

## Beginning 29 - Activities

### ✓ Further Understanding: Investigation/Reasoning Skills

#### **Myth or True Account**

Many people consider the story of Noah and the flood to be a myth. What is a myth? A myth is defined as a traditional story about heroes or supernatural beings, often attempting to explain the origins of natural phenomena or aspects of human behavior. It can also be defined as a widely held but mistaken belief.

What does the Bible say about myths? The Bible warns against believing myths that are made up by men.

Why would some people consider the story of Noah and the flood to be a myth? Many people discount the truth of the Bible. They don't want to accept it as the word of God and just consider it made up stories. The Jews, through whom the Old Testament was passed down, considered the Old Testament of the Bible the sacred word of God. Those who lived close to the time it was written never doubted its truth and accuracy.

The Bible over time has been challenged but it continues to stand. Although it contains passages that are hard to understand, it has never been proven to be wrong. Jesus himself referred to Scripture as the truth. Jesus also referred to the flood at the time of Noah when he talked about what the end times would be like. (Matthew 24:37-39)

What are some questions that people would ask to challenge the biblical account of Noah and the flood? Let the student list ideas and then discuss the possible answers to those challenges. A few are briefly addressed below. The ideas for these answers come from the article, "Was There Really a Noah's Ark and Flood?" by Ken Ham and Tim Lovett at [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org). You should go to that website and [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org) for more information and encourage the students to do the same.

Explain to the students that we will never know for sure the answers to the questions as the description in the Bible of the ark and the flood is very brief. We can, however, think through ideas and try to come up with some feasible possibilities. **[picture 29-3]**

- How did Noah build the ark? Remember that we have already studied that the ancients were very sophisticated and had a lot of knowledge most of which has been lost over time. Their knowledge in many areas surpassed our own. Consider how the pyramids were made. They also had metal tools. It is possible that metal was even incorporated into the structure of the ark.
- How did Noah collect all the animals? The Bible says that the animals came to Noah. Animals migrate by instinct and it is possible that God moved in them in some way so that they went where he wanted them to go.
- How did all those animals fit on the ark? Noah probably wouldn't have take the largest animals on the ark, he most likely took younger ones that were smaller and would need less food and take up less space. The ark didn't carry every known species of animals it only carried kinds. Depending on how "kinds" is defined the different kinds of animals have been estimated at being around 16,000 in number.

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After the flood, these kinds separated and migrated to different areas of the world. Animals in isolation from others of their own kind undergo small changes within the kind that eventually make them different from other animals of their same kind. Consider the great variation among dogs. Kinds don't change into different kinds as evolution proposes but variation within a kind does occur.

- How did Noah and all those animals survive on the ark? Many animals under adverse conditions go into hibernation. Since God has given animals the ability to hibernate it would be a real possibility that many of the animals on the ark went into hibernation. God also told Noah to take food so he could feed them. The design of the ark must have been such that the feeding could have been done by eight people.
- What is faith in terms of the story of Noah and the flood? Faith means that we believe it was a real event even though we may not understand how it happened.
- What would happen if you were to doubt the truth of the flood? If we doubt one part of the Bible then we will begin to doubt or challenge any part we don't like or want to believe. Doubting God's word means that we think we are smarter than God and can pick and choose what to believe. We may not fully understand God's word but it is critical to our faith to believe that it is all true.

### ✓ **Game:** Can You Get on the Ark?

As a reminder that Noah took pairs of animals on the ark to save them from the flood, play a variation of "Red Light, Green Light."

Instructions: Pair each child up with a partner and have them hook arms. One child is Noah and stands at the front of the room. When Noah says "go" and turns his back to the group the pairs move forward toward him. When Noah says "stop" and turns back to the group the pairs have to stop moving. Any pair that Noah catches moving has to go back to the starting line. The first pair to reach Noah wins. One of the pair can become Noah to play again.

### ✓ **Activity:** Talk about what type of food Noah would have taken on the ark. Show types of grain seeds like rice, wheat, oats and popcorn and examples of what we eat that come from them. Have the children eat some dried fruit and beef jerky. Talk about why those foods would have been good to take on the ark.

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✓ **Song:** Rise and Shine

Chorus: Rise and shine, And give God the glory, glory  
Rise and shine, And give God the glory, glory  
Rise and shine, And give God the glory, glory  
Children of the Lord

The Lord told Noah: There's gonna be a floody, floody (repeat)  
Get those children out of the muddy, muddy  
Children of the Lord

So Noah, He built him, he built him an arky, arky (repeat)  
Built it out of gopher barky, barky  
Children of the Lord

The animals, they came: Two by twosie, twosies (repeat)  
Elephants and kangaroosie, roosies  
Children of the Lord

It rained and poured: For forty daysie, daysies (repeat)  
Nearly drove those animals crazy, crazies,  
Children of the Lord

The sun came out and dried up the landy landy (repeat)  
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy  
Children of the Lord

The animals came off: Three by three-sies three-sies (repeat)  
Grizzly bears and chimpanzee-sies zee-sies  
Children of the Lord

That is the end of, The end of my story, story (repeat)  
Everything is hunky dory, dory  
Children of the Lord