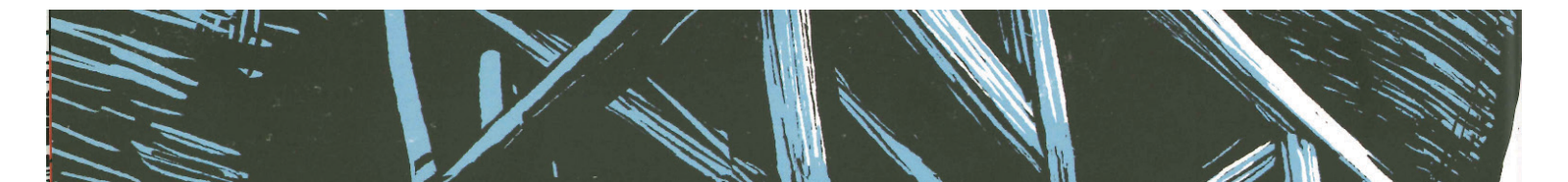


JESUS IS THE ARK AND THE DOOR

“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 3, September 1



JESUS IS THE ARK AND THE DOOR

“I am the door.
If anyone enters by me,
he will be saved.”

JOHN 10:9A ESV

Noah's ark sounds like just about the cutest story in the Bible, doesn't it? You've probably seen pictures of wide-eyed baby tigers scampering next to bunnies, mice riding on the backs of elephants, and giraffes so tall their poor skinny necks have to stick out the windows.

But all those cute illustrations can give us the wrong idea of the story. It's kind of a scary one, actually. It's about God's hatred of sin and his judgment because of it. You see, in Noah's time, people were very wicked. It was so bad that the Bible says every thought in their

hearts was evil all the time (Genesis 6:5). The Bible says God was grieved that he had made people and his heart was filled with pain (6:6). So he decided to send the flood.

Noah wasn't perfect; he was born into sin just like you and me. But the Bible tells us he was a righteous man who walked with God. And he had great faith. We know this because when God told him to build a giant boat in a place with likely very little water, he obeyed, down to the smallest detail. His neighbors probably thought he was crazy!

When Noah finished the boat, he, his family, and the animals entered the ark. Then God shut the door. Not long after that, the rains God had promised started to pour.

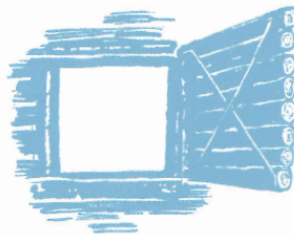
The rains came down and the fountains of the deep opened up. Rain, rain, and more rain for forty days; more than you can possibly imagine! Rain of judgment over sin, and perhaps the tears of God. The water covered the mountains, so all living things on the ground died. Only Noah, his family, and the animals on board survived.

After the waters finally receded, God told Noah to leave the ark with his family and all the animals. What joy they must have felt walking through the door and onto dry ground at last! Noah built an altar and burned an offering to thank and praise God. The Lord smelled the soothing aroma of the offering and was pleased. Then he made a covenant with Noah, a promise to never flood the entire earth again. He gave the rainbow as a sign of his promise and his great mercy.

Did the flood fix the problem of sin? No, people still sinned. Even Noah, the man who “walked” with God, sinned after the flood. God’s plan was that Jesus would be the ark that we can enter into and be saved. Jesus is our ark and he’s the one and only door to salvation (John 10:9). Just as God was pleased with Noah’s sacrifice after the flood, one day he would be pleased

with another, far greater sacrifice, the sacrifice of his Son Jesus.

God has provided a way for us to escape the floodwaters of sin. Will you trust God as Noah did? Will you enter into the perfect ark?



REFLECT

1. How is Jesus like our ark?
2. Read John 10:9 and discuss how it relates to our story today.
Note that some versions use “gate” and others use “door.”
3. Read Genesis 9:12–16 esv, and think about not just a rainbow, but a hunting bow. What do you think God is saying here?
4. Read Revelation 4:3 and discuss why we might be seeing a rainbow here.
5. Read Genesis 8:20–22. What comfort does this bring to you?

BIBLE REFERENCE GENESIS 6:1–9:17

KEY VERSE JOHN 10:9A ESV