

# Noah's Ark

## Genesis 6

### Teacher Preparation

Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*: <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-1-09-noah-builds-an-ark.pdf>

### Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

### Read and Discuss

1. Read Genesis chapter 6 aloud to the kids. When you're done quiz them on the following things:
  - What were Noah's sons' names? Shem, Ham and Japheth
  - What is an ark? A box or container
  - What was Noah's ark made out of? gopher wood
  - What was it like inside? 3 layers
  - Look at the pictures of Noah's ark—did the artist listen closely to what the Word said about how it looked?
  - How many windows were there? 1
  - How many doors were there? 1
  - How was Noah instructed to make it waterproof?
  - How big was the ark? 500 cubits long x 50 cubits wide x 30 cubits high
  - How many people went into the ark? 8
2. The story of Noah's Ark is the story of how the first humans on earth gradually became more and more evil until they were "drowned" by their own evils. Can you imagine how someone might get more and more involved in evil until they were "in over their heads?" For instance, a kid takes one chocolate bar from a store. When his mom asks where it came from, he tells a lie to cover up his mistake. And then maybe he has to tell more lies to stay out of trouble. And then when she gets upset and accuses him of stealing it and lying about it, then the kid gets angry and yells at his mom. How many commandments has he broken now?! Once someone does one evil, it's easy to do more. The same thing happened with the first people on earth. The Lord created everything, but He didn't create evil—that came from people who had a choice to follow the Lord, or do things their own way—and gradually they started to do things their own way more and more, until they weren't following the Lord at all.
3. So how do we prevent ourselves from slipping down that same slippery slope? We have to build for ourselves a strong mind and character that is like an ark to keep us safe from evil. Our minds have three levels, like the ark—a natural, worldly part, a rational, thinking part, and a spiritual part. The door is like the opening where we go out of our mind and into the world and interact with other people. It's not enough to just learn what the Lord tells us to do, we have to go out and *do* good things to and with other people as well. Can you guess what the window represents? Where was it located? Being up high, it represents the opening where we are opened up to the Lord and can let Him flow into our minds.

## Read and Discuss (continued)

It's important not to let that window stay shut, isn't it? What was the ark made from? Wood represents natural good, which means the kind of good that we're born with. Even little kids want to make their parents and friends happy, and they want to love the Lord—so that's good. Now the pitch (which is sticky stuff like resin that comes out of pine trees) represents something kind of odd that you wouldn't think that would be good: it represents our own selfishness! You would probably wonder how that could be good?! But sometimes our selfishness actually helps us: if we are afraid of getting punished and we don't do bad things, then that's good. If we want people to see how smart or how nice we are (which is basically selfish), and we do good things, then it helps us. Those are not good reasons to do good things, but when we are young, it helps motivate us to be good. That's why it's on the very outside of the ark—not in a special, or high place—but still there keeping out the water. When we are young the Lord uses our selfishness to help us grow, but as we grow older, we start to do things for better reasons, like we actually want to be good, and eventually for no other reason than we love the Lord and we want to make Him happy.

## Project

Give each student a diagram of the ark (p. 3). Label it with what the various elements represent (taken from the above discussion). As they are working on this, discuss with them what actions they can take to make their own ark (mind, character) strong and waterproof. (How do we keep the window open to the Lord? What should we be doing through that open door? What kinds of animals should we let into the ark? How can our selfishness be used for good, for now?)

## Supplies

- Copy of the Word
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of pictures illustrating the story:
  - <https://theconversation.com/we-have-species-thanks-to-noahs-ark-19542>
  - <https://www.denisonforum.org/resources/was-noahs-ark-real/>
  - <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/lent-noahs-ark-baptism/>
- One ark sheet per student
- Print out a couple each of these pages so that the kids can pick one to do after they finish their ark diagrams (if there is time).
  - <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/612137774336158222/>
  - <https://www.kidsbibleworksheets.com/noahs-ark-maze-hard.htm>
  - <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/coloring-page-noah-built-an-ark-genesis06.pdf>
- Pencils and coloured markers and/or crayons

# Noah's Ark

The Wood

The Window

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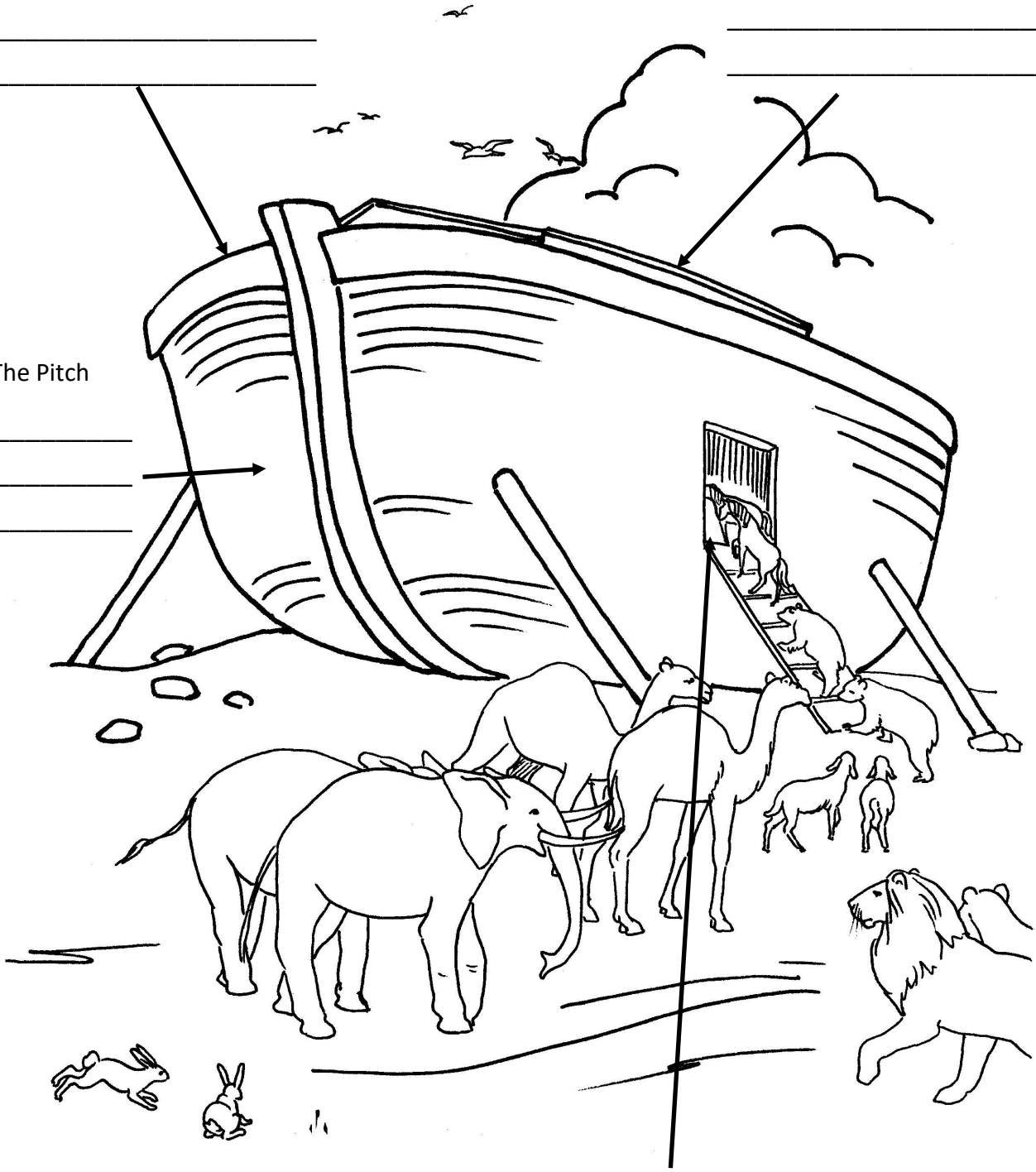
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The Pitch

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The Door

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