

Life Lesson 5  
*Noah and the Ark*  
Text: Genesis 6

Introduction

Do you think sin is a very bad thing? What about little sins – like telling a little fib or disobeying your mom when you're pretty sure she isn't going to notice? Do you think maybe God won't mind that so much? People in our world today think that sin is not too bad. They think, "I haven't murdered anyone or robbed any banks, so I'm not too bad. God won't be too hard on me. I'll probably get to Heaven when I die."

In our story today we will see what God really thinks about sin.

The Story

God gave Adam and Eve children, and their children had children. Before long the world was filled with people. They were all sinners because of Adam and Eve's sin. Imperfect parents can't have perfect children, so all the people were sinners. And were they ever bad! Each person wanted to be the god and to choose for himself. They didn't want to obey God.

Soon the world was full of dirty, nasty, wickedness. It was so bad that God said, "That's enough."

God is a holy God. He hates wickedness. He will allow people to go only so far in sin before He stops them and punishes them. The world was ruined and evil, so God planned to send a flood of water to destroy all the sinful people and to stop their disgusting ways.

But one man found grace in the eyes of God. Noah loved God and served Him. Noah was a sinner, but, but he had trusted God to save him.

God told Noah about His plans to destroy the world. He told Noah to build a ship.

Because Noah believed God, he obeyed, even though it must have been hard.

Can you imagine how everyone laughed at Noah as he and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, built the giant boat? There he was, building a ship, and there wasn't an ocean anywhere near. Many scientists think that it had never rained up to that time. God watered the earth with a heavy dew on the ground each day, instead.

When Noah said water would come from the ground and from the sky, the people must have cracked up laughing. Is it hard to keep doing the right thing when someone is laughing at you? Yes, it's hard! But Noah and his family kept on, year after year, building the boat.

While he was building, he kept on preaching, too. Noah warned the people that God hated their sinful ways. He urged them to trust in God for salvation, but no one listened.

The day came when Noah received more orders from God. God told him to stock the ship with food and to bring animals on board. He was to bring two of every kind of animals, except for those which were good to eat. Noah was to put seven of those on board.

Eventually, the boat was loaded with food and with animals. Noah, his wife, his three sons, and his sons' wives went in, and God shut the door. Noah and his family stayed in the ark with the animals for a whole week before anything happened. Then the storm came.

God broke up the water from under the ground and He poured out the water from the clouds. Before long the wicked people saw their mistake. They probably tried their best to get in the ark, but it was too late. God had shut the door, and they couldn't get in. Many probably ran for high ground, but that was no good, either. The water soon covered the entire earth. When God sends a judgment, there is no running and no hiding.

All the wicked people drowned in the water that day. They refused to believe God, and they died. But Noah and his family believed and obeyed. They stayed safe and dry on the ark. It

rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The water probably was rough, but Noah had followed God's exact instructions for building the boat, and the ark stayed safely afloat.

Noah and his family stayed on the boat a long time – over a year. At last, though, the water went down and they were able to get off the boat. Can you imagine how glad they must have been to be on dry land again?

The first thing they did was to build an altar and make a sacrifice to God. It showed that they knew that they needed a Savior to save them from the destruction in Hell they had earned with their sin, just as the ark saved them from destruction in the flood. The animal's blood didn't save them, but it was a sign that they knew Jesus would come one day to pay for their sins.

God saw the sacrifice, and it pleased Him. He made a promise never to destroy the whole earth with a flood again. As a symbol of that promise, He put the rainbow in the sky. Ever afterwards, when there is rain, there is a rainbow – a sign of God's promise.

#### The Life Lesson

So what does God think about sin? He hates it! He will always judge sin.

I hope you won't be like the people who didn't believe Noah. They thought God didn't care about their sin because they weren't punished right away. But, God will always do just what He says. Those people had to face God's anger. People who refuse to believe God and insist on being their own god will see God's anger, too.

I hope you will, instead, be like Noah. He wasn't perfect, but He believed God. He obeyed God. Because he trusted God, he was saved from the flood. By trusting Jesus and obeying Him, you, too, can be safe from God's anger. Just as the ark took the beating from the waves, Jesus took the punishment for the sins of His people. He, alone, can keep us safe from the judgment our sins deserve.

## Review Questions

Why did God destroy the world with a flood?

*Because the people were wicked*

What instructions did God give Noah?

*He told Noah to build a boat (ark).*

What did Noah do while he was building the ark?

*He preached to the wicked people.*

Who went on the ark with Noah?

*Noah's wife, his three sons, and the sons' wives.*

Name Noah's three sons.

*Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

How many animals did Noah take on the ark?

*Two of the unclean animals and seven of the kind that were good for food.*

How long did it rain?

*It rained for 40 days and 40 nights.*

What happened to the wicked people who refused to obey God?

*They drowned.*

What did Noah and his family do when they came out of the ark?

*They offered a sacrifice to God.*

What sign did God give that He would never again destroy the whole world with a flood?

*He put a rainbow in the sky.*