

Day One: A Big Problem and a Big Adventure

Let's Start with a Few Questions



Q: Do you have a favorite superhero?

Q: If *you* could be a superhero, what would your superhero name be?

A Big Problem



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God made the whole world out of nothing! He made the land and the seas. He made the moon and the stars and the sun. He made plants grow on the earth. He made the birds and the fish and all of the other animals. He did such a great job with all of that that it made Him happy. Then he made the first people.

Q: Do you know what their names were?

A: Adam and Eve!

God created Adam and Eve, planted a beautiful garden for them to live in, and gave them a perfect life. Perfect weather every day. Free food. No sickness. No death. There was just *one thing* God told them to *never* do.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 2:16–17 ESV

Sounds easy, right?

I have another question for you: Have you ever been in trouble at home? Did a parent ever tell you not to do something, and you did it anyway?

It's no fun to be in trouble. It makes you feel bad when you do something wrong. When you know that your mom or dad are unhappy with you, it makes you sad.

Adam and Eve were the first people on earth, and they were the first people who ever did anything wrong. They decided to break God's rule. One of the animals in the garden (the serpent) talked to them about it and tried to get them to do what God said not to do. They listened to the serpent and decided to disobey God.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:6 ESV

We know that God's instructions are *always* good, and that God does not make up silly rules. Adam and Eve should have known that, too—but they chose to listen to the serpent anyway.

The problem they caused was *way bigger* than that piece of fruit. Adam and Eve had decided that they didn't need to obey God's rules; they decided that they could make their own rules.

When people decide that they can make better rules than God and do whatever they want, it's called 'sin'. Adam and Eve let sin into the world. It was the biggest problem the world ever had, and we still have it today.

God was sad that Adam and Eve chose to sin. Adam and Eve were no longer allowed to live in the beautiful, perfect garden. They had to live in other parts of the world that were more dangerous—and they had to work very hard to grow their own food and survive.

As people multiplied and spread out over the world, they loved following their own rules instead of following God. Everywhere people went, they brought sin and wickedness with them.

A Big Decision



After many years, there were a lot more people in the world. God saw that people were sinful and wicked and that they were ruining the world that He had created to be perfect and beautiful. God decided that the best way to solve the problem of sin might be to start over.

So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."
Genesis 6:7 ESV

God decided to wipe everything away with a great flood and start over. That would mean no more animals, no more people...

But guess what! There was one person on earth who did what was right and didn't disobey God!

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
Genesis 6:8 ESV

God found *one person* who was following God's ways instead of the wicked ways of the rest of the people on earth!

God gave Noah a mission. He told Noah to build something that had never been built before: a huge boat. (We call it 'the ark'.) He told Noah that he would need this boat because something was going to happen that had never happened on the earth before: it was going to rain. Not just a little. God was going to flood the whole earth and wipe out all of the people and animals—except for the people and animals on Noah's giant boat.

A Few More Questions



Q: Do you think God chose Noah because he was an excellent ship builder?

Q: Do you think God chose Noah because he was an excellent sailor?

Q: Do you think God chose Noah because he could work well with animals?

God chose a guy who didn't know *anything* about ship building or sailing—or even animal collecting. The Bible tells us why Noah was chosen, though. Noah trusted God in all things and wanted to do whatever God told him to do. Noah knew that he should just be obedient and let God take care of the details.

A Big Adventure

Here's another question for you: How long do you think it took Noah to build the ark?



It took Noah 100 years to build the ark! God sent animals to Noah from all over the world. When God said it was time to go, Noah, his wife, his three sons, his sons' wives, and all of those animals got into the ark and God sealed it up.

It rained for forty days and forty nights. The flood waters covered every bit of land on earth. Noah and his family were safe, but everyone else on earth perished. The waters covered *everything*—even the highest mountains! When the rain finally stopped, everything was flooded for 150 more days. Then it took 150 *more* days after that for the water to start to dry up.

Finally, God brought Noah and his family (and all those animals!) to dry land. From the time they had entered the ark until they were able to leave it, a year and ten days had passed!

Can you imagine living in a very large boat for more than a year with no one but your family and a lot of animals? What would that be like?

When Noah and his family got to leave the ark and live on dry land, Noah was so happy! He built an altar and thanked God for rescuing them from the flood. God promised never again to destroy the earth with a great flood. He put a rainbow in the sky so we can remember His promise whenever we see one.

"When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Genesis 9:14–15 ESV

We started our lesson today talking about the big problem that Adam and Eve let into the world that we still deal with today: sin. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and that brought all kinds of bad things into the world.

After Adam and Even ruined everything, God started working on a plan for a hero to come and save us from sin. Noah was a hero, but he wasn't *that* hero. Noah obeyed God and followed God's instructions. God used Noah to save a few people and animals from the great flood, but the world would need a different kind of hero to get rid of sin for good.

Tomorrow we'll learn about another hero God sent to save people, and we'll see if maybe *he* was the hero who could take care of sin.

Pray, Listen, Say, Memorize



Prayer

Thank You God for Your Word, the Bible. Please help us when we read from it, and give us understanding to see Your plan at work—all through history. Thank You for loving us so much that You made a plan to save us from our sin and to bring us back to You.



Today's Truth

God created a perfect world. People caused a big problem.



Memory Verse

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis1:1