

## UNIT #2

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit covers the time from Noah to Abraham, Genesis 6 through 22. As we examine the overall events that occurred as God carried on his strategic plan for the redemption of the human race, we will look at the individual choices and acts of faith through which that plan was accomplished then, as it is now.

The first lesson covers the flood as God's judgment for rebellion and His salvation for those who seek Him. It looks forward to the completion of God's plan when He will put an end to evil and welcome His children into His eternal presence.

The second lesson examines the significance of the tower of Babel, the tendency of fallen man to unite against God. The world is in rebellion against God, but God's plan will succeed.

The third lesson traces Abraham's life, his call and God's covenant with him to accomplish God's incredible plan.

The last lesson will look at God's ultimate test of Abraham and Abraham's choice to relinquish all to the Lord.

## UNIT 2#1

NEW BEGINNINGS:  
A WORLD REMADE & A NATION BORN2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## JUDGMENT &amp; SALVATION

## CONCEPT

God is justice and love.

## GOAL

**Christian** students will learn that God is both loving and just.

**Non-Christian** students will learn that because God is just He must judge all sin and because God is loving He doesn't want anyone to be separated from Him.

## PASSAGE: GENESIS 6-9

**Key Verse:** "The LORD loves what is just and good. His unfailing love fills the earth." Psalm 33:5 (NLT)

## PLANNING AHEAD\*

Lesson Supplies

## Optional Activities:

- Water-based face paint
- 3 hand mirrors
- Paper towels
- *The Tree that Rains* \* – available at public library
- *Llama and the Great Flood, Alexander* \* – available at public library

Craft Supplies

## Activity Stations:

- Acetate sheets printed with 4 rainbows, 1 rainbow/student
- Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, & purple Sharpie markers
- Safety pins, 1/student
- Thin string, 8"/student\*
- Scissors
- *Flood Facts* handout, 1/student
- World map
- Mt. Ararat close-up map
- *Adventure Bible Handbook*
- *Children's Bible Handbook*, Richards

\* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk\* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS**

The days of Noah began with man in full-blown rebellion against God. Things must have been pretty bad to warrant this description: **"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all of the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain" (Genesis 6:5-6).**

But there was a man who refused to be assimilated into the violence and corruption that surrounded him. Noah and his family walked with God. In spite of the great wickedness of the human race, God continued His plan through someone who was willing to walk with Him rather than follow the world system so soon to be judged.

God's judgment is sometimes a difficult truth to understand, especially in today's morally relativistic, "tolerant" climate. God is **both** just and loving, He won't compromise His character. His character will remain unchanged and we will all answer to Him, not He to us. Salvation is only meaningful in the context of judgment. We must see the world system as it really is, under the judgment of God, if we are to fully appreciate our salvation.

As our children grow, they must understand that this world is headed toward a very real judgment. This understanding is crucial for development of a burden to witness to others and a desire to invest in the things of God rather than the world. God will continue his plan of redemption with those who choose to walk with Him. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable your team to communicate this truth clearly so the children will be motivated to be a part of God's incredible plan.

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive *with us*; nor will He keep *His anger* forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but dust*" (Psalm 103: 8-14). As you prepare for this lesson, reflect on the tremendous grace and mercy God has extended to you personally and to mankind corporately.

## LESSON PLAN

<b>SET UP</b>	<b>Instructions:</b> You may want to mark the designated verses in your Bible because we will not read the whole account due to it being so long.
<b>INCORPORATION</b> <b>15-20 MIN</b>	<p><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Research</b> <b>Instructions:</b> Read pages 16-21 of the <i>Adventure Bible Handbook</i> and pages 28-29 of the <i>Children's Bible Handbook</i>. Discuss the pattern revealed – Man sins, God redeems, God's justice, patience and love as He deals with Man's sin and disobedience.</li> <li>• <b>Research Map</b> <b>Instructions:</b> Using the close-up map of Mt. Ararat, find its location on the world map. The Bible says that the ark came to rest on the top of Mt. Ararat.</li> <li>• <b>Research – Flood Facts</b> <b>Instructions:</b> As students read the facts on the sheet, have them consider the historical reality of the flood. As the flood becomes more of a reality, the understanding of God's purpose increases in importance.</li> <li>• <b>Craft – Rainbow Sun Catchers</b> <b>Instructions:</b> Color rainbow bands with Sharpie markers as indicated on the transparency. Allow a few seconds to dry after filling in each color. Cut out the sun catchers. Poke a hole with safety pin at the top and tie on string. Sun catchers are ready to hang in windows at home.</li> <li>• <b>Missions Prayer</b> <b>Instructions:</b> Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.</li> </ul>
<b>LESSON -- LG</b> <b>GROUP</b> <b>10 MIN</b>	<p>When some of you came in, you researched various aspects of the great flood and Noah's ark. What do you discover? (Allow some time for students to respond, but don't reach any conclusions yet.)</p> <p>Open your Bibles to <b>Genesis 6</b> and follow along as I read the account of the great flood. (Read <b>Genesis 6:5,6,11-14, 22; 7:6-10, 12, 16-19, 23, 24; 8:4, 8-13, 16, 17; 9:11-13.</b>)</p> <p>The Bible says that things got pretty bad before God sent the flood. Before the flood, people were violent, evil, rejecting of God and totally selfish. The Bible says that the Lord saw "that the thoughts and imaginations of man were evil continually" and "the Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain." What does it mean that the Lord was grieved? (Allow students to respond.) God saw that all the people on the earth except Noah and his family were very evil and wicked. This made God very sad. So, God planned to send a flood to cover the whole earth and kill everyone and everything, except Noah, his family and 2 of all the animals.</p> <p><b>Genesis 7:23</b> says, "<b>Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air... Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.</b>" What do you think about that? Do you think it is unfair of God to judge and kill people? (Allow students a few minutes to think about this question and to respond.)</p> <p>What would you think of God if He didn't judge sin? What would you think about a teacher who watched one child steal from another child and then beat him up while the teacher sat back and didn't say or do anything? Would that be a loving teacher? No! A loving teacher would judge the sin and discipline that child because what he did hurt another person and himself. God is loving and just.</p> <p>Our key verse tells us, "<b>The LORD loves what is just and good. His unfailing love fills the</b></p>

	<p><b>earth" (Psalm 33:5).</b> In order to be just, God must treat all people the same. That is what is fair. And that is why he judges sin—not just some sin, all sin. We learned two weeks ago that since Adam and Eve sinned, everyone is born a sinner and needs to be forgiven. Because God is perfect and just, He must judge all sin. Because God is love, He doesn't want anyone to be separated from Him. So God's incredible plan includes both justice and love. Justice is the giving what is deserved such as a reward or punishment. Because of God's justice, God sent the flood during the time of Noah as judgment or punishment for their sin. Because of God's love He offered everyone a way to be saved. But only Noah and his family accepted God's offer. God's justice and love continue the same today. And a day will come when God will judge again. That judgment will be forever. He offers everyone a way to be saved from that judgment. <b>"The LORD loves what is just and good. His unfailing loves fills the earth" (Psalm 33:5).</b> Everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus' death for their sin will be saved.</p> <p>What do you suppose the people of Noah's day did when Noah started building an ark on land with no water anywhere around and no such thing as rain? They didn't believe him and they chose to ignore what God said. Some people are like that today. They don't want to know God and ignore what God says to them through other people. But anyone who wants to be saved from God's judgment can be. The Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Tell Jesus you believe He died for your sin and invite Him to come live in your heart. You will become His child. You will be forgiven and saved from God's judgment like Noah and his family.</p>
<p><b>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</b></p>	<p>Let's get into your small groups. Grab a <b>Flood Facts</b> paper.</p>
<p><b>LEARNING ACTIVITY</b>  <b>#1 – SM GROUPS</b>  <b>10 MIN</b>          Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.</p>	<p><b>Goal: To help the students consider both the love and the justice of God.</b></p> <p>Let's look at the questions on the <b>Flood Facts</b> research paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think? Do you believe there was a real flood that killed every living thing? Do you think it matters whether you believe it or not? (You want to direct the students to the fact that the Bible states that there was a flood. If it isn't true then we can't believe anything else the Bible says.)</li> <li>• <b>Gen. 6:5 &amp; 12</b> tell us why God destroyed everything but the people and animals that were on the ark. Can you think of why it was a problem that the thoughts and intent of people's hearts was only evil all the time? (God's plan is to bring people back into relationship with Him. Those who refuse to accept His love are hurtful to themselves and others. They influence others who want to have a relationship with God. Evil must be punished.)</li> <li>• Noah found favor in God's eyes so he was saved from the flood. Why was that? <b>Gen. 6:8, 9, 22</b> and <b>Hebrews 11:7</b> give us clues. Do you think that means that Noah never sinned? (You want to direct the students to the understanding that Noah chose to walk with God. He believed what God said and was willing to obey God's command to build the ark. This doesn't mean that Noah was perfect, but that his desire was to be in relationship with God and to obey Him.)</li> <li>• Does it disturb you that God would destroy His creation? Do you think God enjoyed destroying the people He had created? <b>Gen. 6:6</b> says He was grieved in His heart. <b>2 Peter 3:9</b> says, "The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for every to repent" (NLT). To repent is to be sorry for your sin and turn to God for His forgiveness</li> </ul> <p>You can take the <b>Flood Facts</b> handout home with you to study with your friends and family.</p> <p>Let's <b>pray</b> now and thank God that He loves us so much that He disciplines us for our good and doesn't want anyone to suffer from His judgment. Let's thank Him that He sent His Son, Jesus, to</p>

	<p>die for us so we don't have to be judged. If you haven't asked Jesus to pay for your sins, you can do that while we pray. Do you know people who you would like to see saved from God's judgment? He died for them, too, so they won't have to be judged. It is their choice to believe or not to believe. If you have asked Jesus to pay for your sins, you can pray that God will give you an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus.</p>
<p><b>OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p><b>Craft – Animal Face Painting<sup>1</sup></b>  <b>Instructions:</b> Have students pair up and paint each other's face like an animal that might have been on the ark. Have the one being painted guess which animal they are going to be. If the students want to paint their own faces, that's fine, also.</p> <p><b>Game – Animal Hangman</b>  <b>Instructions:</b> Play hangman. The word to be guessed must be the name of an animal.</p> <p><b><i>Llama and the Great Flood and The Tree that Rains</i></b>  <b>Instructions:</b> Read the provided folk tales, which indicate that people groups all over the world have a story about a flood that destroyed most of mankind.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Marion Elliot, Belinda Hodson, *My Funny Face Book*, ©1994 Salamander Books Ltd., pp. 12–23, 48-51, 57, 58.

## Flood Facts

There is much evidence that there was a flood many, many years ago in earth's history. We find this evidence in **Tradition**, **History** and the **Bible**. But some people don't believe that there really was a great flood. Look at the books and articles in this activity station and then decide for yourself.

### Tradition

Read the two folk stories from Mexico and Peru, *The Tree that Rains* and *Llama and the Great Flood*. These two groups of people are very far away from each other but they have similar stories about a flood. Did you know that almost every group of people on earth has some story or legend of a great flood that once killed much of the human population? How would all these peoples who have not ever communicated with each other come up with legends that have so many similarities?

### History

See the *Life*, Sept., 1960 article and pictures.

Many people have gone to Mt. Ararat and seen this shape. Some even have pieces of wood they say came from the ark.

### Bible

We have the story of the flood in the book of Genesis. Jesus and the New Testament authors also talked about the flood, which means that they believed it really happened. Look up Matt. 24:37-39; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5; 2 Peter 3:5,6.

Now that you have looked at **Traditional**, **Historical** and **Biblical** evidence of a flood, what do you think?

- Do you believe there was a real flood?
- Does it disturb you that God would destroy people and animals in a flood?
- Look at page 28 of the *Children's Bible Handbook*. Consider the research of Doug Rudy who teaches the Science and Christianity class at Xenos, "I now am of the view that the flood was local. Here are the main reasons..."
  - The Hebrew word "erets," which is translated "earth" throughout Genesis 6-9 is translated more than twice as many times elsewhere "land".
  - There are similar important linguistic factors about the terms "mountains"
  - The geological evidence against a world-wide flood is overwhelming.
  - Only by accepting the young earth view of creation, which says that the earth was very different prior to the flood (much flatter, no high mountains), that the plates split apart and within one year formed all of today's mountain ranges, could you find enough water to actually cover the whole earth.
  - Hugh Ross' video, Science vs. Genesis – The Flood, in the study center is a great resource on this topic.

What do you think?