

Noah and the Ark (Genesis 6 - 9)

When God created the world and everything in it, all of it was good, just as God wanted it to be. But Adam and Eve had disobeyed God and rejected God as king. So God had sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and made sure they could not get back in.

They had to live in a spoiled world. They had children and grandchildren and great grandchildren and more. But most of these people did not live with God as their king; they disobeyed God's word and everybody was selfish. People did not look after each other as they should, they didn't look after the animals and the plants as they should. People got hurt and hurt each other. People had terrible thoughts. Work became hard and boring.

This made God very sad. God saw how much things had changed since he made Adam and Eve and gave them the beautiful garden to live in. He knew that people didn't love him and he saw how horrible people were being to each other and he decided to send a big flood on the place he had made.

There was one man, called Noah who loved God and Noah listened to God. God told Noah to build a great big boat. God told Noah how to build the boat. Noah listened to the instructions from God and he gathered his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth and his wife and their wives (we don't know their names) and he told them what God had said and they all set to work building the boat. They collected the materials, cut them to size, put them together and gathered what they would need. It was hard work but they trusted God that it was important work. They sometimes stopped to eat and chat together and stretch and sleep.

God told Noah to put lots and lots of animals on the boat and the animals walked, hopped, flew and ran (if they had little legs and wanted to keep up) on to the boat. God told Noah to bring his family on the boat and so Noah's sons Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives and Noah and his wife walked on to the boat.

Noah had done just what God said and when every animal was on board and they were on the boat themselves, God shut the door and it started to rain.....

It rained and rained and there was a big flood. Everything that lived on the land died. But Noah and his wife, his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives and the animals on the boat were saved. They had to stay on the boat for a long time and must have wondered when the rain was going to stop. But they waited for God to guide them. Do you think they got a bit fed up? Do you think the boat may have got a bit smelly? Do you think Noah and his family did exercises to keep fit? They were probably very busy feeding, exercising and looking after all the animals.

One day, when it stopped raining and the flood disappeared, Noah and his family and all the animals got off the boat. Perhaps the animals ran around because it felt good to be back on land again. Perhaps they had to remember what it was like to find their own food.

God promised that he would never flood the whole earth again. He placed a rainbow in the sky as his sign that he will keep his promise.