

# God Cares for Noah

## Genesis 7

How are fish different from other animals? Could a fish live on land? Could an animal live in a fishbowl or in an ocean? Why are they different? (God made animals and fish different because He had a special plan for each one.) God also has a special plan for people. In our Bible story today, we will learn that God had a special plan for Noah and his family. Noah and his family loved and obeyed God.

Of all the people who were living in the WHOLE world, only eight still loved and obeyed God. God had to punish the world for its sin, but He promised that He would save those who loved Him and did right. He told Noah and his sons to build an ark where they and their families and two of every kind of animal and bird and reptile in the world could live while God covered the earth with water. Noah did everything just as God told him.

One day God told Noah that it was time to enter the ark. One after the other, Noah and his wife and their three sons and their wives walked up the long walking board and into the ark.

Then God directed the animals to enter the ark. Into the ark went ALL KINDS of animals and birds and reptiles – great gray elephants and loud roaring lions and chattering monkeys and tall giraffes and s-l-o-w turtles and scampering mice and fluttering butterflies and soaring birds. Two by two, every kind of animal and bird and reptile in the WHOLE WORLD walked and ran and wiggled and flew right inside the big ark!

When they were ALL safely inside, there was a loud BANG – and God Himself SHUT the door.

Outside, there was NO rain. There was NO water anywhere! The sun shone down on the huge ark from a blue, blue sky. There weren't even any clouds. Perhaps the neighbors even made fun of the people inside the ark.

Why did Noah and his family go inside? Because they loved God and chose to believe Him and obey Him. For one, two, three, four, five, six, SEVEN days they waited inside the ark. Every day the sky was clear and blue.

SUDDENLY, dark clouds began to roll across the sky! The sunlight was blotted out. A loud crash of thunder was heard. Sharp flashes of lightning slashed across the sky. And then, for the very first time since God had made the world so long before, raindrops began to fall from the sky. Faster, and faster they came down! The dry ground became muddy. Little puddles became BIG ponds of water. As more and more rain fell, the water rose higher and HIGHER. For forty days and forty nights, the rain came down without stopping! Water covered all the grass. Then the trees disappeared under the high water. FINALLY, water reached over the tops of the very highest mountains! Besides the water, the only thing in all the world that could be seen was this huge ark as it floated along.

God had done exactly what He had said that He would do. Because He is God, He always keeps His word. He has promised that He WILL take care of those who love and obey Him. He took care of the eight people in the ark, and He takes care of us today. He is a very GREAT God!

#### Bible Verse to Learn

“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark. . .” (Genesis 7:1).