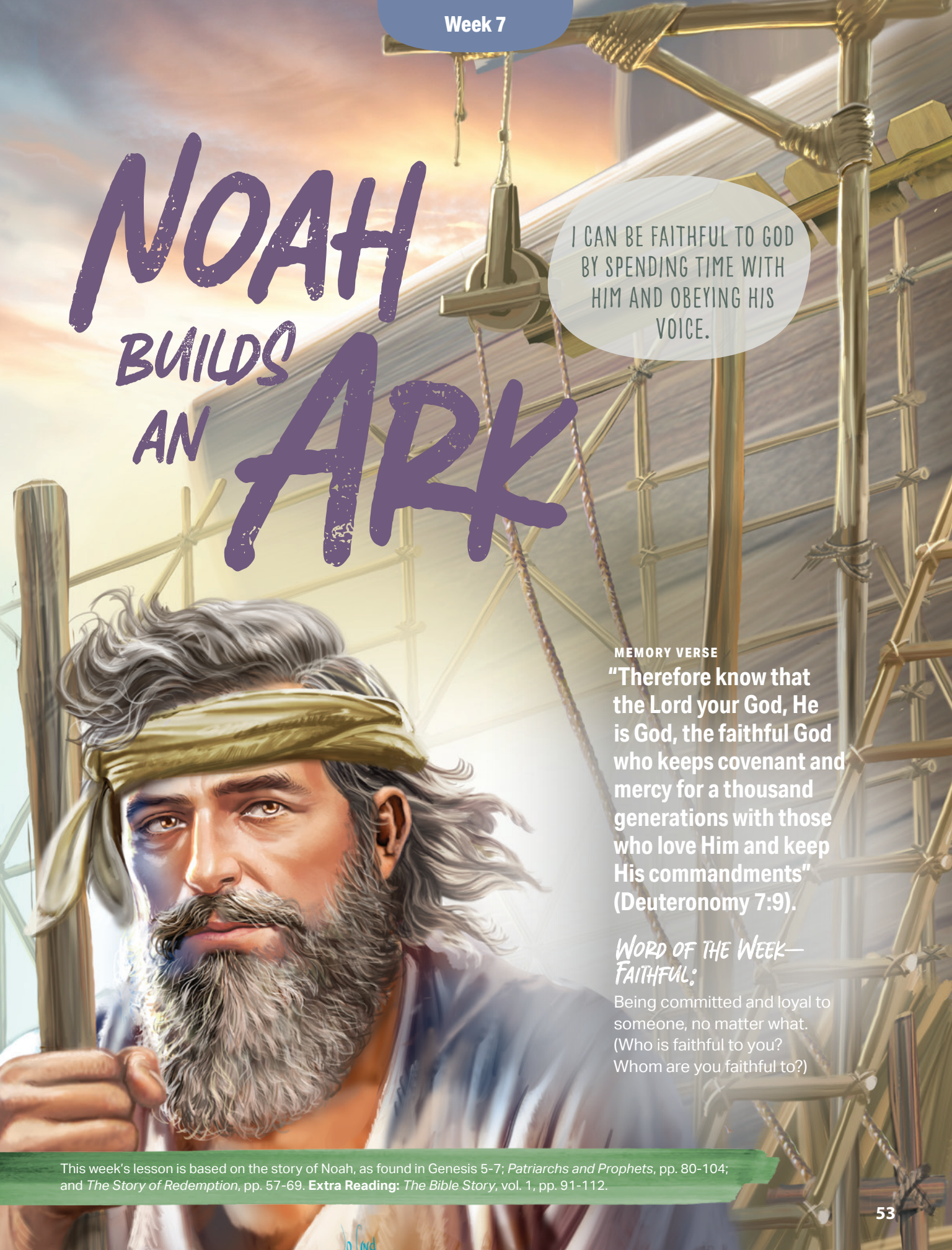
NOAH BUILDS AN ARK

I CAN BE FAITHFUL TO GOD BY SPENDING TIME WITH HIM AND OBEYING HIS VOICE.



MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Word of the Week—Faithful:

Being committed and loyal to someone, no matter what. (Who is faithful to you? Whom are you faithful to?)

This week's lesson is based on the story of Noah, as found in Genesis 5-7; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 80-104; and *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 57-69. **Extra Reading:** *The Bible Story*, vol. 1, pp. 91-112.

☐ SUNDAY

After the Fall

We don't know how long it was after Abel died that Adam and Eve had another son, but they had other children. Later these children grew up and had children of their own. Soon there were hundreds and thousands of people on the earth!

One of Adam and Eve's children was Seth. How old was Adam when Seth was born, and what does the Bible tell us about Seth? **Read Genesis 5:3.** Although Adam and Eve had other children, it was Seth's family that Jesus would eventually be born into.

Adam lived for 930 years. In this time he faithfully told all of his children and grandchildren what it was like living in perfect Eden, and about the sad day they had disobeyed God. They could even go to the gates of Eden to see the angels guarding the garden, and Adam's family often worshipped there. Adam told the story of his fall, how very important it was to follow God, and the promise God had given to send Someone to deliver them from their bad choices. But not many people listened. Cain's family became proud, mean, and selfish. They hurt themselves and others in terrible ways.

God loved every single one of Adam's descendants. But in the same way that He wouldn't make Adam and Eve obey Him in the Garden of Eden, He also let people decide if they wanted to be faithful to Him or not.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Do you think it would have been easy or hard to be faithful to God at that time? Why?*

Pray: You may like to pray . . .

- For God to help you to want to be faithful to Him
- For your family and your cousins, uncles, aunts, etc.

Do: Go for a walk in nature as a family and choose a special place you can come to every day this week to pray. (If there is nowhere nearby, choose somewhere in your home.)



☐ MONDAY

Walking With God

Sin had spread like a bad sickness across the new earth, but there were still some who loved God. A special man named Enoch was Seth's great-great-great-grandson. Enoch loved God so much and was kind and humble. He chose God's way as his way. The Bible says that "Enoch walked with God" (Genesis 5:22). God helped Enoch to be kind and gentle, and gave him a strong, wise, and growing mind.

Enoch began preaching about God's love to anyone who would listen. He also pleaded with them to follow God and stop doing wrong. Sometimes he would go away where it was quiet so that he could pray and be with God. This special time with God gave him strength, energy, and joy when he came back to preach again.

After Enoch had been a friend of God's for 365 years, what happened? **Read Genesis 5:24.** Yes, God took Enoch to heaven! Just imagine how Enoch felt when he saw his Best Friend, God, face-to-face!

The people living at this time were very tall and strong like Enoch, but most of them were not good and kind like him. They were violent and selfish. They took what God had given and used it to make themselves look good by taking the best things for themselves—gems and gold to become rich, and wood to build better houses. They made beautiful gardens for their idols and did whatever they wanted to do without thinking of how it hurt God, themselves, or other people.

What does the Bible say God saw when He looked at the people?

Read Genesis 6:5. God decided that if He didn't do something, there would be no one left through whom the Savior could be born.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What would it look like for you to have God as your friend and "walk" with Him?*
- *When is it difficult for you to follow God's ways?*

Family Prayer: Try a *popcorn* prayer, during which each family member prays one sentence (in any order and as many times as you like): Pray your thanks, ask for forgiveness, ask requests, and pray for others. Finish by asking God to be close to your family as you walk with Him.

Do: This week, pass on God's mercy (kindness that is not deserved) by showing it to the people in your family.

Create: On a piece of paper, trace around your foot and cut it out. On your footprint, write: "I choose to walk with God." Alternatively, paint the sole of your foot and print it.

Parent Faith Talk: If possible, share with your child when you first remember knowing God was in your life. How old were you? What was it like to know and see God in your life?

Pray: Kneel down and pray together. Remember that you talk to the same God that Noah talked to. Pray . . .

- To have time to listen to God and read His Word.
- For a trusting, faithful heart, like Noah's.

Do: God planned to wash the world clean of everything bad. Think about this as you help your family by washing the dishes clean after a meal one day this week. If a family member dries the dishes, you might like to tell them today's part of the story.

☐ **TUESDAY**

God Calls a Helper

It had been more than 1,500 years since God had made our beautiful world. God tried to turn people's hearts and minds back to Him again and again, but only a few had listened and responded to His voice (see Genesis 6:5, 11-13). How did God feel about what was happening? **Read Genesis 6:6.**

God realized that He needed to stop wickedness from spreading like a deadly sickness. He would send a flood to cover the whole world. Water would cover the houses, the land, and even the tallest mountains.

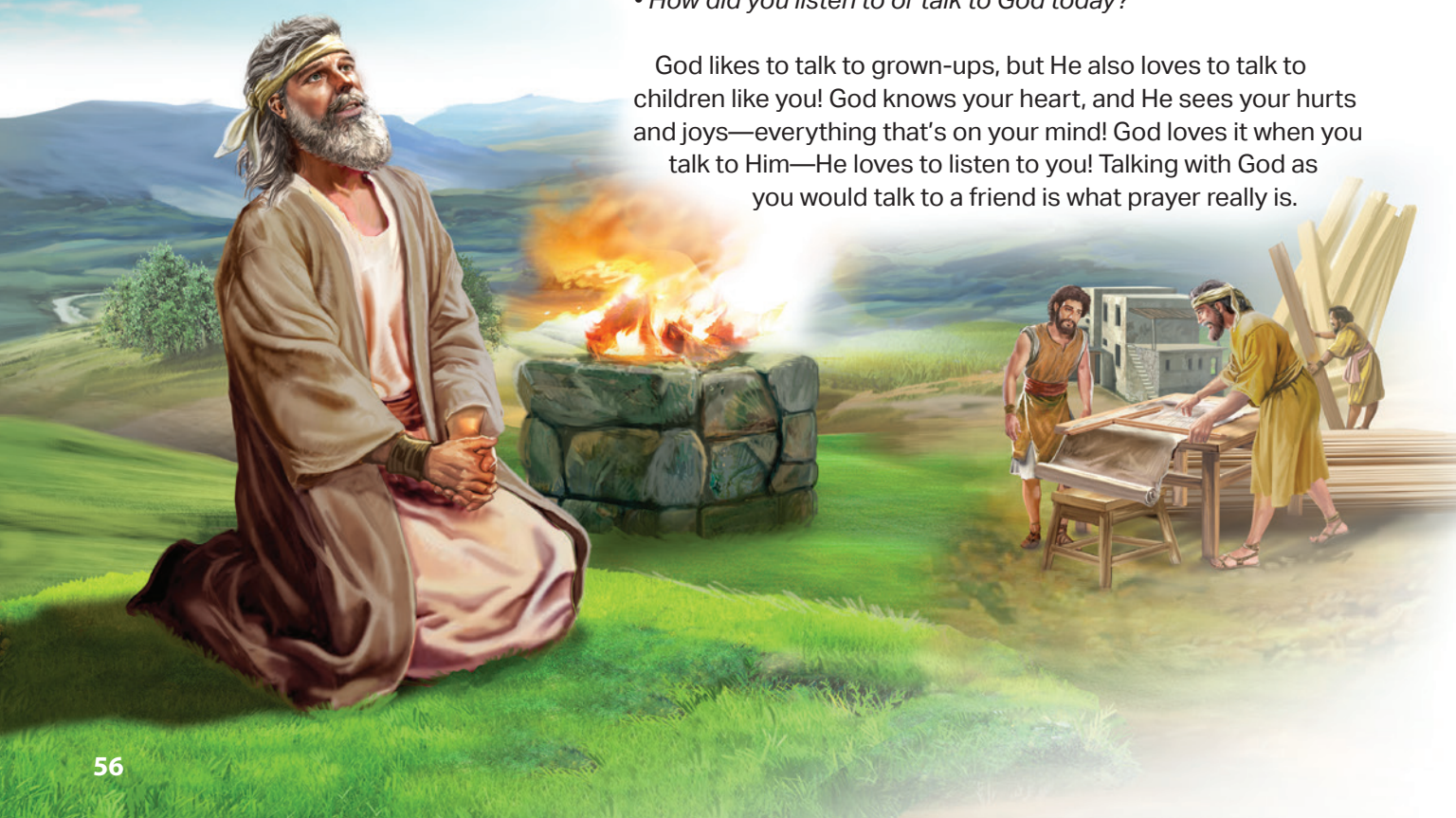
God loved all people, and He wanted to warn them about the Flood. He needed a faithful man to help Him, and He chose Noah, for Noah "was a just man," and he "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9).

God told Noah about His plans, and Noah listened carefully. He told God that he would do whatever He asked. God told him to build an ark and explained exactly how to do it. He told him its size and shape, the type of wood to use, and how to put it together. It needed to be almost as strong as stone, because there would be a terrible storm. The ark would have one big door on one side, and rooms for both people and animals. Everyone who chose to go through that door and into the ark would be safe from the Flood.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

• *How did you listen to or talk to God today?*

God likes to talk to grown-ups, but He also loves to talk to children like you! God knows your heart, and He sees your hurts and joys—everything that's on your mind! God loves it when you talk to Him—He loves to listen to you! Talking with God as you would talk to a friend is what prayer really is.





☐ WEDNESDAY

Working Faithfully

Noah drew God's plans for the ark, and then he started to work. Strong workmen came to help cut down tall trees that were almost as hard as rock. Other men carefully lined up the wooden boards, and then sealed them with pitch so that the ark wouldn't leak. Noah carefully followed everything God had told him. He built the boat exactly as God had said. How many decks did the ark have? *Read Genesis 6:16.*

Years went by, and all the workers could see the huge boat taking shape. It was long—longer than four football fields placed end to end and as tall as a five-story building! As the workers came, Noah told them—and anyone else who came to see the ark—about God's plan to wash the world. Noah was faithful. For 120 years he worked and preached and built and obeyed. That's a lot of birthdays! The Bible says that "Noah did everything that God commanded him" (Genesis 6:22, ICB). Walking with God every day helped him to be faithful.

Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and his grandfather, Methuselah, as well as many others, helped build the ark. Methuselah was the oldest man who ever lived on this earth, and he died when he was 969 years old, a little while before the rains came. As long as they lived, people who loved God warned others about the Flood.

God hoped that every single person would choose to love and follow Him. Every person had a chance to hear God's message, make a choice, and be safe.

As the people worked, Noah's family collected such food as apples and potatoes, rice and peas, raisins and carrots—all kinds of food! They carefully stored large amounts of food, seeds, and grains on the ark. They would need them when the rain came.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Do you think Noah liked all the jobs he had to do? What does Genesis 6:22 tell us about how he worked?*

Pray: Kneel down and pray together. Pray for a heart to help others, the way Noah and the workers did.

Do: Build a fort and pretend it's an ark. Gather toys to put in your ark and imagine what you would need to prepare to "live" in your ark for more than a year. Then, in your fort, read the story from your Bible.

For You, Parents: Be encouraged that your work as a mother or father is of eternal significance, despite how busy your life may be or how tired you may feel right now. You may wish you had an army of workers to help you (as did Noah!), but have peace knowing that when you nurture your child's walk with God, you are doing the most important work in the world. Have courage; God will be your help and strength (Isaiah 41:10).



THURSDAY

Trusting His Word

Do: Find out how much other animals eat in a day.

Finally the 120 years had passed. The ark was finished. Everything was ready. For the last time, Noah begged the people to trust God and come into the ark.

Imagine Noah's voice echoing through the valley as he pleaded with the people again to believe God's words. Imagine the crowds mocking him: *What a crazy man! How could the whole world be covered with water? Water never fell from the sky!* Noah had heard this for years and years, but he still believed every word that God had said.

Suddenly the people stopped laughing. Their eyes opened wide in surprise. What was happening? **Read Genesis 7:2, 3.** Animals plodded and pranced toward the ark! The animals came in pairs; a male and female of every kind. Some animals (those referred to by God as clean animals) came in seven pairs. They spilled out of the woods, across the fields, over the hills, and went quietly, obediently, into the ark. Birds came too, flapping through the ark's door. For seven days the animals kept coming and coming and coming—led by angels that no one could see.

Imagine Noah climbing the ramp leading to the ark's door, his voice echoing across the valley one last time, asking all to choose God and be safe. He waited. No one came.

The Bible says, "Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation' " (Genesis 7:1).

Just eight people obeyed God and went into the ark: Noah, his wife, and their sons—Shem, Ham, Japheth—and their wives. Only eight people were faithful and trusted God's words.

Then the boat's huge door started to close! Strong hands, invisible to everyone, pushed it shut. Yes, God had closed the door, and not even the strongest man could open it.

Though so sad about what would happen, God loved how Noah and his family had faithfully obeyed Him.

Fast Facts:
Elephants eat about 330 to 375 pounds (about 149 to 170 kilograms) of food each day.* Horses eat about 15 to 20 pounds (about 7 to 9 kilograms) of food each day.** The animals in the ark probably needed much less food, because they were in their enclosures and couldn't be active.

Pray Together: To trust God, because He will do what He promises to do, and to be brave and to stand up for God.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Why were the animals in twos and sevens? (Read about it in* ***Genesis 7:2****.)*
- *Why is it so hard to stand up for what's right?*

God has always wanted to draw people (us!) close to Himself. In His love He still invites us to come to Him to be safe from the stormy troubles in our lives. He offers to carry our worries and burdens (Matthew 11:28-30). There is plenty of room inside His heart of protection and comfort.

* https://seaworld.org
** https://www.humanesociety.org



☐ FRIDAY

Safe in the Storm

For seven days it didn't rain. Oh, how the people outside the ark scoffed and laughed at Noah and his family. *How wrong the old man was!* they must have thought. But Noah and his family patiently waited inside the ark, praying to God and encouraging each other. They trusted that the Flood would come just as God had said.

What happened after seven days? **Read Genesis 7:10, 11.** Then, on the eighth day, dark clouds smothered the sky. Lightning flashed, and thunder roared. The people had never seen anything like it! They were terrified!

Huge raindrops began to fall, and water exploded out of the ground. The people outside the ark watched as the terrible storm ruined their beautiful houses and their idols. Suddenly they realized that Noah had been right. God was bringing a flood on the earth.

Some of the people pounded on the door of the ark—but it was closed tight. Some ran to the top of the highest hills to escape the water. Others climbed tall trees. But gradually water covered the whole world, and the ark was the only thing that could be seen on top of all the water. Angels hovered over the ark to keep it safe as the storm raged.

The Bible says that God "destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive" (Genesis 7:23).

Inside the ark Noah and his family and all the animals were safe. They may have felt a little scared, but inside the ark was the safest place to be. Out of the thousands of people who were living on the earth, only eight chose to follow God. How happy Noah and his family were that they had walked with God, listened to Him for all those years, and had done what He had asked them to do!

Besides Noah's family and the animals in the ark, only one other thing was saved—the beautiful Garden of Eden. God took it to heaven before the Flood started, to keep it safe for Adam, Eve, and all of us to enjoy on the brand-new earth after Jesus comes again (see Revelation 2:7; 22:1, 2).

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *When have you listened to and obeyed God, even when others haven't?*
- *How can you be strong to stand for God even if most other people don't? (See Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 71:2.)*

Friday Night

Parent Faith Talk

Tell your child about a time you've listened to a warning from God, or from a parent or grandparent, and you were glad you did so.

Sing, Listen, or Compose

Recite your memory verse and think about the things you have learned this week, such as walking with God, listening to God, trusting God, being a faithful worker for God, helping others, and being brave to stand up for Jesus.

As you think of these ideas, what song comes to your mind? Consider singing or listening to it, or compose a song of your own. Then sing together hymn no. 100, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal.*

Pray

Pray a simple prayer, asking God to help you to trust Him, believe what He says, and be a faithful follower like Noah.

Reflection Questions About This Week's Story

(You may want to add these reflections to your Family Journal.)

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What is God's invitation to me in this story?



SABBATH SPECIAL

Will You Preach?

More than 170 years ago God asked a man to preach for Him, just as he had asked Noah. Instead of preaching about a big flood and finding safety in an ark, God asked this man to preach about God's love and the second coming of Jesus.

His name was John Loughborough, and he was not quite 17 years old. He knew God wanted him to preach, even though he was young. But when he looked at himself, he wondered who would ever listen to him! His trousers were hand-me-downs from a taller man, so they flopped around his ankles. The coat he wore was just an overcoat that had been cut off at the bottom. With only $1 in his pocket, how was he to buy nice clothes? He couldn't, but he set off to preach anyway.

Thinking he needed some preaching practice, John began to preach in a small place where he didn't know anyone. He shouldn't have worried, for the people were blessed by what they heard. One man gave him $3, others gave him $5 worth of books to sell, and others encouraged him because he was a good preacher and could explain the Bible so well.

Moving on to another village, he rented a church and put up some posters to let people know he would be preaching for three nights. Pretty soon word got around that a boy was going to preach! Imagine John's surprise when he found the church full to overflowing that first night, and then again the next evening! He was so glad that people had come to hear about God.

But there was one man who wasn't happy, and he tried to cause trouble. He argued and said that John wasn't preaching what the Bible said. Before long he was very embarrassed, because young John could easily show him lots of Bible texts to prove the truths he preached.

Over the years John Loughborough became a very well-known preacher who worked hard for God in America, England, and Europe. He preached in churches, schools, tents, people's homes, and even under shady trees. Sometimes people tried to do cruel things to him, but God always kept him safe.

He is remembered as a faithful Seventh-day Adventist pioneer who worked hard with James and Ellen White and other church leaders to tell people about God and His truth for this time.

Enoch walked with God. Noah worked for God. John Loughborough preached for God. We can too.

• *What can you do for God?*

When we walk with God by choosing to love Him and live for Him, He will show us what we can do for Him.

John Loughborough, "Will You Preach?" Miracles in My Life (Teach Services, Inc., 1987), adapted.