



# The Story of God | Flood

## Flood | Story

### *Story from... Genesis 4-9*

After leaving the garden, Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. Because of jealousy and sin in his heart, Cain killed his brother Abel. God could not ignore this first murder, and sent Cain away to wander the earth. Cain was afraid of being killed if he wandered outside of his land, but God promised to protect him.

Not only did sin spread from Adam and Eve to their sons - it spread from generation to generation.

Even though man was created in God's image, everyone chose to disobey God. God saw that humans thoughts were completely evil - all of the time. They acted out in violence against each other. God's heart was broken, and he was sorry that he had ever made man. So God decided to start over by destroying the earth and everyone that lived on it with a flood. But God chose to save one man named Noah.

In order that Noah and his family might live, God instructed him to build a large boat called an ark. This boat would protect Noah's family and pairs of each kind of animal. Just as God said, the rain came and water poured up out of the ground. The waters flooded the earth for 150 days, and every living person, animal or thing that was not on the ark was destroyed.

When the rains stopped and the waters dried up, Noah and his family came off of the ark. Immediately Noah built an altar. He selected pure animals from every species, and sacrificed them to God as a symbol of thankfulness and worship.

God was pleased with Noah's sacrifice and said, "I will never again curse the earth, destroying all living things with a flood, even though people's thoughts and actions are turned toward evil from childhood. As a symbol of my promise I will hang a rainbow in the clouds. When I see the rainbow, I will remember this lasting promise."

God blessed Noah and his sons, telling them to go have many children and once again fill the earth with people.

Then God told Noah and his sons, “You must never eat animals that still have their lifeblood in them. And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person’s life. Life is in the blood and all life belongs to me... Life is in the blood and all life belongs to me!”

*I’ve told you a lot so far. Let me ask a few questions...*

### **Flood | Dialogue**

*Remember this is a dialog, not a quiz. The “answers” below each question are there to help you as a leader guide the discussion toward some key ideas.*

#### **Why did God flood the earth and destroy everything?**

Remember from the Story...God will never allow evil to remain in his presence...

#### **Do you think he had good reasons for doing this?**

If all mankind is doing evil, God’s holiness requires that all human sin be dealt with.

#### **What do the stories we have heard so far show us about what humans are like?**

#### **What is going on in their hearts?**

Since the sin of Adam and Eve, every person has chosen self over God. All humans have sinned.

#### **Was Noah also a sinner?**

We know from the story that **everyone** chose to sin against God.

#### **Then why did Noah and his family get spared from death in the flood?**

God chose Noah and saved him. This is called GRACE—unmerited, unearned favor. God chose to give this to Noah, and ultimately to the human race, because otherwise everyone would have been killed!

#### **How are we like the people of Noah’s day? Or are we different?**

#### **From this story, how does God feel about humans?**

Disappointment at our corruption and rejection of his ways.

Also compassion and mercy by saving the human race and making a promise to not destroy us again.

**What did God say to Noah about the blood from the sacrifices? Why was this important?**

All life belongs to God and life is in the blood. It is God himself who gives life.

When Noah came out of the ark, he offered sacrifices to God as a way of thanking God for showing him grace. God also said that he will require the blood (life) of anyone who takes another person's life.

**What does the story teach us about God? (Where in the story did you see this?)**

God is powerful—in control of the elements of nature.

God will never allow evil to remain in his presence.

The flood is absolute confirmation that God always judges sin in all humans.

God is the source of all grace. He saved Noah and his family.

Before saving them, he warned them of the coming judgment, an act of grace, just like with Adam and Cain.

He promised never to destroy the earth again, even though he knew man would continue to sin.

God knows all things. He knew what was in the heart of every man.

**Flood | Additional Dialogue**

**How did the story challenge or encourage you?**

**What questions do you have about the story?**

**What can you apply to your own life from this story?**