



LESSON 5

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God's judgment. We should obey and receive God's grace and salvation.

Bible Character(s): Noah and his family

Scripture Reference: Genesis 6-8



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Genesis 6-8, the story of

Noah and the ark. The world was corrupt and the people were living in sinful rebellion. It grieved God's heart that His creation had become so evil. God gave the people 120 years to confess their sins, but the people chose not to turn from their sinful ways. God decided to destroy all of creation through a flood. However, a righteous man named Noah found favor with God. God gave Noah instructions to build an ark to save himself, his family, and some animals from God's wrath and judgment. Noah was obedient, and God fulfilled His promises to wipe out the earth but to spare Noah and his family. In response to God's faithfulness to save himself and his family, Noah built an altar and worshiped God.

How does it make you feel that God decided to wipe out His creation through a flood? Do you think God had the right to do this? How does it help you understand God's character more? How does it help you understand who you are in relation to God?

Noah was asked to build something that had never been built before, designed by God's instructions, going on faith alone. If God asked you to do something that seemed impossible, would you be able to step out in faith and depend on God to help you through it? Would you obey every command of the Lord, even if it did not make sense? Would you trust in God to be faithful?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Sin in Our Lives

Teachers, spend some time talking to the campers about times when you and they have sinned. Encourage them to give specific examples (i.e. I hit my brother in anger) rather than general examples (i.e. I was bad).



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will discuss how Noah walked with God and was obedient to Him. We will also learn that God offers grace and salvation to those who believe and trust in Him.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? How did Noah describe the flood? (Lots of animals, so lots of work, noise, and bad smells; he felt great sadness for all of the people who died because they chose to disobey God; he and his family were uncertain of when or if they would ever see land again; all they could do was have faith in God and worship Him.) **Is that how you have imagined it happening? Does it seem like a nice, happy story to you?** (Allow responses.)

Last week, we talked about Cain and Abel. Cain was jealous of Abel. What did Cain do? He killed Abel. Why did he kill Abel? He was mad that God accepted Abel's offering, but not his own. His anger got out of control, took control of his heart, and led him to kill his brother. We talked about how easily our feelings can get out of control and make us sin. We need to go to God for help so that we can keep sin from mastering us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin so we do not need to be in bondage to sin. We can trust in Jesus as our Savior to help us from allowing sin to master our hearts.

Today we are going to learn about how the whole world had become too sinful. The people on earth were thinking of only evil things instead of thinking of God. They were thinking about what they wanted instead of what God wanted. God was so sad that the people He created had become so evil.

Let's read in Genesis 6 [NLT] about how God responded to what was happening in the world He created.

Genesis 6:5-9

5 The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6 So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. 7 And the Lord said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large

animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.”⁸ But Noah found favor with the Lord.

⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

Noah was not a perfect man. Only God is perfect. However, the Bible says that Noah was blameless, and that he walked in close fellowship with God. He chose to put his faith and trust in God. All of the other people of his time had evil thoughts in their hearts and were choosing to sin instead of following God, and that made God very sad. When we choose to sin instead of following God, we also make God really sad. How does it make you feel to know that every time you sin, it makes God sad? (Allow responses.)

God decided to spare Noah and his family because Noah had faith and he chose to walk with God. I Peter 3:20 tells us that there were eight people total who were saved from the flood. It is estimated that between the time of Adam and Noah was about 1600-2200 years; there was more than enough time for the earth to become filled with people. Only eight people, Noah and his family, out of an earth filled with people were saved from the flood. Noah and his family did not deserve to be saved by God, and God did not need to save them, but He showed them grace by choosing to save them. Grace is being given something we do not deserve.

For example, let's say your mother told you she would take you out for pizza if you do all of your chores for an entire week without being told. She has to remind you three times about your chores, but at the end of the week she chooses to take you out for pizza anyway. You did not deserve to be taken out for pizza because your mom had to tell you three times to do your chores, but she took you out anyway. By choosing to take you out for pizza, she showed you grace. God's grace is so much more though. God gives us a free gift of grace in Jesus. We are sinners and deserve to be punished for our sin, but God gave us Jesus. Does anyone know what Jesus did for our sins? (Allow responses) He paid the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross, so that we can live forever with Him, if we believe and trust in Him.

What We Deserve



The purpose is to help the campers have a better understanding of what grace means.

Supplies:

Yellow situation & results cards (1 set per bin)

Pink situation & results cards (1 set per bin)

Green situation & results cards (1 set per bin)

White board

Draw three columns on the white board. At the top of the first, write "Situation," then "What we deserve" above the second, and "Grace" at the top of the third.

Read the three situation cards, and tape each one in the "Situation" column. After each situation, read the two corresponding consequence cards. Ask the campers to decide which result is "What we deserve" and which result is an example of "Grace." Tape the results in the correct columns.

** Teachers – Please clip each of the three sets back together at the end of your session for the next group/destocking.

Tie It Together



In all of these situations, the person sinned. The person chose to disobey God. They all deserved to be punished. Each time we sin, we deserve to be punished. The results we read through all showed examples of what each person deserved, and how grace could be offered to the person who did something wrong. God gave us grace when He sent Jesus to pay the punishment for our sin. He continues to show us grace every time we sin and ask forgiveness. We do not deserve the grace He gives us and there is nothing we can do to earn it, but God still freely gives us grace anyway, if we choose to put our faith in Him. Because Noah had faith in God, God had grace for Noah and spared him and his family from the flood.

God gave Noah very specific instructions about how to make an ark. Noah had never built one before, and there probably had never been an ark made like this before. Noah only had the instructions God gave him on how to make it. He also had a difficult task in rounding up all the animals God told him to bring with him (seven pairs, male and female, of every kind of animal approved for eating; one pair, male and female, of every other kind of animal; seven pairs, male and female, of every kind of bird) and put them on the ark. Noah might have been tempted to only put some of the animals on the ark, or make the ark smaller than what God wanted, in order to save time and energy, but he did everything that God asked him to. He kept doing what God called him to do no matter how hard it may have seemed because he was obedient to God.

Obedience



The purpose is to show that God always has a better plan than what we think is best.

Supplies:

1 blow pop (1 per session)

Paper bag of candy (1 per session)

Ask for one camper to be a volunteer for the activity. Give the camper a blow pop and tell him/her it is a free gift. Then pull out the bag and ask the camper to trade his/her blow pop for the bag (without giving any clue as to what is inside). Tell the camper you think it would be a good idea to trade, and ask again to trade. If the camper trades with you, allow the camper to open the bag to see what is inside. He or she gets to keep the bag of candy and can choose to share the candy with the class if he or she wants. If the camper does not trade with you, open the bag and show everyone what was inside. Tell the camper he or she missed out on a chance to have something better than what they thought was best.

Tie It Together



Even though it did not seem like a good idea to trade a blow pop for a small bag, it turned out that the bag offered more than what the blow pop offered. Sometimes God asks us to do things that seem difficult to us and might not make sense. However, we can always trust that what God has for us is better than anything we can do or have on our own. God wants us to have faith in His plan for

us, even when it does not make sense or we cannot see what it is. When we are obedient to God, we are able to fully receive His blessings. Noah was obedient to God in making the ark and rounding up all of the animals.

God asked Noah to go into the ark and told him in seven days it would rain for forty days and forty nights until every living thing had been wiped from the earth.

Let's see how God blesses Noah for that obedience and see if Noah continues to be obedient to what God asks him to do.

Genesis 7:5, 17-23

5 So Noah did everything as the Lord commanded him. 17 For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. 18 As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. 19 Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, 20 rising more than twenty-two feet[b] above the highest peaks. 21 All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. 22 Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. 23 God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat.

God told Noah about the flood and He also told Noah what to do in order to save himself and his family. Noah obeyed every command God gave him. Do you think it was harsh of God to destroy everything on earth? (Allow responses.) Remember that God is Creator and He can choose to do whatever He wants with His creation. God saw how evil the people's hearts had become, and He gave them 120 years to confess their sins and turn from their evil ways (Gen. 6:1). The people chose not to turn from their sin, so God decided to stop all of the sinfulness from continuing on. God sees the evil in our hearts and He gives us the choice everyday to confess our sin and turn from our evil ways. He is a righteous judge.

Let's see what happened to Noah and his family.

Genesis 8:1, 15-19

1 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. 17 Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth." 18 So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. 19 And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

God remembered Noah and his family, and brought them out of the ark. He showed compassion to them. Noah and his family were saved from the flood because Noah chose to trust and obey God, and this pleased God. They did not deserve to be saved, but God showed them grace by choosing to save them. Just as Noah and his family did not deserve to be saved, we do not deserve anything but death for our sin. But God has already shown us grace through providing Jesus as the sacrifice and

payment for our sin. All He wants us to do is choose to believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

We've Been Shown Grace



The purpose is to help the children recognize grace that has been shown to them.

Supplies:

"Remember When" worksheet (1 per camper)

Write the definition of grace on the board. Ask campers to think about times they've been shown grace in their lives (by a parent, a friend, a teacher, etc.). Give out the worksheets and have campers write or draw pictures of those examples.

Grace = being given something you do not deserve.

Tie It Together



We have all been shown grace by God and by the people in our lives. Read the definition of grace: Grace is being given something we do not deserve. Any grace we ever receive is something we do not deserve. We do not deserve anything but death for our sin. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death..." But God provided a different way for us. He sent Jesus to die so we do not have to. Now *that* is amazing grace! God never wants us to return evil for evil; He wants us to follow His example of grace and choose to extend grace to others. Because God has shown us the greatest grace we could ever receive, we can show others grace everyday.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for His grace and providing a way for us to be right with Him. Ask Him to help us to obey and follow Him.



2801 Pelham Rd. Greenville SC 29615 Ph: 864.284.0122 Fx: 864.284.0222