Noah Builds the Ark

Genesis 6:5-22

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

A Drastic Solution to a Huge Problem

God's statement in Genesis 6:7 grew out of pain and was a sorrowful acknowledgment that to make things better, most of the earth's population would have to die. The people that God created had so turned against him that he had to start over with the few who remained faithful.

Fortunately, one righteous man still loved God. The word translated "righteous" in verse 9 indicates that Noah sought both to worship and obey God and also to live in fairness with his human neighbors who didn't share his values. Noah was a shining example of goodness in a dark world.

Consider the immensity of the task Noah undertook. The ark was one and a half times the length of a football field, as wide as a high-school basketball court is long, and as tall as a five-story building. There were to be three decks inside and many rooms to house all the different animals. All of this was to be built of a particular kind of wood (which we can't identify precisely) in an arid area where wood likely was not plentiful.

A Unique, Sea-Worthy Vessel

Obviously no one had ever built a floating zoo of that size. Fortunately, God knew what he was doing. Modern shipbuilding experts have confirmed that the dimensions given in the Bible would be ideal to ensure that a large wooden vessel would remain intact and upright while adrift in heavy seas.

In addition to caring for his family, Noah was given the responsibility of housing and feeding two of every kind of animal in the ark (Genesis 6:19, 21). In an amazing miracle, God led all the animals to the ark at just the right time. And the reason there were seven pairs of certain animals was so that Noah would have animals to sacrifice in worship without wiping out a species (Genesis 7:2-3).

We don't know how often Noah was discouraged or if his neighbors and family ridiculed him. But we do know that he "did everything just as God commanded him." And that's a great example of faithful obedience for all of us.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus obeyed God in every turn and detail of his life. When we look to Jesus and follow his example, we're obeying God. What a beautiful way to live!

When has God directed you to do something? It can sometimes seem scary, but it's also exciting because God reveals his faithfulness and strength when we obey him in the things he asks us to do. Take comfort in knowing that when you obey, God will give everything you need to carry out his plans. Ask God what he wants you to do. You can write your prayer here.