



Water, Water, Everywhere

Today's C: Catastrophe

Today's Color: Blue

Bible Content: Genesis 6–9, Noah and the Worldwide Flood

Apologetics Content: Examining the Reality of the Flood

Memory Verse: "So He destroyed all living things on the face of the ground. Only Noah and those with him in the Ark remained alive." Genesis 7:23

Today's Lesson at a Glance

Take Off on Your Trek

- It's Raining!

Travel Your Trek

- The Worldwide Flood Bible Account
- Catchy Conversation: Examining the Reality of the Flood

Retrace Your Trek

- Memory Verse Time: Vine Limbo

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 6–9 several times.
- Read this lesson several times.
- Check pp. 6–7 for answers to frequently asked questions about Noah's Ark, the Flood, fossils, and rock layers.

Materials

From Teacher Resource Pack

- Poster 3-a (Catastrophe)
- Poster 3-b (Memory verse)
- Illustrations 3-00–3-08 (also on Teacher Resource CD)
- Bible Account (from Teacher Resource CD)

Other Materials

- Lean-to supplies (see p. 31 for directions)
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Timer
- Bible
- Plastic vine

Room Setup

- Attach posters 3-a and 3-b to the blue tablecloth.
- Set up the lean-to. See p. 31 for directions.



Today's Devotional: God is the Sovereign Savior

"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1

Fill in the following blanks.

1. _____ told Noah how to build the Ark.
2. God provided all that _____ needed, including great wisdom.
3. God brought all the _____ to the Ark at just the right time.
4. God provided a seaworthy, safe way for man and animals to _____.
5. God shut the _____, after Noah, his family, and the animals entered the Ark.
6. God caused the _____ to cover the entire earth.
7. God directed Noah when to leave the _____.
8. God provided the _____ as a sign that He would never send another worldwide flood.

Based on these questions, what attributes of God do you think we are focusing on today? He is the sovereign Savior of the world.

Although each of the questions in the quiz highlights God's sovereign salvation as seen in the account of the Genesis Flood, let's focus specifically on number five.

In His instructions for building the Ark, God told Noah to "set the door of the Ark in its side" (Genesis 6:16). The Ark had only one door to pass through to escape God's terrible judgment. By faith, Noah and his family entered the Ark. Once they were all inside, the Lord shut them in (Genesis 7:16).

What is significant about God shutting the door of the Ark?

After God shut the door, the time of judgment was at hand. Only those who had gone through the doorway would be saved. No one else could enter. Noah and his family had to obey God's command to build and then enter the Ark for salvation—but it was God who had commanded the Ark to be built as the means of Noah's family being saved in this time of judgment.

The Ark pictures salvation in Jesus Christ, our "Ark" of salvation. Jesus said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).

The Bible makes it clear that we are "dead in tres-

passes and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). Nothing we can do can save us from our sin and its consequence of eternal separation from God. But the Bible also tells us that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, we will be saved (Romans 10:9). It is "by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is all of God. Our responsibility is to go through the doorway (Jesus), and God will save us.

Today, as we teach the children about the great Flood of Noah's day, continually look for opportunities to point them toward the sovereign Savior of the world. He judged the wickedness of mankind once by water. And He provided salvation through the Ark that He commanded Noah to build. Many heard the warning of the coming judgment, but only Noah and his family responded through faith and entered through the door of the Ark.

The next judgment will be by fire (2 Peter 3:5–12). God has provided salvation through the Ark—His Son, Jesus Christ. Many are hearing the warning of the coming judgment, but who will enter through the God-given means of salvation—the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf? A time is coming when God will close this Door. Are we ready?

Let's close this time by reading Acts 4:10–12 and thinking about this Puritan prayer.

Sovereign Lord,
Thy will is supreme in heaven and earth,
and all beings are creatures of thy power.
Thou art the Father of our spirits;
thy inspiration gives us understanding,
thy providence governs our lives.
But, O God, we are sinners in thy sight;
thou hast judged us so,
and if we deny it we make thee a liar.
Yet in Christ thou art reconciled to thy
rebellious subjects;
Give us the ear of faith to hear him,
the eye of faith to see him,
the hand of faith to receive him,
the appetite of faith to feed upon him;
that we might find in him light,
riches, honour, eternal life.

Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*, The Banner of Truth Trust (2005), p. 222



Take Off on Your Trek

It's Raining! (5 minutes)

As the children arrive, spray a light mist of water. Tell them that it is raining in the rainforest and they need to get under the shelter quickly. After everyone is settled under the lean-to, say:

It is raining in the rainforest today, as it does almost every day. In fact, enough rain falls every year in the Amazon rainforest to fill two billion Olympic-size swimming pools! The word *rainforest* actually means a forest that is constantly wet. The Amazon rainforest gets so wet that it is flooded about half of every year.

The stop we are making today on our ultimate trek through time involves a flood, too. But the Flood we are going to talk about today is *nothing* like the flood in the rainforest. The rainforest flood is just a local flood that happens in the Amazon region. We don't even realize it is happening here in _____ (name of your town), do we? But the Flood at Stop 3, Catastrophe, is the Flood of all floods! Wait till you hear about it!

Lead the kids in a rain activity to get in a rainy-day mood! Work your way from light rain, to thunderstorm, to light rain again using the following suggestions.

Light rain	Rub thumb and fingers together.
Medium rain	Click tongues.
Heavy rain	Rub hands together quickly.
Wind	Make noises like the wind.
Storm	Stomp feet.

Travel Your Trek

The Worldwide Flood Bible Account (15 minutes)

The children will act out the account of Noah and the worldwide Flood.

Before class begins, print the Bible Account found on the Teacher Resources CD onto cardstock. Cut into five sections.

Divide the class into five groups. Give each group one section of the account. Announce that they have five minutes to read their section, figure out which part each will play, and how they will act it out. They cannot talk while they act it out. Start the timer, and let the brainstorming begin! Advise as needed.

- Lean-to supplies
- Spray bottle filled with water

- Before class begins, prepare a lean-to:
 - Gather 2–3 blue plastic tablecloths.
 - Attach one end of each tablecloth to the ceiling (overlap each a few inches to prevent gaps).
 - Tape the other end of each tablecloth to the backs of chairs spaced appropriately.
 - Make sure the lean-to is positioned so the children can gather under and observe the teaching activities for the day.

- Bible Account (from Teach Resource CD)
- Timer
- Bible

☐ Illustrations 3-00-3-08



After five minutes, get everyone quiet and situated. Begin narrating the following account. Call up each group at the appropriate time and have them act out what you are saying. Remind them that you alone are talking.

At the end of each section, the actors freeze. The next group comes up and tags them to sit down.

When done, move directly into the next activity, which will take a look at this account from an apologetics point of view.

Catchy Conversation: Examining the Reality of the Flood

(10 minutes)

Guide Two (Teaching Assistant) Hold it a minute. I've got some questions about all this. I know you've studied this a lot, so can you help me?

Guide One (Master Teacher) Sure. I'd love to.

Guide Two Oh! I have a fun idea. Let's pretend I'm a news reporter, and I'm interviewing you about Noah and the Ark. Are you game?

Guide One Well ... okay.

Guide Two All right! Now you're talking. Let me just find myself a microphone, and we'll be in business.

Looks around and grabs something that is a decoration, like a flower or a piece of a vine. Something ridiculous is good! Begins to act like a TV newscaster.

Hello, and welcome to Amazon News Tonight. I'm ___, reporting live from the Amazon rainforest.

Guide One Excuse me, but why did you just tell them your name was ___?

Guide Two Ah, I'm just pretending. Come on, loosen up. Okay, let's try that again. Hello, and welcome to Amazon News Tonight. I'm ___, reporting live from the Amazon rainforest. Today's special guest is ___, the world famous Bible scholar and Amazon River Guide. Welcome, ___.

Guide One Thank you, ___. I think.

Guide Two I understand you have studied the biblical account of Noah quite extensively, so let me pose a question. How large was Noah's Ark?

Guide One Illustration 3-00. Well, we always picture Noah with a little hammer and saw, but think about it. This was a big boat! The Bible tells us it was 450 feet long. That is like one and a half football fields!

Illustration 3-01. Besides being long, the Ark was also tall. It was as tall as a four story building!

Guide Two That is HUGE!

Guide One Right! So you've got to understand that Noah was a smart guy, and he would probably have used cranes, pulleys, and other machines to help engineer this Ark. The cool thing about the Ark is that it was the ideal dimensions for a ship. It was six times longer than it was wide.

Guide Two Well, that answers how big it was, and how Noah might have built it, but what about all those animals? I mean, how in the world did he round them all up?

Guide One If you're picturing Noah running around the earth saying, "Here, ducky, ducky!" or "Come on, Mr. Bear, get in here!" then forget it! Noah didn't have to round up the animals. The Bible indicates that God directed the animals to come to the Ark.

Guide Two That would make things easier. But I'm still having trouble imagining that all those animals could fit.

Guide One Illustration 3-02. That's because you are imagining every species of animal getting on board, rather than every kind. There's a difference. God said He wanted two of every kind of land animal, seven of the clean animals. Noah didn't have to take two wolves, two coyotes, two dalmations, and two beagles, for instance. He just had to take two of the dog kind. Big difference.

Also, the Ark didn't have to carry every kind of animal—just the air-breathing ones living on land. That eliminates most animals because many animals live in water.

Guide Two But what about dinosaurs? Were they on the Ark, too?

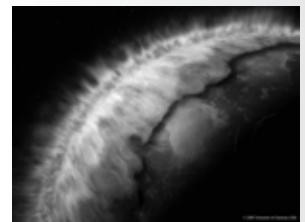
Guide One Yep. Remember, dinosaurs were created on Day 6 with the other land animals and people, just 6,000 years ago. So they would have been around at the time of the Flood. That means they would have been on the Ark.

Guide Two How would they fit? They are HUGE!

Guide One I never said that they had to be full-grown animals. God most likely brought Noah two young adults of each dinosaur kind—a male and a female. Plus, we know that the average size of a full grown dinosaur was about the size of a sheep or pony. They weren't all huge like *T. rex*, you know! But even if they were full-grown, they still would have fit without any problem.

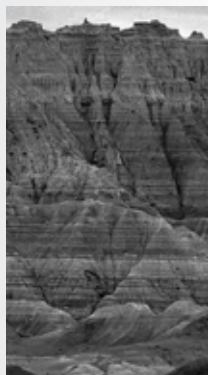
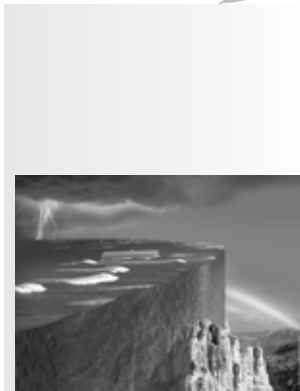
Guide Two Okay. I'm convinced they all fit! But what about the Flood? How could it possibly rain enough to flood the whole world at one time?

Guide One Illustration 3-03. If you read the Scriptures carefully, you will see that the floodwaters were coming not only from above the earth but also from below the earth. It was raining all over the world at the same time, and water was also bursting forth from below the ground.



Water, Water Everywhere

Day 3



"FOSSIL" HAT
This hat was recovered from the Spring Mine where it had been covered with water for over fifty years. The mineralization of the water has calcified the hat.



It is commonly believed that petrification is a process taking millions of years... the truth is that petrification can take place in as little as three weeks. You are looking at a piece of petrified flour from the Blue Spring mine. It had rotted all the way to the end of the sack.

Photo by John Herber, "Petrified Flour" Creation Magazine 23(1), page 17.

Guide Two That sounds like a lot of water, but even so, how can we be sure the Flood covered the whole world and wasn't just where the Ark was?

Guide One Well, first of all, why would Noah need to build a huge Ark if the flood was just going to be local? Since he knew years in advance that it was coming, he and his family could easily have walked to another area to miss the flood.

Illustration 3-04. Also, the Bible tells us that the water rose to 25 feet above the mountains. How could it rise that high over local mountains and leave the rest of the area untouched?

Guide Two Good point. Any other evidence of it being a worldwide flood?

Guide One The best one of all. God put a rainbow in the sky. He promised He would never again send such a flood. If it had been a local flood, God would have broken His promise, because we've had many local floods since. But there's never been another worldwide flood again, and we can remember that God is a promise keeper!

Guide Two That's the best news! But I'm wondering if there is scientific evidence to support the idea of a worldwide flood.

Guide One There's lots! Anywhere you go on the earth, there is evidence of a global catastrophe.

Illustration 3-05. You see it in many of the rock layers found around the world. You see it in land that has been raised up, like mountain ranges.

Illustration 3-06. You see it in the billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the earth. Plants and animals were rapidly buried in the water, mud, and materials of the Flood. They eventually hardened into fossils.

Guide Two But I thought it took millions of years for fossils to form.

Guide One Nope. If you have just the right conditions, fossils can form quite quickly.

Illustrations 3-07, 3-08. Look at these pictures. Do you think this fossilized hat or this fossilized sack of flour are millions of years old? Of course not. They turned into fossils quickly, under just the right conditions. The Flood provided the right conditions for many fossils to form.

Guide Two There really is a logical answer for all of this, isn't there? Well, before signing off, I've got one more question I've just got to ask. What happened to the dinosaurs after the Flood?

Guide One Well, the earth was a very different place after the Fall and the Flood. The beautiful paradise was gone. Now the world was a broken up, difficult place in which to survive. The dinosaurs that survived the Flood on the Ark repopulated the earth like all the other animals. But eventually they began to die off, perhaps because the climate changed, they couldn't find enough food, they became diseased, or people hunted and killed too many of them. These are reasons that many animals become extinct today.

Guide Two I guess it really isn't such a mystery, is it?

Guide One Nope. You just need to start with the Bible. It helps us make sense of the world we live in!

Guide Two Well, thanks ____, for sharing with us. It was quite enlightening. And thank you, boys and girls, for tuning in to Amazon News Tonight. This is ____, reporting live. Now back to you!

Guide One Wow! That was quite an interview. Before I sign off completely, let me leave you with this thought. When I think of the color blue, I think of water. And when I think of water, I think of the Flood. And when I think of the Flood, I wonder if I would have listened to Noah and gone on the Ark if I had been there. I know I'm sinful and need to be saved. Just as God saved Noah and his family, God saves people today. How about you? Do you realize you have disobeyed God's commands? Do you realize you need to trust God to save you? Please talk to your leader or me if you have questions about it. And we'll talk more about it on our last day. But for now, let's play "Vine Limbo."

Retrace Your Trek

Memory Verse Time (remainder of class)

Vine Limbo

Two people hold a vine like a limbo stick. Kids line up behind it and take turns going under the vine while saying the memory verse. Lower the vine with each child. For added fun, spray water above the vine.

Today's Verse

"So He destroyed all living things on the face of the ground. Only Noah and those with him in the Ark remained alive." Genesis 7:23.

- Poster 3-b
- Plastic vine
- Spray bottle with water