

NOAH

The Just One

Who was this person?

- When Lamech was 182 years old, he had a son. He named him Noah.
- When Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

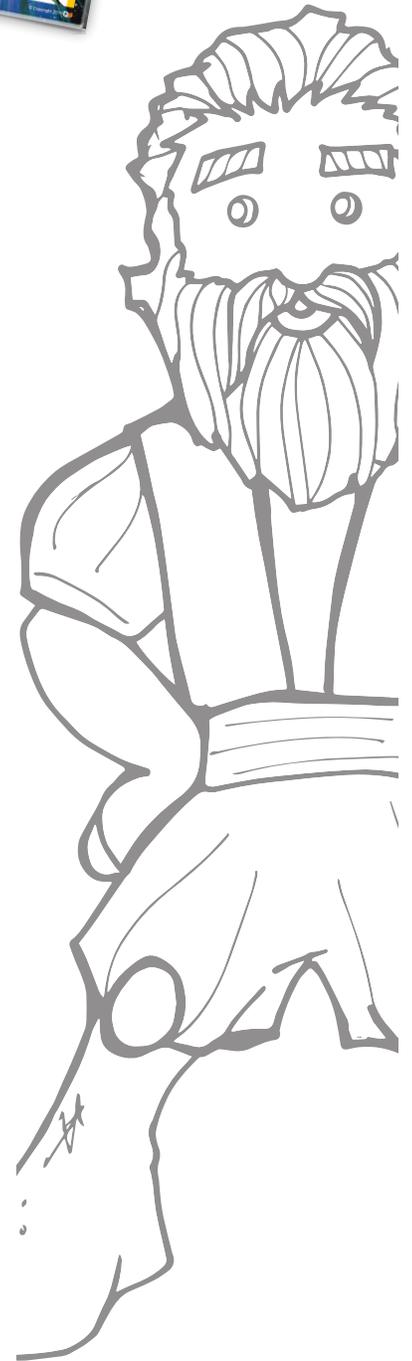
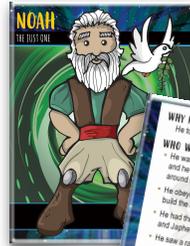
Genesis 5:3-31 sets out the generations from Adam through to Noah and his children. This is an interesting read with children as it shows them the length of years that many people lived at this time in history. For instance, Adam lived 930 years and Methuselah, the oldest man in the Bible lived 969 years! Lamech, Noah's father lived 777 years. And Noah, he died at the ripe old age of 950. He lived for another 350 years after the flood. In the 1,000 years that followed the Flood, the Bible records a progressive decline in the ages that people lived. Life spans became shorter and shorter. For instance, Abraham died at 175 and Moses only lived to be 120 years of age, but was considered old for his time. Take the children to Psalm 90, which is a prayer of Moses. Verse 10 references "The length of our days is seventy years — or eighty, if we have the strength..."

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What is this person known for?

- Noah's "claim to fame" is that he was the man who built the ark. That big boat is known by name as "Noah's Ark" because God called Noah and his family only to be the ones, along with two of every animal, who would get onto the ark, and be saved from the Flood that would cover the entire earth and wipe out generations. (Genesis 6-8)
- Noah lived at a time when there was great evil and sin in the world. That sin grieved God's heart terribly. It was because of the wickedness of mankind, that God sent the Flood to wipe out all humans, together with living creatures, from the face of the earth. (Genesis 6:5-8)
- Noah was obedient and righteous. He walked with God and was blameless in God's sight. Noah was different than all the other people on the face of the earth. God saw the corruption and

Making The Bible Come Alive





violence of the people and knew He needed to put a stop to it. He chose to do so with the Flood. (Genesis 6:9-13)

- Noah trusted in God, even though he couldn't see all the details. He didn't know what all was going to happen, but he knew he had heard from God and needed to continue to be obedient to what God called him to do. And, in doing so, God would be faithful to him and would protect him and his family. (Genesis 6 and 7)
- Noah was faithful. He is listed in the "Faith Hall of Fame" in Hebrews chapter 11.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us to walk by faith.** The life of Noah really depicts a man who walked by faith. Imagine building a boat when you have never seen it rain so hard before, and for such a long time. Hebrews 11:7 tells us that, "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith."
- **To show us how God can use someone when they are obedient.** Noah spent many years building the ark. We would have been tired after a couple of months of construction. But Noah was the chief construction man on the job for somewhere between 70 and 100 years—the Bible doesn't tell us exactly how long.
- **To teach us that there will be times in our lives when we will have to endure hard things and do difficult tasks.** Some may even seem impossible, but when God is with us, all things are possible, and He will help us endure under pressure and will give us strength to do what He calls us to accomplish. We can hardly imagine the hard time Noah would have been given by the evil people around him as he, his sons, and any other hired help worked on that massive floating barge. Noah didn't listen to those around him who criticized and made fun of him. He continued to build the boat, just as God had instructed, and remained obedient while being mocked and laughed at. And, Noah was not a young man when he began building — He was 600 years old when the rain began to pound down and the boat began to float on the rising waters. It rained long and hard for 40 days and 40 nights, until the entire earth was flooded. And the flood lasted for 150 days. When the boat touched

down on dry land on the mountains of Ararat (the area we now know as present-day Turkey) it rested there for almost eight months before Noah and his family and the animals got out and set foot on dry land again. (Genesis 7-8, Deuteronomy 7:9-10, Romans 12:12)

From Answers In Genesis (<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/>): God told Noah the dimensions for the ark: 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. (Genesis 6:14-16). Ark Encounter (Answers in Genesis) calculated the size of the ark based on a 20.4-inch (52 cm) cubit. The result is a vessel 510 feet (155 m) long, 85 feet (26 m) wide, and 51 feet (16 m) high. Accounting for a 15% reduction in volume due to the curvature of the hull, an ark this size could contain the equivalent of 450 semi-trailers of cargo or about 1.88 million cubic feet (53,200 m³)—a truly massive ship. (Genesis 6-9)

Note: Depending on the Scripture translation being used, you may find the measurements to be slightly different when reading Genesis 6:15-16. It is important to not get stuck on exact feet or metres, but to note the instructions from God which were specific, and the obedient and faithful devotion of a man and his family to follow through on what God had spoken to them. That is where the life lesson lies.

Noah was instructed to gather his wife and family, two of every living creature (birds, animals, and creatures that crawl the ground), plus all the food that would be required for man and animals. When you consider the timeline from the time they boarded the ark until God told them it was time to depart, that is a lot of food. They were on the ark for 370 days from the time the rain started, but had boarded a week in advance of that, getting everything ready—because God had told them to! <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/biblical-overview-of-the-flood-timeline/>

- **God remind us that God will not put up with sin forever.** There are consequences to our sin unless we ask for forgiveness and change our ways. Genesis 6:5-7 puts it this way:

“God saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil, from morning to night. God was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. God said, ‘I’ll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds—the works. I’m sorry I made them.’”

God was angry. No one wanted to worship Him anymore, no one except for Noah and his family. This broke God’s heart and He





knew something needed to change. When all you can see is evil all around you, don't miss the boat! Stay obedient to God and His ways. Worship Him, even when no else wants to. Read His Word and study His ways, when your friends are reading and listening to everything else. Put God first, when others are making idols of all kinds of stuff in life. We must confess our wrongdoings — our sinful ways to God and ask for His forgiveness. We must choose Jesus as the Lord and Saviour of our life. As Acts 4:12 tells us, He is the only One who can save us.

- **To remind us that God always has a plan.** Even though things might look very difficult and impossible, when we obey and trust Him He will work out the details of our life. At the exact time when the ark was complete, God sent the animals to get on board. Noah did not need to chase all around, trying to capture them against their will. (1 Corinthians 2:9; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 29:11)
- **To remember that God keeps His promises.** God made a covenant (promise) to Noah and his family when they exited the ark, that He would never destroy the entire earth by water (flood) again. He placed a 'bow' (rainbow) in the sky as a sign to remind us of this endless promise (Genesis 9:8-17). No matter the size of the storm or how hard the rain may fall, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting! He promised. (Joshua 23:14; Numbers 30:1-2; Lamentations 2:17)
- **To remind us that sin has deadly consequences.** Sin is massive and it brings death. God's mercy and love are even bigger, and they bring life. God spared Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives because they lived right (were a righteous family). The ark represented 'salvation' for Noah and his family. Today we need to remember that the cross of Jesus represents salvation for humanity. Jesus came, lived and died so that we would know the salvation that God has for us, through His Son. (1 John 3:4; Romans 6:23)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

So, what about your family? Would God look at your family and see you to be right-living (righteous) like He saw Noah's family to be. What are the character qualities of a person/family member who follows after God and lives according to His Word. Make a list of the things you know from God's Word regarding how He tells us we should live. Can you come up with a list of 20 ways we must live as children of God and followers of Jesus? Make a list and see if you can get to 20. Then, go back through the list and rate yourself or your family on how you feel you are doing in living right. Use a scale of 1-10. Be honest. Once the list is complete, go back to the points you scored the lowest, and put the list in order from lowest to highest scores. This will help you know what areas you need to work on to become more Christ-like in your character. After all, if God was looking for a family He'd choose to do something of great impact or significance, wouldn't you want Him to choose you and your family?!

