

Review the last stories a bit, focusing more on the most recent story, Cain and Abel.

- What do we know about Creation?
- What is the story of Adam and Eve?
- What happened with Cain and Abel?

Tell the Story *(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)*

The number of humans on the earth grew rapidly. Not only did sin spread from Adam and Eve to their sons—it spread to their son's children and their children's children, on and on. Even though humans were created in God's image, everyone chose to disobey God. They constantly hurt each other, with their words, their actions, their bodies. God saw that people's thoughts were completely evil—all of the time. This broke his heart and made him wish he had never created humans.

So God decided to start over. He said, *"I will completely wipe out this human race that I have created. I am sorry I ever made them."*

But there was one man, named Noah, who had a close relationship with God. Noah was the only man living on earth at that time who had this kind of relationship with God. So God said to Noah, *"I have decided to cover the earth with a flood, destroying everything alive! But I will give you a plan to keep you safe."*

God then told Noah to build a large boat called an ark, giving him specific instructions about how big to make it and what this boat should be like. God said to him, *"Make a boat from wood and seal it with tar, inside and out. Then build many decks and stalls for animals inside of it. I promise to keep you safe in this ark! Bring seven pairs of animals I have approved for sacrifices and one pair of each of the others. These animals will come to you to be kept alive. And remember; take enough food for your family and for all the animals."*

So Noah did everything exactly as God told him to do. Just as God said, the floods came—water burst out from the earth and rain poured from the sky. When the waters came, Noah and his family and all of the animals came on board the ark. As the waters rose, the boat floated safely on the surface. The flood covered even the tallest mountains and all living creatures on the earth were destroyed; except for those on the ark.

After 40 days the rains stopped. Many months passed as the waters slowly began to dry up. For weeks, Noah sent out a dove to see if it could find dry land. Finally, the dove returned with an olive leaf in its mouth. So Noah sent the dove out again, and when it didn't come back, he knew it was safe to return to land.

As soon as Noah came off of the ark, he built an altar, chose 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 bent toward evil from childhood. As a symbol of my promise I will hang a rainbow in the clouds. When you see a rainbow, this will remind you of my promise to you."*

Then God told Noah and his sons, *"I have put all animals under your control. You can use them for food, but you must never eat animals that still have their lifeblood in them. And those who murder must be punished by death. Life is in the blood and all life belongs to me!"*

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

Retell The Story

This may seem redundant, but it helps you remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: *So, where did the story begin? What happened next? Who was Noah? What did God tell him to do? Did he obey?*

Dialogue

These questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story.

- **Why did God flood the earth and destroy everything? Do you think that was a good idea?**
 - » *The heart of every human was completely evil.*
- **What do the stories we have heard so far show us about what humans are like?**
 - » *Since the fall of Adam and Eve every person has disobeyed God.*
 - » *Humans care more about taking care of things themselves than letting God take care of it for them.*
 - » *Humans don't trust God.*
- **From this story, how does God feel about humans?**
 - » *He was heartbroken that they did not choose his way AGAIN.*
 - » *Compassionate: he saved the human race and made a promise not to destroy us again.*
- **What was God saying to Noah (and all humans) by creating a rainbow?**
 - » *God wants to give us the best possible life—he always provides a way for us.*
 - » *He always takes care of us.*
 - » *He gives us hope.*
- **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.*
- **What does the story teach us about God?**
 - » *God is powerful—He controls the rain and the animals.*
 - » *God will never allow evil to remain in his presence.*
 - » *The flood shows us that God is serious about wiping out sin.*
 - » *God is the source of all grace. He saved Noah and his family.*
 - » *God warned Noah and his family about what would happen, just like with Cain.*
 - » *He promised never to destroy the earth again, even though he knew man would continue to sin. He is merciful and gives us chances.*
 - » *God knows all things. He knew what was in the heart of every man.*

Application *(Optional questions that may help apply the story)*

- What questions do you have about the story?
- What from this story can you apply to your own life?
- When is it hard to believe that God is taking care of you?
- How does God give you hope when you are in a rough situation?

Scripture Memory Verse

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth. Genesis 9:16