

**Lesson 18: SEEDTIME AND HARVEST**  
**Genesis 8:13-22**

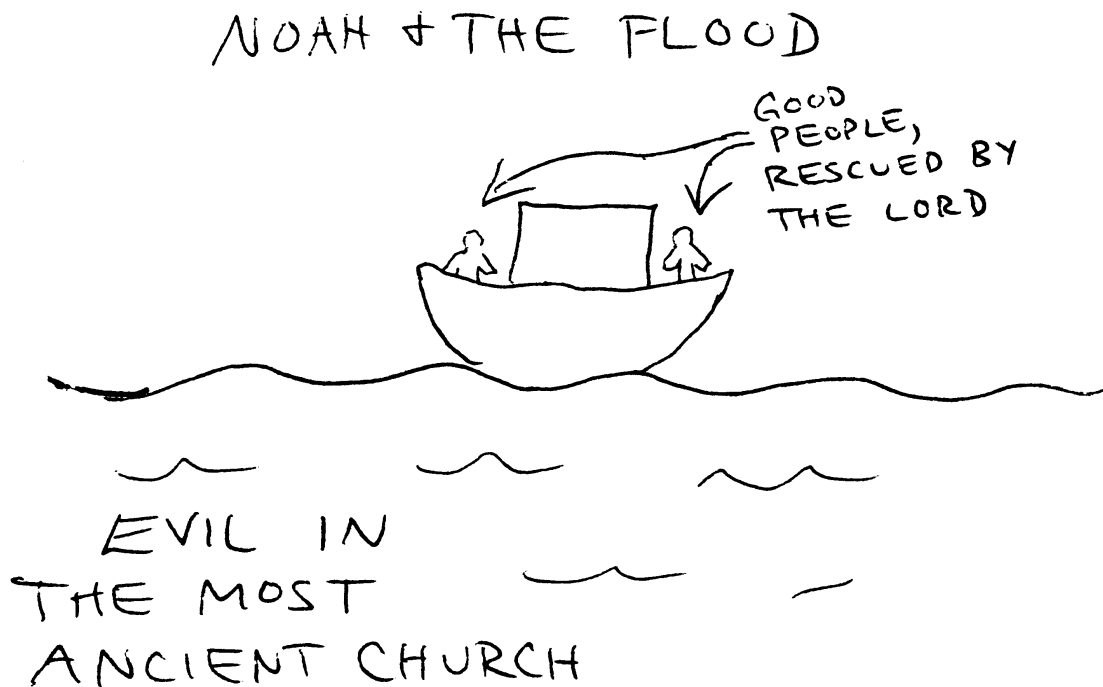
**INTRODUCTION:**

In the story of Noah, most things on the earth – all the things that had turned evil -- perished in a tremendous flood. The Lord rescued Noah's family and some of each kind of animal from this disaster, so He could have them start anew. Today we will read the very end of this story, and look carefully at the promise that the Lord spoke to Noah when the flood was all over.

**READING:** Now have the children read aloud **Genesis 8:13-22**.

**Visual Aids:**

Draw something like the following diagram on the board for the children to look at while you read the lesson to them.



*Find pictures of the four seasons, of morning and night, and maybe of harvest. Show them as you talk.*

**DISCUSSION:**

The story of the flood represents a time long ago when evil had come so strongly into the Most Ancient Church that people were falling into misery and death. The evil was like a great flood, and this is what the flood in the Noah story represents. This flood of evil was threatening to kill everyone on earth.

But the Lord did not let that happen. The Lord rescued the group of people that were still turning toward Him. The others did not want to reach out to the Lord, their rescuer, so they

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were swept away. But Noah and his family represent the people who wanted to reach out and be rescued. And so the Lord lifted them up above the evil, and they did not perish.

When this flood of evil had destroyed all the old life in the Most Ancient Church, the Lord helped the people that were left to start anew. They would begin a new church, which we call the Ancient Church. And the Lord made a promise to these people. We can see His promise in the promise written in the book of Genesis – the promise told to Noah.

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

Notice how this promise is talking about cycles – beginnings and endings, which always start over again. We know that when the sun sets, there will always be a new morning afterwards. When winter comes, we know that a new spring will follow. Cold and heat will come and go. Seeds will keep being planted, growing into plants which produce new seeds and begin the process all over again.

In the good times of the Most Ancient Church, people didn't have to be taught things about the Lord and heaven like we need to be taught. They just felt the truth in their hearts, and saw it in the world all around them, and so lived a very good life.

When people in the Most Ancient Church turned to evil, they just felt the evil in their hearts and did it. They couldn't think about it in a way that would make them change back to good.

So the Lord started something new in the Ancient Church. He created a new way for people to learn. He made it so that people could go through cycles in their learning. You know how when you were little, you used to understand things differently than you do now? Maybe you thought the sun moved around the earth, because it looked that way, but later, when you were ready, you learned that actually the earth moved around the sun. You could let that old way of thinking die, so that a new one could take its place. If you can keep learning new ways of thinking, then you can change the way you live.

This is what the Lord was promising. He said that as long as life existed on earth, there would be cycles. People could learn, and then, when they grew and realized that what they had thought before wasn't quite right, they could let that old way of thinking die so a new way could begin.

“Seedtime and harvest.” The Lord is constantly planting seeds in our minds. Those seeds are thoughts about Him, and about how to live a good life. If we take care of those thoughts, they will grow into doing good things, like good plants that can be harvested in the late summer and fall. And this can always start over. When we're ready to understand something in a more grown-up way, then new seeds will come which will grow into new plants. This is the Lord's promise to us all, that there will always be new beginnings, so we can keep changing and growing into better and wiser people.

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### **PROJECT: BEAN MOSAIC**

Now do the “It’s Bean Fun” project, explaining that all these are seeds, and seeds can remind us of cycles and new beginnings.

- ◆ Cut small pieces of cardboard – something like 4 1/2” by 5 1/2” -- so the project will not take too long.
- ◆ Have each student put his or her name on the back of the cardboard before beginning.

### **“It’s Been Fun” Instructions Seedtime and Harvest Project**

The Lord provides us with many beautiful things in nature. For this project we will be using some beautiful seeds, beans and grains of many different shapes, colors and sizes. You can have fun making your very own mosaic.

#### **Supplies:**

Sturdy cardboard (4.5” X 5.5”)  
White glue and Pencil  
Popcorn, dry beans, grains and seeds  
Acrylic varnish  
Paintbrush

#### **BEANS AND GRAINS YOU CAN USE:**

Popcorn kernels, black beans, speckled pinto beans, lima beans, white navy beans, black-eyed peas, green split peas, brown and red lentils, white rice, sunflower seeds, golden soybeans, garbanzo beans, wheat kernels, pearl barley.

Tip: Buy a bag of Mixed Bean Soup at the grocery store and get all sorts of beans in one package.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Draw a simple design, with lots of shapes to fill in, on your cardboard.
  2. Cover one area of your design with glue. Pick a kind of bean or grain for that area. Make a row of beans around the edge of the design (in the wet glue) to outline the area. Once you have outlined the area you can fill it in completely with beans.
  3. Now you can begin another area by squeezing glue onto it and filling it in with beans just like you did in step two. Be careful not to bump the areas that are still drying. You may want to wait for an area to dry before you begin a new area.
  4. After everything is glued in place let the glue dry overnight. The next day when it is completely dry, brush on a coating of acrylic varnish. This will hold the beans in place, and give your mosaic a nice shiny finish!
- NOTE:** Try this project again, and make a new pattern. Also feel free to use seashells, colored sand, or tiny pebbles.

**Sample Patterns**

