

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE INSTITUTE

*GREAT MEN & WOMEN OF GOD*



# 1

GRADES 4-6 • COURSE A • LESSON 1

## LESSON

# NOAH

**W**hen you live by faith, God promises to honor that faith. Faith is simply believing God. Noah put great trust in his God, and God honored him above all men on earth. Only Noah and his own family were alive on earth after the big flood was over. Noah and his family were the only people who pleased God.

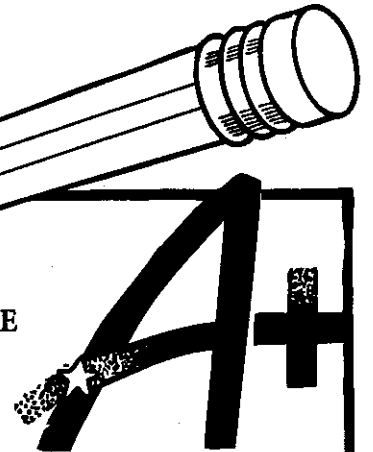
### GOD'S TEST OF OBEDIENCE

God's request wasn't simple, but it was perhaps strange. Build a ship, a huge ship, unable to be moved, yet far from water. In fact at that time it had never rained on earth, and never a flood.

To everyone else it seemed mighty strange - but Noah knew for sure that God was the one who told him, and God is pleased when we obey Him!

That was the test - would Noah obey his God, regardless of the task?

### NOAH'S GRADE ON THE TEST



"And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Genesis 7:1

"And every living substance was destroyed... Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark." Genesis 7:23

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Genesis 9:1

People laughed and made fun, but Noah believed God. Noah's sons and wives were laughed at, as every day, for 120 years, they worked on that huge boat, with no water in sight. If it was just Noah's idea, he and his family would have given up long ago. But it wasn't his idea. It was God's! That made a great difference (and should for us too). It really

didn't even matter how loud they laughed or how long. There would come a day when all the laughter would turn to cries for help and screams to get inside the ark. And that day did come - but God Himself had already shut the door!

## **GOD WAS FAITHFUL - NOAH TOO!**

God did not give Noah a deadline date. But Noah did not stop or even slow down, although it took 120 years to finish. Remember, they only had simple tools in that day. No chain saws, saw mills, logging trucks, or modern day tools. It was hard work to do.

Can't you just hear people laughing and calling "Crazy Noah." But, "Crazy Noah" wasn't crazy after all! The day before the rains came, he was still trusting and still finishing up the work!

God was faithful to Noah to hold back the rains from above and the "fountains beneath" which would bring enough water to cover the earth. It could have rained at any time, but not until it was God's time!

### **WHAT ABOUT NOAH?**

Noah was 480 years old when God gave him this assignment. He was 600 before it was completed. Noah lived for 350 years after the flood and died when he was only 950 years old.

If Noah had not been pleasing in God's sight, where would we be today? All others on the earth perished - ALL perished.

## **THOSE IN THE ARK**

A total of eight people - Noah, Mrs. Noah, his three sons, and their three wives. None other is mentioned. Apparently Noah had no other children, and apparently his sons had no children at this time. After the flood, they began to replenish the earth with their own children.

## **THE SONS OF NOAH**

Three sons of Noah are named:

**HAM:** Most think Ham was born about 24 years after Noah began work on the ark, and was about 95 when the flood came. His family is listed in **Genesis 10:6-20**.

**JAPHETH:** The second son is found listed in **Genesis 10:2-5**. His children, the Greeks, moved into southeastern Europe.

**SHEM:** The oldest of Noah's sons. His own children became people of Persia, Assyria, Syria, and other countries. Abraham and later Jesus descended from this group.

## **SIZE OF THE ARK**

All we can do today is to compare in size the ark with another familiar object. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It was 1 ½ times as long as a football field, and taller than a five-story building.



## **THE PURPOSE OF THE ARK**

One purpose - to save Noah, his family, and the animals while the whole earth faced the judgment of God. No sails, no paddles, no steering. It just was made to float above and beyond all the destruction underneath. Everything was totally in the hands of God, the Creator. Its safety, direction, destination, and time were all in God's wonderful control!

## **THE LESSONS WE MUST LEARN:**

1. We know that God will punish sin.
2. We know we can please God, even if the whole world is displeasing.
3. The way we please God is just like Noah did, by our obedience.
4. God honors our faith.
5. God also honors our work. The end result is blessing from God.

# CORONATION

## IN A CORNFIELD

by Adrianna Kassner



### Chapter 1

**W**hen I was 11 years old, my friend Heiko and his sister Anna Katrina discovered a secret city nestled deep in the countryside of their grandfather's farm.

At his first opportunity, Heiko called a meeting of all our friends. We came together one warm afternoon in late spring, dressed in our play clothes and hiking boots. Our imaginations were high and we were eager for adventure. We all followed Heiko down a dusty lane by cornfields, through meadows, brambles and woods.

I walked behind Anna Katrina who carefully cradled her white cat Felisha above the briars and thistles. Behind me were Tirza and Elizabeth, Jewish twin sisters from the south side of Ripley. At the end of our line were three very active brothers, Peter, James, and John.

Had I invited my brother Corrie to come along, I was certain that he would have trailed behind whining and complaining that he was hot and thirsty or that he had a tick in his hair. So I set off without telling him.

The secret city turned out to be a unique clearing next to the creek bed that was a tributary of the Ohio River. The clearing was filled with goldenrods and it was surrounded by a tall fortress of pine trees. In the very center was an ancient oak tree.

"We've been wanting to start a club;" said Heiko, "but I suggest that instead we start our own kingdom—a secret kingdom right here."

His excitement was contagious, it sparked our curiosity.

"We could build a castle there in the clearing out of creek stones and pine branches," suggested James. "Yes, and we could build a fort all around," added Peter.

I mentioned that the oak tree would make a great lookout tower, and almost immediately we began clearing a path through the goldenrods.

"What shall we call our city?" asked Tirza.

"How about Golden City," suggested Anna Katrina as she picked one of the yellow flowers and tucked it behind Tirza's ear.



"We'll have to have a monarch," said Heiko. "What's a monarch?" John asked

Peter. "A king," Peter said. "Or, a queen," I added, with emphasis!

"Some of us will have to be servants, too; not everyone can be royalty," Heiko continued. "We'll come together in a week or two when the castle is finished. Then, we'll nominate someone."

Later, we all headed home because of rain. As I walked along the river ambitious thoughts whirled through my head. More than anything, I wanted to be queen. I decided to write a list of all the reasons I would make a better monarch than anyone else. I couldn't wait to get home to tell my cousin Marta about my plan.

Marta was my oldest cousin. I wanted to be like her in every way. She was beautiful, kind and always a lot of fun. When she was fourteen her parents died of an exotic fever on a foreign mission field, so she came to live with us. She had few belongings when she came, mainly just a box full of photographs and a colorful bed quilt. I am ashamed to admit that I was not as sad about my aunt and uncle's death as I should have been. I barely remember them. My family did not correspond much with them. My family were not Christians, and had a large disagreement about their going overseas. When my parents learned of their deaths, they were ashamed. To help relieve their consciences, they opened our own home to their orphaned niece. I was very excited about her coming. I had always wanted an older sister. Marta never disappointed me.

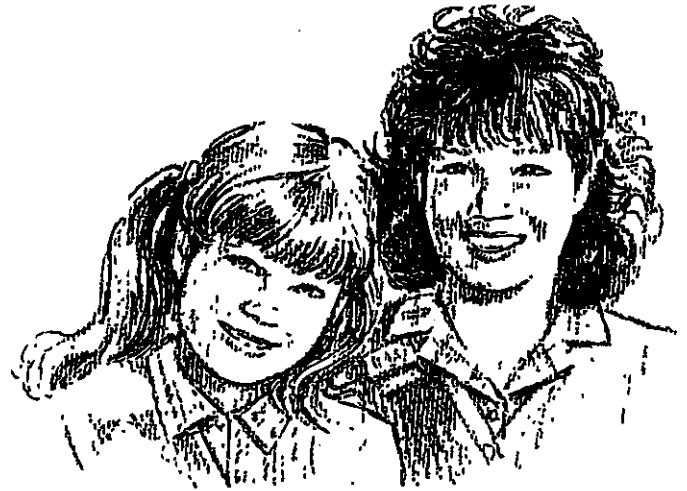
The rain was really coming down hard as I took the bridge across the river toward my house. By the time I reached home, I was soaked through all my clothes.

"There you are Catherine; I've been worried about you." Marta greeted me, relieved. "There is supposed to be a flash flood tonight."

"Where is everyone?" I asked, as I entered the house.

"Your parents had to take Corrie to the hospital. He fell off his horse down in the paddock and broke his leg." I suddenly felt a pang of guilt for not inviting Corrie to come with me to the founding of the Golden City.

It rained and rained hard for hours. From our own front window we could see the river rising. "It won't be long before it spills over into the front yard," said Marta with one of those concerned looks on her face.



Just as we finished dinner, the electricity went off. Marta and I took some candles to the bedroom upstairs.

We talked late into the night as we waited for a call from the hospital. Marta read captions aloud to me from the journal that she kept during her childhood in Haiti. Then I told her about the Golden City and my aspiration to be queen. I showed her my list of reasons of why I was the obvious best choice of all. I asked for her advice on what else I could do to become selected.

Her response surprised me.

"Well Catherine," she said, "I've found that usually it's best not to announce my best talents to others. I'd be afraid that they would think I was boasting and there is nothing more distasteful than a person who brags about himself. It is always so much more pleasant when they discover something good about

me by accident or from another source. I know you really want to be the queen, but you won't gain their favor by putting yourself on a higher level than everyone else."

"So I might as well forget it then, because I know the others will pick Heiko."

"Do you think Heiko would make a good king?"

"Well, he is the oldest and the Golden City was his discovery. So, I guess he really deserves it."

"Then why don't you think about how much fun another position would be and maybe Heiko will get tired of being King and abdicate the throne!" She laughed. "Be patient. You know last Sunday in church my pastor said that if you humble yourself before God, He will lift you up. That's a promise from the Bible. And listen to me Catherine, I know this is true - God always keeps his promises."

Neither of us spoke after that. I thought about what Marta said, yet I did not think it could be true. Being humble would do for a scullery maid, a servant girl, or even a lady in waiting, but certainly not for a queen. Besides, how else would my friends know what a good queen I would make unless I told them of my great qualifications. I was convinced to read my list at the meeting.

In the morning we discovered, much to our surprise, that our living room was covered with water. The flood had made its way right through the front door! Everything downstairs was ruined. One of my mother's pink house shoes floated past us as we gazed in dismay. My parents still weren't home.

We ran back upstairs to call one of our neighbors, but we could not get through. The line was dead.

I looked outside. The river had encompassed us on every side. It seemed

as if we were on a sinking ship. Suddenly I was frightened. The rain continued hard.

"I'm scared Marta. I'm worried about Mom and Dad - and especially Corrie, I'm always so mean to him.

"Calm down, Cathy." Marta put her arm around my shoulder. "I'm sure your parents decided to wait out the storm. They'll get through as soon as they can."

"But what if the rain doesn't stop, what if it covers the whole house, the whole town, even the whole world and we all drown." A surge of panic choked out my voice.

"It won't happen," Marta's voice was confident.

"Anything is possible, Marta. How can you be so sure that it won't happen?"

"It did once, a long time ago, but it won't happen again because God said it wouldn't happen again."

"When did He say that?" From the tone of her voice, I was beginning to wonder if God and Marta had just had a conversation about our situation.

"It's in the Bible. Haven't you ever heard the story of Noah?"



I had heard about Noah, but since my family did not go to church, I had never heard the full story.

"God spared Noah because he was righteous. God told him to build the ark, so for 120 years he labored over this project even though he was surrounded

by a vast dry region – a very humbling experience, I’m sure. His neighbors probably thought he was a lunatic. But Noah did not give up. He trusted God to keep His Word. In the end, Noah’s obedience paid off. When the rains came, his family walked aboard and God closed the door. God allowed the flood waters to cover the earth. Every person died, except for Noah, his family, and of course the animals – two of each kind. Noah became the father of all new generations. When the rains ceased, God put in the skies a beautiful rainbow as a symbol of His promise to Noah that He would never cover the world entirely with water again. And remember what I told you last night – God always keeps His promises.”

Marta was right; the rain finally stopped and the waters started to recede. I was relieved when finally my parents came through the door with Corrie.

The water caused a lot of damage to our home and there was lots of cleanup to do, but we were all grateful to be safe and together again.

On an impulse of goodwill, I even told Corrie about the secret city. I promised that I would take him with me to see it as soon as his leg was better.

The flood had done a lot of damage to the castle we had started to build. We all worked hard on reconstruction of the Golden City. When it was finally complete we gathered together in what we called the throne room to decide on what positions everyone would have in the kingdom.

Heiko asked if anyone would like to make a nomination. James looked puzzled, “What does a nomination mean?” he asked.

“It means, who do you want to be king?” said Peter.

“Or queen,” Peter and I said together. Everybody laughed. I stood straight and tall. Everyone’s eyes were fixed on me. I took a deep breath and began to speak. Suddenly, my eyes became fixed between

the trees on the other side of the creek. There, stretching above the branches, was a beautiful rainbow. I was reminded of God’s promise. Not the promise about never destroying the earth again by water, but the promise that if we humble ourselves, He will lift us up.

“Well, Catherine,” said Anna, “What do you want to say?”

I crumpled my paper and shoved it into my pocket.

“I think Heiko would make a good king,” I said. “I nominate Heiko.” END

## 1 NOAH – REVIEW QUESTIONS

Find the answers in the story.

1. Noah’s test was: Would the child of God \_\_\_\_\_ his God, regardless of the \_\_\_\_\_? (See page 1)
2. List 3 lessons from the life of NOAH.

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## 2 J. HUDSON TAYLOR REVIEW QUESTIONS

Find the answers in the story.

1. What mission group did he begin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. His purpose was clear, “It’s \_\_\_\_\_ for China!”
3. Chinese believers were trained to take over the \_\_\_\_\_ of their own churches.



# J. HUDSON TAYLOR

## A MAN WHO BROUGHT THE GOSPEL TO CHINA

**I**n 1853 Hudson Taylor left England for China. Little was known of the land, people, culture, or language. However, God knew!

His heart and life was totally given to God. He had asked God for a work to do that would please Him. Before the age of sixteen, Hudson stretched himself on the ground before God, giving all he knew to give. He then waited to see what God would do.

On the field of China, *prayer after prayer was answered*. After years of sickness, and fighting enemies of the Gospel, God greatly blessed the *China Inland Mission (CIM)* with hundreds of volunteers to spread the Gospel to this large land. They still faced sickness, disease, death, and angry mobs who ran them out of towns. However, God never gives up on those who do not give up on Him. The Lord continued to save souls and churches were started. Their purpose was still clear: *it's Christ for China!*

In 1900, those pioneer missionaries went through a time called the Boxer uprising. In three summer months, they lost fifty-six missionaries and twenty-three children, killed because of their witness for Christ. We call them *martyrs* for Christ (like Stephen). Hundreds of Chinese Christians were murdered. *Yet, they kept on!* Here, a few years later, J. Hudson Taylor died in the inland areas of China.

Chinese believers were trained to take over the leadership for their own churches. This is the practice of missions today. Foreign missionaries (as from America) go into a country with the Gospel, win people to Christ, start churches, train them in God's work, and then let them take it over. The missionary then moves on to do it again somewhere else. That's called soulwinning and church planting. *By 1936, over 1300 missionaries joined CIM.*

In 1948 the land came under communist control. China is still under this Godless form of government, telling their people there is no God. However, as seen through the life of J. Hudson Taylor, *whatever came up to be in opposition to Christ, only led to more Christians!*

***Perhaps God could use you as a missionary. Have you ever asked Him if you could be a missionary? You can volunteer, you know!***



# God's Plan of Salvation

## Understand that everyone has sinned.



"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" *Romans 3:23*



"As it is written, There is **none** righteous, no, not one." *Romans 3:10*

Every person in the entire world has broken God's commands.

## Understand that sin separates us from God.



"For the wages of sin *is* death..." *Romans 6:23*

The Bible tells us that the punishment for our sin is eternal death. It also tells us that every person has "come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Because every person has disobeyed God's commands, He *must* punish our sin.

## Understand that God loves every boy and girl.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son (Jesus), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
*John 3:16*

This verse tells us that God loves every person in the entire world so much that He sent His Son to the world.

## Understand that God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin.



"But God commendeth (demonstrated) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." *Romans 5:8*



"Who his own self (Jesus) **bare our sins** in his own body on the tree (cross)..."  
*1 Peter 2:24*

Jesus paid the penalty for your sins on the cross.

## Understand that the gift of eternal life in heaven (salvation) is received by faith.

Faith *is* trusting in Jesus Christ alone to save you from the penalty of your sin.



"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou **shalt** be saved..." *Acts 16:31*



"That if thou (you) shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou (you) shalt be saved." *Romans 10:9*



"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
*Romans 10:13*

Do you want to ask Jesus to be your Saviour and to save you from your sins? You can talk more about salvation with your leader.



## Master Ministries

Master Ministries is a ministry of First Baptist Church in Milford, Ohio  
1369C Woodville Pike ■ Milford, Ohio 45150 ■ (800) 451-5023

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