



Enter the Story

The Flood

A narrative based around the failure of humanity and God's desire to begin again.

THE BIBLE

Genesis 5-9

Prepare for the Story

ICEBREAKER

- Have you ever been working on something and had to start over from the beginning? What did it feel like to have to start all over? What made you decide to restart from the beginning?

Rewind the Story

Can someone highlight what has happened in the story so far ...

- Creation – God creates a perfect world
- Rebellion – Sin disrupts God's perfect world
- Cain & Abel – Am I my brother's keeper?

Hear the Story

Scene One: Sin Grows Out of Control

The number of humans on the earth grew rapidly. Not only did rebellion spread from Adam and Eve to their sons, but it also spread from generation to generation.

Even though humans were created in God's image, each person chose to disobey God's ways. Humanity was completely out of control, acting out in selfishness and violence all the time.

When God saw that the people's hearts and minds were filled with evil day and night, His heart was broken. So God decided to start over, saying, *"I will completely wipe out the human race that I've created. I am sorry that I ever made them."*

Scene Two: One Righteous Family

But there was one man named Noah who still had a close relationship with God. Noah was the only blameless man living on Earth at that time. So God said to Noah, *"I have decided to cover the earth with a flood, destroying everything alive! But, I will give you a plan to keep you safe."*

God told Noah to build a large boat called an ark, giving him specific instructions about how big to make it and what it should look like.

God said to him, *"Make a boat from wood and seal it with tar, inside and out. Then, build many decks and stalls for animals inside of it. I want to establish my covenant with you. You will enter the ark – along with your wife and sons and their wives. I promise to keep you safe in this ark!*

Also, a pair of every animal – a male and female – will come to you to be kept alive on the ark. You should bring seven pairs of animals that I approved for you to eat and sacrifice. And remember, bring enough food for your family and for all the animals.

So Noah did everything exactly as he was told. And just as God had said, the floods came – water burst from the earth, and rain poured from the sky. When the waters came, Noah and his family, and all of the animals boarded the ark.

As the waters rose, the boat floated safely on the surface. The flood covered even the tallest mountains, and all living creatures on earth were destroyed except for those on the ark.

Scene Three: The Great Flood

After 40 days, the rains stopped. Every living thing that moved on the earth died – birds, livestock, wild animals, insects, and all of mankind. Only Noah and those with him on the ark survived.

Many months passed as the waters slowly began to dry up. For weeks, Noah sent out a dove to see if it could find dry land. Finally, the dove returned with an olive leaf in its mouth. Noah sent the dove out again, and when it didn't come back, he knew it was safe to return to land.

Scene Four: A New Beginning

As soon as Noah came off of the ark, he built an altar, taking some of the clean animals and birds and sacrificing them to God as a symbol of thankfulness and worship.

God was pleased with Noah's sacrifice and blessed Noah and his sons, telling them to have children and once again fill the earth. Then God said, *"Just as I have given you plants for food, now you can eat everything that lives and moves. You can use them for food, but you must never eat animals that still have their lifeblood in them. Life is in the blood, and all life belongs to me! Those who murder must be punished by death."*

Then God established His covenant with Noah and his sons, saying, *I promise to never again destroy all living things with a flood. As a symbol of my promise, I will hang a rainbow in the clouds. Whenever you see a rainbow, this will remind you of my everlasting promise."*

Retell the Story

- What was the legacy of Adam, Eve, and their children for the next generation?
- What did God decide to do about it? Who was the exception?
- What did God tell Noah to do?
- How did God help Noah in this effort?
- How long did it rain? How much water was on the earth?
- What did Noah do once they were back on land?
- What promise did God make?
- What instructions did He give?

Discuss the Story

- What is your first reaction to this story? How did this story make you feel?
- What stood out to you from this story? What did you notice for the first time?
- What from this story made you wonder?
- Why did God flood the earth and destroy everything? Do you think He had good reasons for doing this?
- From this story, how does God feel about humans?
- Why do you think God had Noah take animals on the ark?
- What was God communicating to Noah (and humanity) by creating a rainbow?
- What did God say to Noah about the blood? Why do you think this is important?
- Did you hear anything that reminded you of **other** stories?
- From this story, what did you notice about humans?
- From this story, what do you notice about God's character or His qualities?

1) THE CHARACTER OF GOD

The text from our story tells us that God “was grieved that He had made man.”. What do you make of this? Why do you think God created people if He knew that they would break His heart? What might this tell us about the character of God?

2) JUDGEMENT OR RESCUE?

What does God’s judgment against mankind’s sin tell us about His attitude toward sin? What does God’s desire to save Noah tell us about His attitude toward those who love and serve Him? Do you view this story as a story of judgment or a story of rescue and salvation? Explain your answer.

3) GOD’S COVENANT WITH NOAH

After Noah and his family are delivered from the Flood, God makes a promise never to destroy the earth through a flood again. Why do you think God made a covenant with Noah? Why do you think this promise was significant and important? In what ways does this promise to provide comfort for us today?

Pray

God,

Thank You for not giving up on us. Thank You for giving us chance after chance after chance to start again. We are thankful for your promises, knowing that we can trust You to be faithful forever. Help us walk in righteousness and be a refuge and safety for all who seek after You. Amen!