

Lesson 24

Catastrophe: The Flood

God must judge sin.

Studying God's Word

Introduction

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Refer to the Genesis . Last time, we learned that sin was not only a problem for Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel but also a big problem for all of us. The Bible tells us that we are all sinners. Our hearts are wicked, and that means that we all deserve God's punishment. This is very bad news, right?

Slide #3

Refer to Lesson 23 Theme Poster. But we know there is also good news! That good news is Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for sinners when he died on the cross. If we believe in Jesus, repent and turn from our sins, and trust him for forgiveness, we will become new creations in Jesus Christ! We will have eternal life with God in heaven!

Knowing the bad news helps us understand why the good news is so good. And we should share both the bad and the good with others.

Refer to the Seven C's of History poster. So far we have talked about the first two C's of the Seven C's of History—Creation and Corruption. Today we are going to talk about the third C. It's called Catastrophe.

Does anyone know what a catastrophe is? Allow discussion. A big disaster, something terrible that happens, something bad.

A catastrophe is when something really horrible happens! Usually people are hurt during catastrophes. And things are ruined or destroyed. Many times, catastrophes have to do with the weather.

Can anyone think of something that might be called a catastrophe or disaster in the world? Allow discussion.

Show pictures of these types of disasters if you brought them in. I have some pictures of what we might call "catastrophes."

Through the Door Game

Have any of you been in a storm? Let's say you were playing outside in your backyard when you heard a crash of thunder and suddenly huge drops of rain started pelting down on you. Where would you go? What would you do? Allow answers.

If you were in a storm, you would try to find shelter, wouldn't you? You would go inside your house where it's safe and dry. Well, we're going to play a little game before we get into our Bible reading today.

I want everyone to line up along the wall. I'm going to be the storm. Take out the spray bottle. On the opposite side of the room from the students, line up several chairs, leaving a space between two of them to serve as "the door." I'm going to set the timer for three minutes. When I say, "There's a storm coming!" you will each need to carefully make your way to the door here between these chairs, but beware: if you get wet, you'll have to go back to the wall and start over. Ready? Let's see how many of you make it through the door to safety before the timer rings. Remind the students to be careful around the tables and chairs. Set the timer for three minutes. Say "there's a storm coming!" then try to spray the students with the spray bottle as they head for "the door" space between the chairs. After the timer rings, have students return to their seats.

Sin on Earth

Pass out the Class Notes (PDF) to the students when appropriate.

Well, a really bad storm can certainly be a catastrophe! But the catastrophe we are going to read about in the Bible today was much worse than anything that has happened in the world since then. It was as if everyone in the whole world got hit by a hurricane, earthquake, flood, and tsunami—all at the same time!

Genesis 6:5

Slide #4

You may be able to guess what I'm talking about. What do you think it is? Allow discussion. The flood.

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Our memory verse tells us why this catastrophe happened. Let's start there and read it together! It is Genesis 6:5. Recite the verse together.

What did the Lord see on the earth? The wickedness of man.

Right. God looked on the earth and saw what the people were doing and how they were acting. God knew they were wicked, and their hearts were evil.

What does this verse tell us about the thoughts and intentions of these people? Genesis 6:5. They were evil continually.

Yes! And what does continually mean? All the time.

Genesis 6:6–7

Slide #5

The people were evil all the time! And God does not like sin at all—he hates it! What did God do? The Bible tells us! Will someone read Genesis 6:6–7? Assign readers.

First, what did the Lord think of men now that they were doing such evil things? How did God feel about it? Genesis 6:6. The Lord regretted that he made man.

Yes. God was sorry he had made man. He was grieved at the sins they were committing.

What does the Bible say the Lord was going to do because of the sin he saw in the people? Look in Genesis 6:7 again. Reread the verse if necessary. Blot out man, beast, creeping thing, and birds.

He was going to blot everything out. That means God was going to destroy everything he had created on earth with a flood that would cover the entire world!

But why would God do that? It has to do with some of his perfect attributes. Take a look at the Attributes of God poster. Which one talks about what God thinks of sin? Holy.

God is holy. What does holy mean? Someone read that for us from the poster. Assign a reader. Cannot sin and hates all sin.

We've talked about this before. God is holy. Because he is holy, he hates sin. He is the holy, Creator God. He is worthy of all praise and honor—not wickedness and evil thoughts!

So what does God do about sin? There is another attribute called "just." Someone read what that means. Assign a reader. Fair according to who he is; God must punish sin.

God MUST punish sin because of who he is. Because God is holy and just, he cannot stand sin of any kind!

Let's do a quick review. Look at your Class Notes (PDF) now. These are a little different this time. You will match up the shapes in each sentence with the shapes at the bottom of the page to find the answer.

Slide #6

Who will read #1 for us? What did God see on the earth? Assign a reader. Hearts. Have students complete #1.

How about #2? What did God do because of the sin on the earth? Assign a reader. World. Have students complete #2.

And #3? Who wants to read that one? Why must God punish sin? Assign a reader. Just. Have students complete #3.

Noah

Okay. Let's move on. God saw that ALL the people were wicked and evil on the earth! But there was someone on earth who was righteous—someone who pleased God. You may know who I mean, but let's read about him from God's Word.

Genesis 6:8–9

Slide #7

Look at Genesis 6:8–9. Will someone read those verses? Assign readers. Who is this about? Noah.

The Bible says that Noah found favor in God's eyes. That means God knew that Noah believed in him and wanted to obey him.

What does verse 9 say about Noah? What kind of man was he? Reread the verse. He was a righteous man. He walked with God.

Wow! One man on all the earth found favor in God's eyes. Noah was the only one following God. He had faith in God, believed in him, and trusted him.

Genesis 6:13

Slide #8

So God spoke to Noah. Let's read what God said to him in Genesis 6:13.

Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader.

What was God going to do? Destroy everything on the earth.

That's right. God saw the sin and wickedness of men. The earth was full of violence, and God told Noah he was going to destroy it.

Genesis 6:14

Slide #9

But what did God tell Noah to do? God was about to give Noah a VERY big job. And Noah would be saved if he obeyed. Someone read Genesis 6:14 for us. Assign a reader.

What was the VERY big job God told Noah to do? Make an ark.

Slide #10

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. That's right. God told Noah to build an ark for himself—a huge ship. And God told Noah to bring his wife and sons and their wives onto the ark with him. Noah and his family and some of the animals would be saved from the catastrophe—the worldwide flood—that was going to destroy the earth.

Noah did exactly what the Lord asked him to do. He built the ark just like God said. The ark would save Noah and his family because Noah believed God. God showed mercy to Noah by making a way for him to be saved from the punishment for sin that was coming.

Slide #11

So, let's go back to the Class Notes (PDF) again. Someone read #4 for us. What did God give to Noah? Assign a reader. Favor. Have students complete #4.

And how about #5? How would God save Noah? Assign a reader. Ark. Have students complete #5.

God's Mercy on Sinners

So, was Noah a sinner? Allow discussion.

Romans 3:23

Slide #12

Hmm. Let's find out. Turn to Romans 3:23. Who can read that verse for us? Assign a reader.

Who sins and falls short of God's glory? All.

Yes! ALL sin and fall short of God's glory, and that includes Noah, me, and you! The Bible is clear. It says the hearts of all men are sinful! We all deserve God's punishment. The people of Noah's day deserved God's punishment, and Noah deserved God's punishment. Noah was a sinner, but God showed him mercy.

God was merciful and saved Noah because he loved and obeyed God.

Refer to the Attributes of God poster. What does that mean—that God is merciful? Look at the poster here. Let's read it together. Kind to those who are in misery; withholds deserved punishment.

God was merciful to Noah when he saved Noah from the punishment and death of the flood.

God is also merciful to us and to all sinners. Remember how we learned that sin separates us from God? Because of our sin, we deserve to be punished—separated from God forever.

But what did God do to show his mercy to sinners? Who did God send to save sinners? Allow discussion. He sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross and take the punishment for sin.

That's right! God has shown his mercy to us by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to earth so he could make a way for sinners to be saved from the horrible punishment for sin.

John 3:16

Slide #13

There is a verse we have read before, and it explains very well what God did for sinners. It is John 3:16. Turn there in your Bibles. Will someone read it? Assign a reader.

What does this verse tell us about God? He loved the world.

Who did God give to the world? He gave his only Son, Jesus.

What will sinners who believe in Jesus and all the Bible tells us about him receive? Eternal life.

What did Jesus do for sinners so that they could be forgiven and go to heaven? Allow discussion. Died on the cross.

Yes. Jesus himself took the punishment for our sins when he died on the cross. That is why God sent him.

Slide #14

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. You see, God's mercy did not stop when he saved Noah and his family from the worldwide flood. No! God shows perfect mercy to all sinners through his Son, Jesus Christ.

But there is something else we should think about, too. Noah was told to build an ark for himself, and 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 the flood? Get on the ark. Go into the ark.

Right. Noah and his family would all have to go through the door of the ark to get inside in order to be saved from the catastrophe God was using to punish sin.

John 10:9

Slide #15

The door of the ark is a picture of another door in the Bible. Listen to this verse from the Gospel of John. This is what Jesus said. Read John 10:9.

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. And when we each put our trust in Jesus and believe in him, it's like we're walking through the door to be saved, too.

Slide #16

Okay. Let's finish the Class Notes (PDF) now. Someone read #6 for us, please. Assign a reader. Sinners. Have students complete #6.

And #7? How did God show his mercy to us? Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #7.

Someone read #8. What will sinners who believe and trust in Jesus have?

Assign a reader. Life. Have students complete #8.

Application

Slide #17

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. God is a perfect and wonderful God. But because he is holy and just, he must punish every sin. That punishment is separation from God—in hell forever!

But God has amazing and perfect mercy, too! He showed mercy to Noah and his family by saving them in the ark. And he still shows that same mercy to ALL sinners by saving those who believe in Jesus Christ so they can be with God—in heaven forever!

You may hear people say they don't believe everything the Bible says about Noah, the flood, the ark, and God's judgment on the whole world because of sin. But it's very clear that this account is a part of the Bible! Noah is mentioned lots of times in the Bible. Even Jesus talked about Noah! Jesus

would not make up something like that! We can be sure that the flood was real, and it happened just the way it tells us in God's Word.

Pass out the [Student Take Home Sheets \(PDF\)](#) and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

All of God's Word is true. Noah was a real person; the flood covered the entire world; and God caused it all to happen because he must judge sin—just like the Bible says.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions
Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Box Toss

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions
Medium-sized cardboard box
Scissors or knife

Four beanbags
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

Materials

Review Questions
One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)
Pencils or white board markers
One die

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

Materials

Review Questions

Masking tape

Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Oh No

Not every roll of the dice will be good for the team. Answer the question, roll the dice, and be prepared to say, “Oh no!”

Materials

- Review Questions
- Two dice

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns answering review questions. When a team

answers correctly, have them roll the dice to determine their points. If a team does not answer correctly, give the answer and repeat the question later. Keep track of team scores.

Numbers aren't always a winner! If students roll:

- 2 or 3 that team gives 5 points away to the other team
- 4 or 5 that team takes 5 points from the other team
- 6–10 face value
- 11 subtract 10 points from the team score
- 12 double the team score

(Note: no team can have less than 0 points.)

Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Small paper strips
- Cup or basket

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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