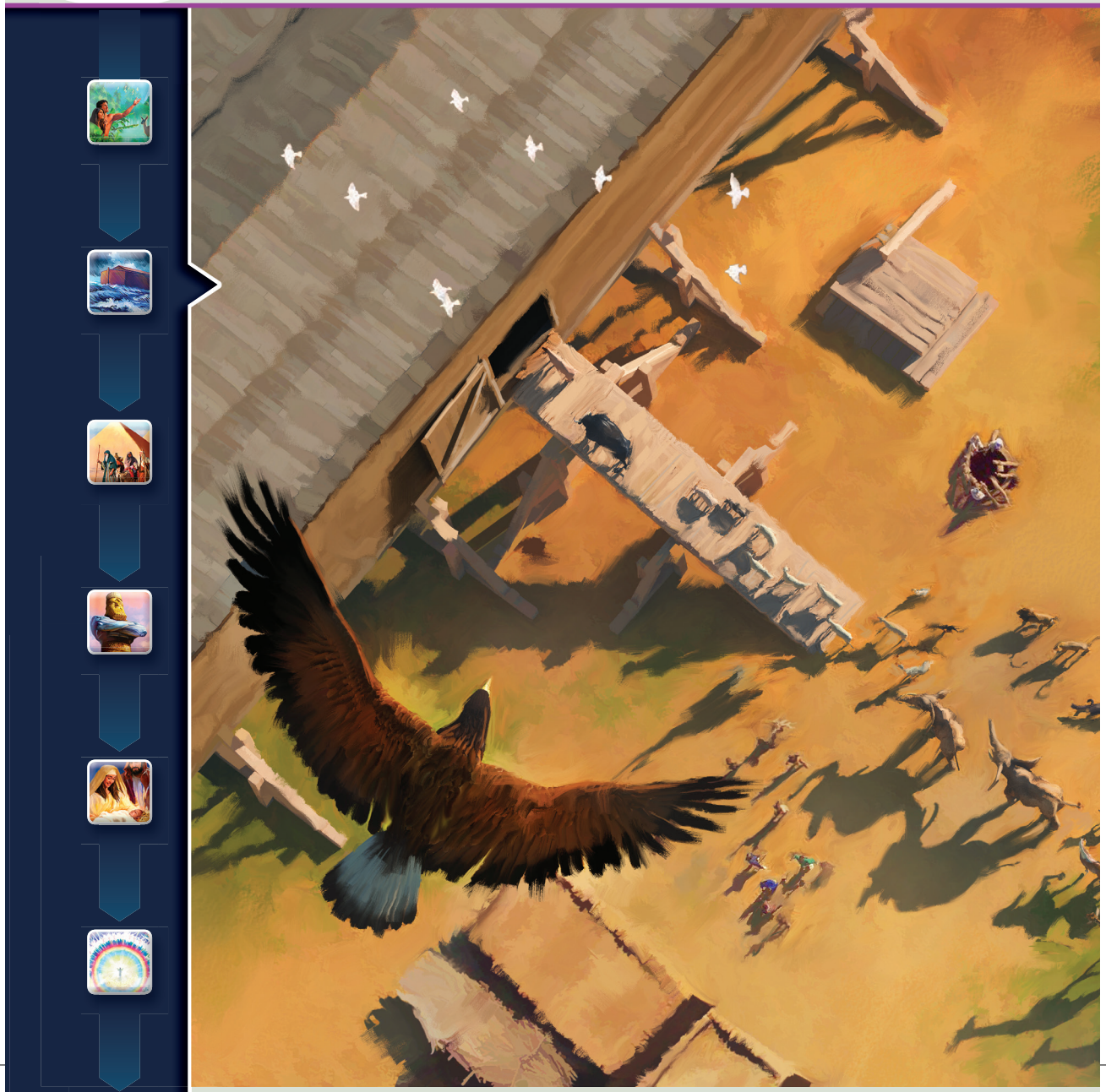
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God's Rescue Plan

Key References: Genesis 7:14-24; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 7, pp. 98-104; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 113-119; Our Beliefs nos. 10, 22, 11



powertext

"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:9, 11).

powerpoint

God will use us to help and encourage others.

A man named Harry lived near an active volcano named Mount St. Helens. Harry ignored all warnings to leave the area when it appeared the volcano would erupt.

Schoolchildren in Yakima, Washington, started writing to Harry. "Please leave your house and go where it's safe," they said. Harry wrote back to them: "Thanks for thinking about me," he replied, "but I like it where I live, and I want to stay here."

One day a helicopter landed in Harry's front yard. He hopped in and flew to town to visit with his pen pals at the school. They clapped, cheered, and loved his sense of humor. As he entertained them during assembly with stories about his years spent living in the shadow of a volcano, he told them once again that he planned to stay there no matter what. When Harry left, they waved until he was out of sight, wondering what would happen to him.

The story of the Flood is one you've heard many times. We think about how Noah spent 120 years building the ark, how the animals entered the ark, and how Noah and his family were the only human beings who went in after he had preached and warned people for 120 years.

The next part of the story, the ugly part, we sometimes skim over. But that's what our story is about this week. The ugly time. The time God followed through with what He said would happen. The time almost everyone died, because they chose to die.

Noah was not the only one trying to convince people to come into the ark. As we discussed last week, every person who walked up that plank had to make a choice whether or not to get on board. And every

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 32.



3

Sunday

READ Read Genesis 7:14 and this week's story, "God's Rescue Plan."

DRAW Draw a storm cloud and sunshine. Mark the cloud "wrath" and the sunshine "salvation." Then write out the power text, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 11, and place it where you can see it throughout the week.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for someone you know who has not accepted Jesus.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 7:15, 16.

THINK Try to picture the animals going into the ark by themselves. How does this miracle reveal God's power? What does this picture tell about God's love and His desire to preserve a diverse animal life on earth?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write a prayer, asking God to rescue you from sin and to keep you safely when you will be facing storms in your life.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Choose God above everything else and thank Him for rescuing you from sin.

Tuesday

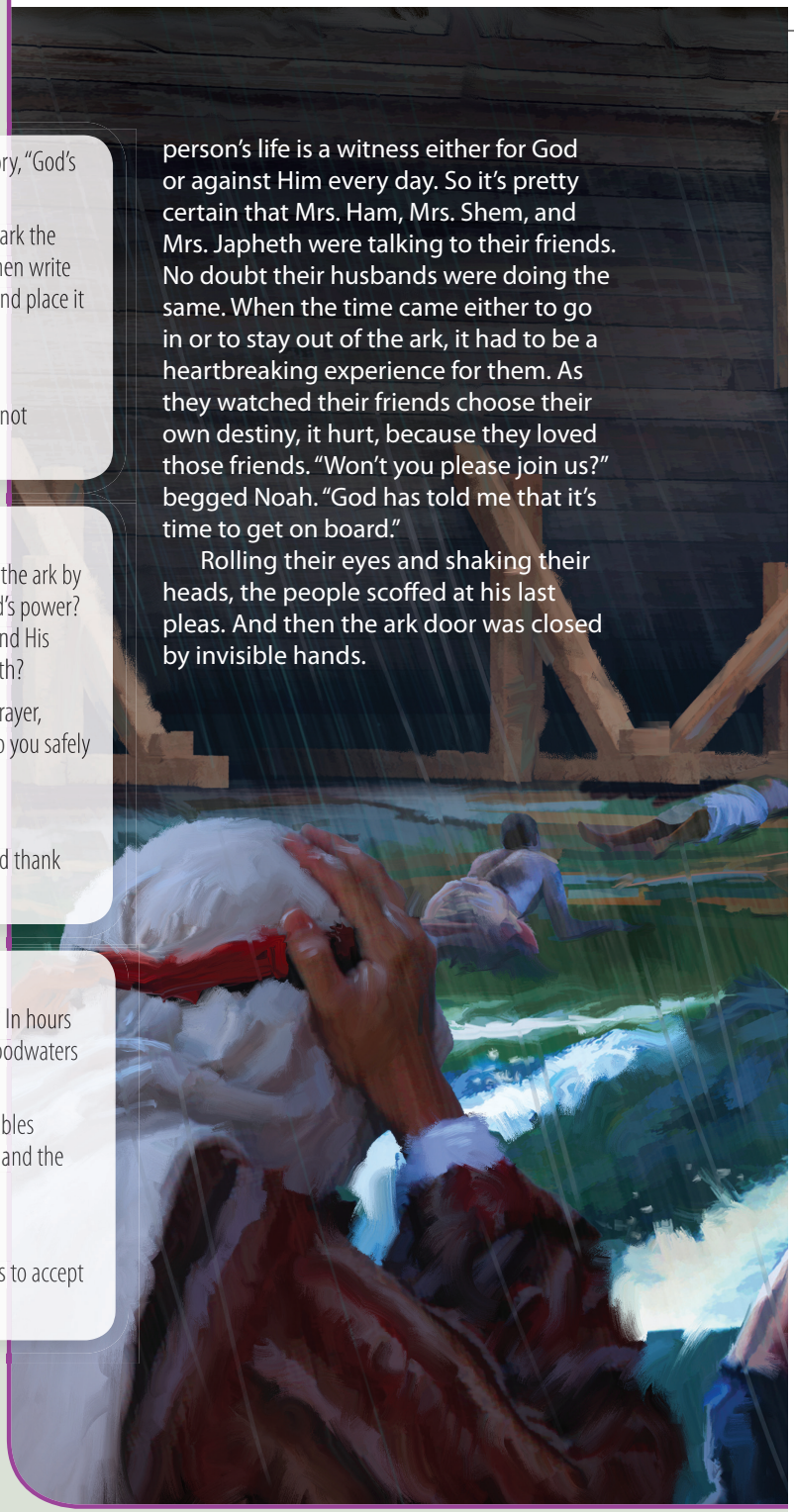
READ Read Genesis 7:12, 17-20, 24.

CALCULATE How long did it rain in months? In hours (verse 12)? For how many months did the floodwaters stay on the earth (verse 24)?

TALK Talk with an adult about how the troubles brought about by sin are like cloudy weather and the joys of knowing Jesus are like sunshine.

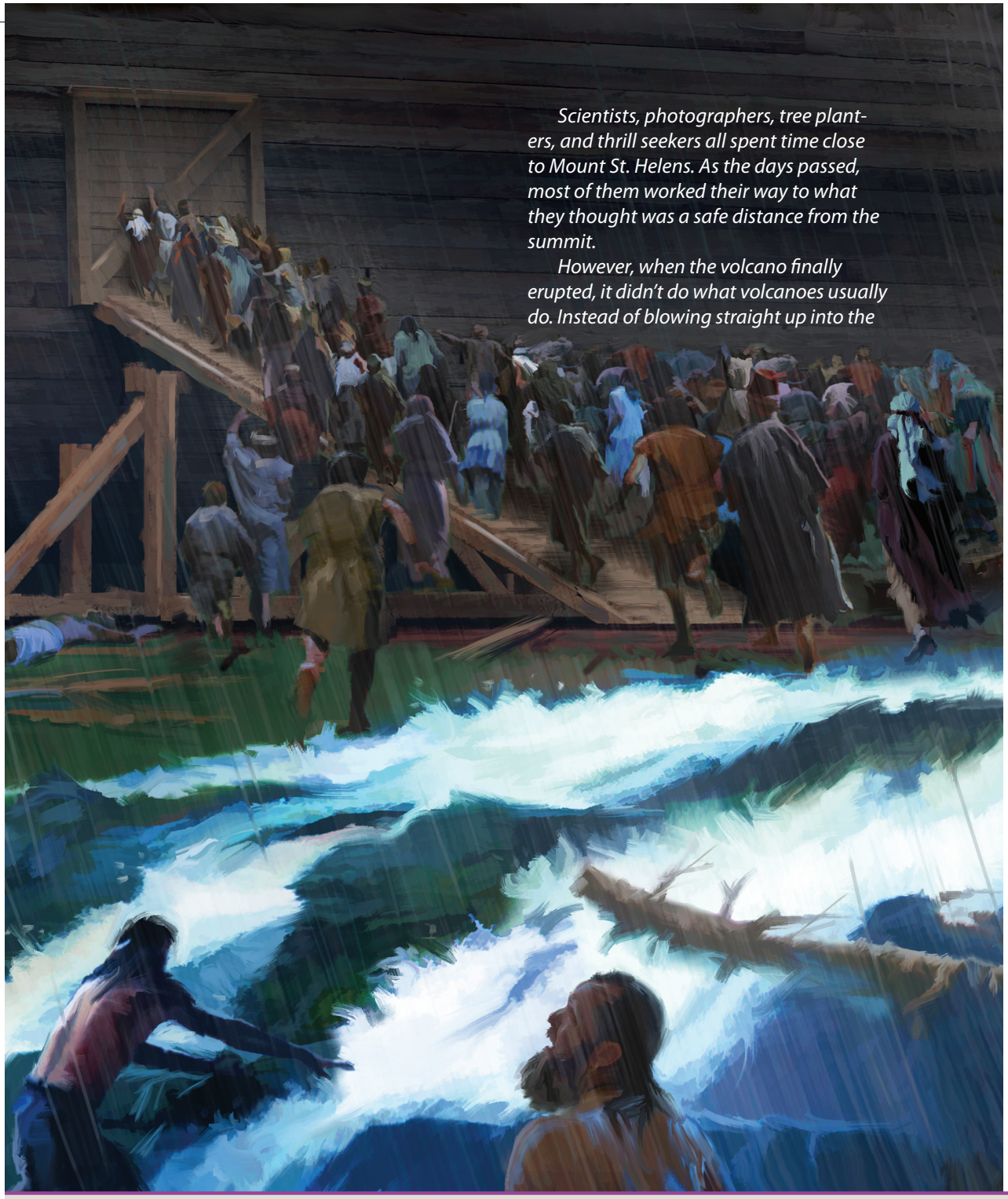
REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you encourage others to accept the Sun of Righteousness into their lives.



person's life is a witness either for God or against Him every day. So it's pretty certain that Mrs. Ham, Mrs. Shem, and Mrs. Japheth were talking to their friends. No doubt their husbands were doing the same. When the time came either to go in or to stay out of the ark, it had to be a heartbreaking experience for them. As they watched their friends choose their own destiny, it hurt, because they loved those friends. "Won't you please join us?" begged Noah. "God has told me that it's time to get on board."

Rolling their eyes and shaking their heads, the people scoffed at his last pleas. And then the ark door was closed by invisible hands.



Scientists, photographers, tree planters, and thrill seekers all spent time close to Mount St. Helens. As the days passed, most of them worked their way to what they thought was a safe distance from the summit.

However, when the volcano finally erupted, it didn't do what volcanoes usually do. Instead of blowing straight up into the

3

Wednesday

READ Read Genesis 7:21-24.

THINK Think about all the people who did not choose to accept God's rescue plan in Noah's day. Imagine how many may not choose to accept it today.

WRITE Write a note to someone whom you would like to encourage to accept Jesus. Tell that person about what Jesus means to you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to bless someone through your letter.

Thursday

READ Read 2 Timothy 1:3.

THINK What two methods of encouraging others does this verse suggest to you?

CHOOSE Think of someone for whom you can pray, and share with them that God has a rescue plan for all of us.

CREATE Make a gift that you can share with someone along with your words of encouragement.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for His great mercy in providing a rescue plan.

Friday

READ Read 1 Peter 1:3-6.

REVIEW Review the Bible story with your family.

DO If there are younger children in the family, have them make sound effects in the appropriate places as you read the story from Genesis 7:14-24.

TALK Discuss with an adult an experience they have had when someone or something encouraged them to trust in God's rescue plan even though they were suffering grief and trials brought about by sin (as mentioned in 1 Peter 1:5, 6).

SHARE Share the power text with your family.

PRAY Thank God together for His great mercy to your family.



air, the lava shot out the side of the mountain with so much force that in some places nothing within 15 miles was left alive. Not the photographers taking pictures for a magazine. Not the people taking data for scientific study. Not Harry. They all had heard the warnings. They had had time to evacuate. But they chose to stay. And the people who loved them wished that those who died had made a different choice.

During the horrible fury of the Flood everyone inside the ark was safe only



because of the protection of God. It didn't have anything to do with the strength of the wood or how much pitch they had smeared on the bottom of the big boat. They were safe because God kept them that way.

Satan himself was afraid that he would die right then, according to Ellen White in her book *Patriarchs and Prophets.* (Read all about it in the chapter called "The Flood.")

Today we're all making life-or-death choices. What about you? After you make your choice to let Jesus into your heart to save you from sin, you will want to help and encourage others around you to be safe too. Ask Jesus to keep you safe and to give you the strength to help and encourage those around you to make the right choice too.

PUZZLE

3

BE HELPFUL

Instructions: Answer, in the first and second columns, the clues in the third column by putting the first letter of the answer in the first column and the rest of the word in the second. When finished, the letters in the first column, reading down, will spell out part of a Bible verse. One has been done for you. Clue: there are three words.

		Resurrection day
		Book after Micah
		Jesus' early trade
		The Alpha and the _____
		Land of Job
		Promised to stay with her mother-in-law
		Aramaic for "daddy"
		Sea of _____
		She was a queen and saved her people
		He was like a son to Paul
		Book after Philemon
		Second book of the Bible
		The person who tricked Samson
		Another word that means "God with us"
		Wisest man
		Where God is preparing a home for us
E	verlasting	Immortal
		Held two of each animal
		Symbol of God's promise
		Book after 2 Timothy
		Home of Adam and Eve
		Father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth
		Went to heaven in a chariot
		Spent the night with lions