

Lesson 24

Catastrophe: The Flood

God is holy. God must judge sin.



K-1st Lesson

Introduction

- ? Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. How many of you remember when we talked about the Seven C's of History? Show of hands.

Today we are going to talk about another one of those C's!

- ? First, which C tells us about God's perfect world and how he created everything in it? *Creation.*
- ? Yes! And what was the second C, Corruption, about? *Sin came into the creation.*

That's right. God created everything perfect and very good. Then he placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. But when they sinned, the whole creation was ruined—we call that Corruption.

Refer to the Lesson 23 Flip Chart. Ever since then, all people are born with sinful hearts.

What Is a Catastrophe?

So we have learned about Creation and Corruption. That brings us to the third C—Catastrophe!

- ? Can you say catastrophe? Have the children repeat it after you a few times.

A catastrophe is a big, bad problem! It's a huge disaster! I'm going to show you a special hand motion for the word "catastrophe." It looks like this. Put your hands in front of you with right hand higher. Turn right hand out with palm open and left hand palm up. Move both hands up and right as you rotate them. Make a sad/surprised face. We make a sad face because bad things happen in a catastrophe. Practice the hand motion several times with students while repeating the word.

I want you to listen for the word "catastrophe" as we continue with our lesson. Every time you hear it, make the motion we learned, okay? Here

we go. You may cue the students by making the motion when you say the word or pausing after you say it.

The catastrophe we are going to read about in the Bible had to do with the weather. It was the biggest catastrophe that ever happened on earth. Praise students who hear "catastrophe" and remember to do the motion.

- ? How many of you have seen a thunder and lightning storm? Are any of you afraid of storms? They have lots of wind and rain. Sometimes the electricity even goes off. Has that happened to any of you? Allow discussion.

Here are some pictures of storms. Sometimes they can be pretty scary. Show children pictures of storms, lightning, tornadoes, big waves, etc.

The catastrophe we are going to hear about today was a really terrible storm. It caused a huge flood of water that covered the whole world and killed almost everything on earth!

- ? But who do you think was in control of this catastrophe? I'll give you a hint. He is all-powerful and in control of everything. Who is that? *God.*

Yes. We've learned that God is omnipotent and that he's always in control of everything. And God had a reason for bringing this catastrophe on the world.

God Punishes Sin

The Bible tells us all about this catastrophe. You see, God wants us to know about it and remember why it happened.

- ? Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is in your Bible. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.

Genesis 6:5

We're going to look in Genesis today. Listen carefully as I read. Read Genesis 6:5 from your Bible.

- ? What did God see? *The wickedness of man.*
- Right. The Bible says God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth. Wickedness is another word for sin. There was so much sin on the earth, and God could see it all!

- ? What is sin? *Disobeying God.*
- Yes. Sin is anything we do or think or say that is disobedient to God. And God hates sin because he is holy.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The Bible says the people were evil. God knew that their hearts were wicked. Look at these men on the Flip Chart. They look really mean, like they're going to hurt somebody. And it looks like they stole something, too. The people did not love or obey God, and they were always sinning against God.

Genesis 6:6

Let's find out how the sin of the people made God feel. Read Genesis 6:6 emphasizing "grieved him to his heart."

- ? God saw so much sin in the people. How did that make God feel? *Sad. Sorry. Grieved.*

We've learned that everyone is born with sin in their heart, and that sin makes God sad. God knew what was in the hearts of all the people that were on the earth, and he was very sorry that he had made people because they were so full of sin.

Genesis 6:7

God has to punish sin because he is holy. Listen to what God said he was going to do to punish the sin in the world. Read Genesis 6:7.

- ? Wow! What was God going to do to man and animals? *Blot them out. Destroy them.*

Yes. God was going to send a catastrophe that would destroy everyone and everything on the earth—all the people and all the animals! He was going to wipe out everything because of the sin and wickedness. That sounds pretty terrible, doesn't it?

Genesis 6:8

- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. But someone named Noah lived through this catastrophe. Does anyone know about Noah? Or what he built? Allow discussion.

Let's look and see what God's Word has to say about Noah. Read Genesis 6:8.

- ? What did Noah find in the eyes of the Lord? *Favor.*
- Yes. God gave Noah special favor because he loved and obeyed God.

God Shows Mercy

God told Noah that he was going to bring a catastrophe—a flood of water that would cover the whole world. This flood would destroy everything and everyone on the earth. But God was going to save Noah and his family.

- ? Why did God have to destroy the world with the flood? *Because of sin.*

Right. God was going to punish the sin on the earth with a huge storm and a great, big flood! It was going to be a great catastrophe.

Sin makes God sad, and God must judge, or punish, sin. When we talk about God judging sin, we say God is just. But because Noah loved and obeyed God, God showed him mercy and promised to save him from the punishment that was going to destroy the earth.

Genesis 6:14

But in order for Noah to be safe from the flood, he had to obey. God gave him a very big job to do! Listen to this verse. Read Genesis 6:14.

- ? What was the job God told Noah to do? *Make an ark.*
- That's right. Noah was told to build an ark for himself—a huge boat, or ship. God told Noah to bring his wife and sons and their wives onto the ark as well.
- ? But what if Noah built the ark and just stood outside? Would that keep him safe? *No!*
- ? What would Noah have to do to be saved from all the water? *Get on the ark. Go into the ark.*

Right. Noah and his family would have to go through the door of the ark to get inside in order to be saved from the catastrophe.

John 10:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse page. Now this is a picture of something else in the Bible. Our memory verse tells us about it. It's something that Jesus said. Let's say it together. Recite John 10:9 together.

- ? What did Jesus call himself? *The door.*
- ? Right. What would happen to anyone who enters by him? *He will be saved.*

Just like God showed mercy to Noah, God has also shown mercy to sinners, including you and me. He made a way for Noah to walk through the door of the ark and be safe from the flood. God also made a way for us to be saved from the punishment of sin. When we put our trust in Jesus and believe in him, it's like we're walking through the door to be saved.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

God must punish sin... God showed mercy to Noah.



Noah

Sinful
People