

MADHOUSE

Have you ever wished your teacher would be late for school and your whole class could have an hour or two just to fool around? That's exactly what happened to Luther Bett's class one day. Their teacher, Mrs. Stokes, had a car accident, and she couldn't get word to the school that she would be late. Before the principal found out she wasn't there, the class had been unsupervised for a whole period. They were definitely taking advantage of the situation!

Did they ever have fun! At first they just talked a lot and wrote crazy things on the chalkboard. Then Danny looked through the test papers on Mrs. Stokes's desk and changed some of the scores. Soon Allan started throwing paper airplanes. When one of the planes hit Bev in the face, she grabbed Allan's shirt. A ripping sound could be heard as Allan pulled free. Soon it was total chaos. Practically the whole class got into it. The place went crazy.

Luther and a couple of the other kids, however, wanted no part of it. They knew that when Mrs. Stokes or the principal arrived, there would be

trouble for all of the kids who were breaking the rules. So they just sat and watched the other students.

Finally, the principal, Mr. Hale, did show up. Everyone knew he was angry by the look on his face! "All of you get busy and clean up this mess!" he shouted. "And after that, all of you will be disciplined!"

That is exactly what happened. Luther and the kids who had just watched were punished the same as all the other kids who were guilty of making the mess. Everyone had to miss recess every day for a week and clean the entire classroom—no excuses!

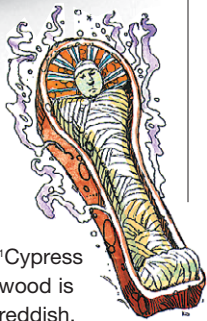
- *How was Luther like Noah?*
- *Was the punishment fair? Why or why not?*
- *How is God's discipline different from that of people?*

KEY VERSE

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all that he does.

Psalm 145:17

GOD'S FLOATING ZOO



¹Cypress wood is reddish, durable, and fragrant. It was used for buildings, carvings, and mummy cases.

There were many hundreds of years between the creation of the world and Noah. By Noah's time, there were many people spread throughout the earth. The people had forgotten about God and were very wicked in everything they did.

Read Genesis 6:6-7. How did God feel about the people's

wicked behavior? What did He decide to do as a result?

But Noah followed God. So when God told Noah to build an ark, Noah did. It was a huge three-story boat made of cypress wood.¹ The ark had rooms for the people, food, and animals. Noah obeyed God in all things, finishing the ark when he was 600 years old.





SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT

Genesis 7:1-4, 7, 10

The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your

whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean² animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

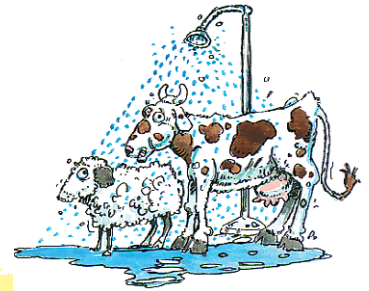
What reason did God give for Noah being saved from the Flood? What did God tell Noah to do? What did God say He would do?

And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

How do you think Noah and his family felt in the ark seven days before it rained? What might Noah have been thinking about God's correction?

Then, rain poured down from the sky. Water also came up from deep places inside the earth. This went on for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose until all the mountains were covered. Every animal and person that lived on earth died. Only Noah and his family were saved. The waters covered the earth for 150 days.



²"Clean" animals, such as cows or sheep, were suitable for sacrifice.



HARD TO FOLLOW

It's not always easy to follow a guide when you are blindfolded. You must trust the guide's directions completely. Obeying God's ways can be hard at times too. We need to trust Him to be fair and right in all He does. Look up the verse that tells God's command above each situation below. Rate on the bar graph how hard it would be for you to obey that command. Then circle one situation in which you can commit to trusting and obeying God.

Very Easy
Somewhat Difficult
Really Difficult
Impossible

God's command:
Proverbs 16:28

Your friends talk about other kids and make fun of them. You don't want to gossip.

Very Easy
Somewhat Difficult
Really Difficult
Impossible

God's command:
Ephesians 6:1

Many of your friends watch videos and movies your parents don't want you to see. They invite you to watch them too. Obeying your parents is important.

Very Easy
Somewhat Difficult
Really Difficult
Impossible

God's command:
2 Corinthians 8:21

You're having trouble with a test. You sit next to the smartest kid in class. It would be easy to copy his answers. You know cheating is wrong.

Very Easy
Somewhat Difficult
Really Difficult
Impossible

God's command:
Ephesians 4:32a

Your elderly neighbor is lonely. She likes to have you visit and talk with her. She just needs someone to be kind to her.