder of the promise God made. What do you think about when you see a rainbow? God wants you to remember his judgment upon sinful mankind at the time of Noah. He wants you to remember his promise that he will never again judge the earth like that. God is faithful. Be assured that God will never break his promise.

There is much for you to learn about God's faithfulness and his promises for mankind. Please come to the next meeting to learn more about the story of God. Discuss among yourselves all that you have been learning. God wants you to understand and believe his

message for all people. He wants you to believe in him just like Noah did.

9. **After the Meeting**

Setting: After the meeting, John and Sharon continued to discuss the story of Noah and what they had learned from it.

John: Do you know what the story about Noah means for us? We need to talk about it. When I listened to the story about Noah and the flood, I was convicted that all of us must be people like Noah and believe in God.

Sharon: That's true. We need to believe God like Noah did. But, truthfully, we are wicked like all the other people were. All of us here know that we have rejoiced in doing wicked deeds. We want people to think that we are good people but at the same time we enjoy doing our wicked deeds and customs. We need God's mercy and grace or we too will be destroyed.

John: Yes, we have often had lots of fun being evil. Now I am ashamed of myself. Our dances and music are not good. The words of the songs we sing are not good. We have acted like the bad people of Noah's day and we have enjoyed it very much. Every one of us has been living for ourselves, not for God.

Sharon: Our teacher taught us that the people of Noah's day had wicked thoughts and intents. God saw that and was grieved at their wickedness. I thought, "Oh my. God sees my wickedness too. Does my wickedness grieve him like the people's wickedness did in the days of Noah? If it does, I am in trouble."

John: All of us are in trouble because we have ignored God and lived wickedly. If God does not show mercy and grace to us, we will die in our sins and go to the place of never-ending fire of punishment. I have decided that I am going to believe in God like Noah did. I do not know the whole story about God. However, I believe what I have learned and I want to learn more about God.

Sharon: Noah preached for one hundred and twenty years while he worked on the ark. But the people only thought evil thoughts and did not care about what he said. They laughed at Noah building an ark. When I heard how they laughed at Noah, I thought, "I will not laugh at God's message to us. No, I believe it." If anyone here is laughing about God's message, watch out. Your end will be the same as those outside of the ark. You will die in your sins and go to the place of never-ending punishment.

John: We are learning God's message for us. He sent our Teacher to us so that we can learn about him and be saved from the guilt of our sins. Whenever I think about God's

mercy to us, I am very glad that Teacher is teaching us the Bible's message. I do not want to be like the people who mocked Noah and died separated from God. I believe the Bible's message.

Sharon: When Noah built the ark, it only had one door. There was only one way to enter the ark. What does that mean for us?

John: I think it means just like there was only one door into the ark, there is only one way to be saved from our sins. When Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were safely inside the ark, God shut the door and no one could open it. Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. I think that shows that there is only one way for us to be made right with God.

Sharon: When it started to rain, all the people were scared. Some tried to get inside the ark. Others tried to go to higher elevations so they would not drown. It did not matter what they did. They could not enter the ark. They died in their sins and are now still in the never-ending fire of punishment.

John: Those people should have listened to Noah's warnings. Now it is forever too late. We need to listen to God's message for us today. If we do not believe it, someday it will be too late for us too. I believe the Bible's message that we are hearing. All of us need to think about God's message for us. We cannot allow our minds to wander when we hear God's message for us.

Sharon: That is right. We must not be distracted from God's message for us. I believe it. I want my wife and children to believe it too. We must continue to talk about it so that all of us will understand it and believe it.

John: God did not forget Noah in the ark. When the flood was over, God told Noah and his family to leave the ark. God placed a rainbow in the sky to remind us that he will never again cause a great flood to destroy all the inhabitants of the earth. The next time I see a rainbow I will be reminded of God's promise to us.

10. **Review of the Lesson's Themes**

Satan works against God's purpose: Satan is the constant enemy of God. Satan and the demons hate God and they desire to wreak havoc among mankind so that people will live and die in their sins. Satan cannot force people to sin. He tempts, lies and deceives people to live wickedly.

God communicates with man: God wants people to know him which is why he has disclosed himself to mankind. He wants people to obey and worship him or they will suffer the consequences in the never-ending fire of punishment.

Man is a helpless sinner and needs God's help: By nature people are sinners and live lives that prove this fact. Without God's mercy and grace, they cannot be saved from the penalty and guilt of their sin.

God is loving, merciful, gracious: God's nature is to love, be merciful and show grace to sinful people. These are distinguishing attributes that belong to God and they are not to be ignored as though they were insignificant.

God is omnipresent, omniscient: God knows everything that happens all over the world at any time. He is everywhere present which means he witnesses every deed and thought of all people. It is futile to try to hide from God and to do sinful deeds in secret.

God is holy, righteous, demands death for sin's payment: Sin's payment is death. Since God is holy and righteous, he demands death for the payment of everyone's sins. He does not ignore or overlook anyone's sins regardless of their economic or social status.

Man can only come to God in God's way: It is utterly futile for anyone to try to devise a way to come to God that will be accepted by him. God wants people to come to him in his way instead of following humanly devised religions and merits.

Man must have faith in God for salvation: God requires people to believe in him. This is not optional, it is required. God knows whether or not people truly have faith in him. He will save all who have faith in him.

11. Students Practice Telling the Stories

At the end of this lesson, practice telling the story you have just heard to each other. Everyone needs to practice teaching Bible lessons by telling the stories.

Practice telling the stories of this lesson in pairs. One pair should teach one of the stories in the lesson following this lesson's Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents at the beginning of the lesson lists the stories for each lesson. Some of the stories or sections of a story are short so they should be combined with another section to make the exercise of practicing to teach by using stories a profitable exercise.

When you are teaching a lesson by telling the story, use questions and illustrations to keep the story interesting and to make the people think about the lesson's meanings. Be prepared to engage the audience with questions which are crafted to bring out how well they understand the meaning of the story.

Use visual aids or objects used in the lesson when you teach a story. Show the pictures at the right time in the story. When illustrations are used, be sure to bring them to a right and logical conclusion. If you do not make the right conclusions through telling the story, people will likely guess what it means and they could easily come to a wrong conclusion.

After you have practiced telling stories to each other, talk about ways to improve your storytelling ability. Be open to a critique and be kind to each other as you work together to help each other become master storytellers. After all, the goal of teaching God's Word via telling Bible stories is the salvation of spiritually lost people.

12. Teaching Tips for Teachers

Lesson Point #2: Emphasize that all the people on earth were very wicked and they did not even desire to know or worship God. Why did this happen? Because parents failed to teach their children to serve and worship God and because human nature wants to sin. Satan constantly fights against God and today he wants people to live wickedly as they did at the time of Noah.

Lesson Point #3: God saw the exceeding wickedness of the people and decided to destroy all of them by a global flood. God told Noah, a righteous man, about his plan and commanded him to build an ark which would be the means for sparing Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives. God chose to spare Noah and his family so that they would repopulate the earth and in the future the Deliverer would be one of their descendants. God is faithful to fulfil his promises in his time.

Lesson Point #4: God gave exact instructions to Noah for building the ark. The ark had to be made just like he instructed Noah. This is an example of God's provision for helpless man. Salvation is only possible by God's way. It also shows that his instructions must be obeyed, not compromised. During the 120 years that Noah worked on building the ark, the wicked people had ample time to repent and believe in God but they refused to do so.

Lesson Point #5: Holy God judged the wicked people rightly. He did not mistakenly judge anyone. Had they repented when Noah warned them, God could have saved them. However, they blatantly lived wickedly until the time the rain began and the flood waters rose. Then it was too late to repent because God had already closed the only door in the ark. The point is this: People need to repent right away and believe in God now, not later.

Lesson Point #6: God is faithful all the time. He remembered Noah and his family as they floated safely upon the flood waters inside the ark. God knew that he would spare Noah and his family so that they would repopulate the earth and in the future, a descendant of theirs would be the promised Deliverer.

Lesson Point #7: Noah's offering to the Lord shows the right response people should have toward God. Why? Because he deserves our thankfulness and praise. God gave the rainbow as a sign of his promise to never again destroy all mankind with a global flood. Rainbows which we see today are reminders of that promise which will not be broken because God is faithful and true, always.

13. To the Honorable Teacher

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood correctly.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Stress to the students that the important themes of this lesson must be understood before proceeding to the next lesson.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.