

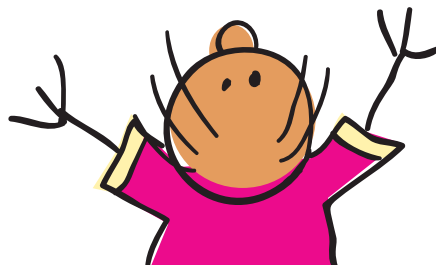


STORIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Series 1:

God Begins His Work on Earth

Bible Stories for All Ages



National Bible Reading Campaign

Have Fun Teaching Bible Histories for All Ages

Teaching the Bible should be a fun experience for both the teacher and students. The most effective teaching takes place when all those involved enjoy themselves. That is when the students learn best and when the teacher looks forward to teaching. The Bible Stories for All Ages have been prepared to help the teacher enjoy him or herself while teaching stories from Bible history and for the students to enjoy themselves while learning from them. These materials can be used with children of all ages as well as with youth and adults.

We recommend the following eleven steps for preparing and teaching these lessons:

Prepare to Teach

1. Carefully read the printed story, the questions and the memory verse.
2. Then, read the story in the Bible itself. Use a modern version that enables you to understand most clearly the details of the story.
3. Think carefully about the story and try to imagine that you were there in that situation and write all the unmentioned details that you imagine might have filled out the story.
4. On a sheet of paper, write the principle spiritual truths that you find in the story.

Teach

5. Give each student a copy of the lesson. (Please do not photocopy the lessons. In any case, they are less expensive in their published form)
6. Tell the group the name of the story and in a few words explain why the lesson is important to them.
7. (For groups with readers) Ask the members of the group to read aloud the printed story, each person, in turn, reading only one sentence. Ask that only those who wish to read do so.
8. Tell the story in the most dramatic manner possible. Use different voices for each person in the story and use gestures to dramatize the story.
9. Read aloud the questions and encourage the class to answer carefully and sincerely.
10. Help the class to memorize the memory verse, memorizing it at first by parts. Be patient in this activity and have students recite the verse individually as soon as they have learned it. Then, have the entire class give the verse together.
11. Lead the class to color the picture illustrating the story. The teacher should set the example in this. Chat with the class during this time talking about the important truths found in the lesson. Encourage young people and adults to color the pictures carefully and to save the stories so they can teach them to others as opportunities present themselves.



NATIONAL BIBLE READING CAMPAIGN

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How The World Began



Great Bible Truths:

1. God created the earth and all that is on it and liked all that He had made.
2. The beauty of the earth shows the glory of its maker.

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

In the beginning, when God made everything, the earth had no form or beauty. It was covered with water and everything was dark. Then God said, "Let there be light," and then there was light, which was separated from the darkness, making day and night. Then God raised land above the waters, separating the land from the lakes and the oceans. God liked everything that He saw, and then He ordered the land to produce plants of all kinds, including those that give flowers and fruit and others that give grain.

God made the sun and the moon to give light on the earth, along with all the stars. Then God commanded that there be birds to fly in the sky, fish and sea animals to swim in the sea, and large and small animals that would live on the land. God looked and liked everything He had made. Finally, God decided to make people, making them much like Himself. He said that people should increase in numbers and live all over the earth. They should have control over the animals keeping and caring for animals like dogs and cats, horses, cows and pigs. Both the people and animals would be able to eat the plants that God had put on the earth. When God finished making everything, He looked at it and was very happy. And then He rested on the last day, the seventh day.

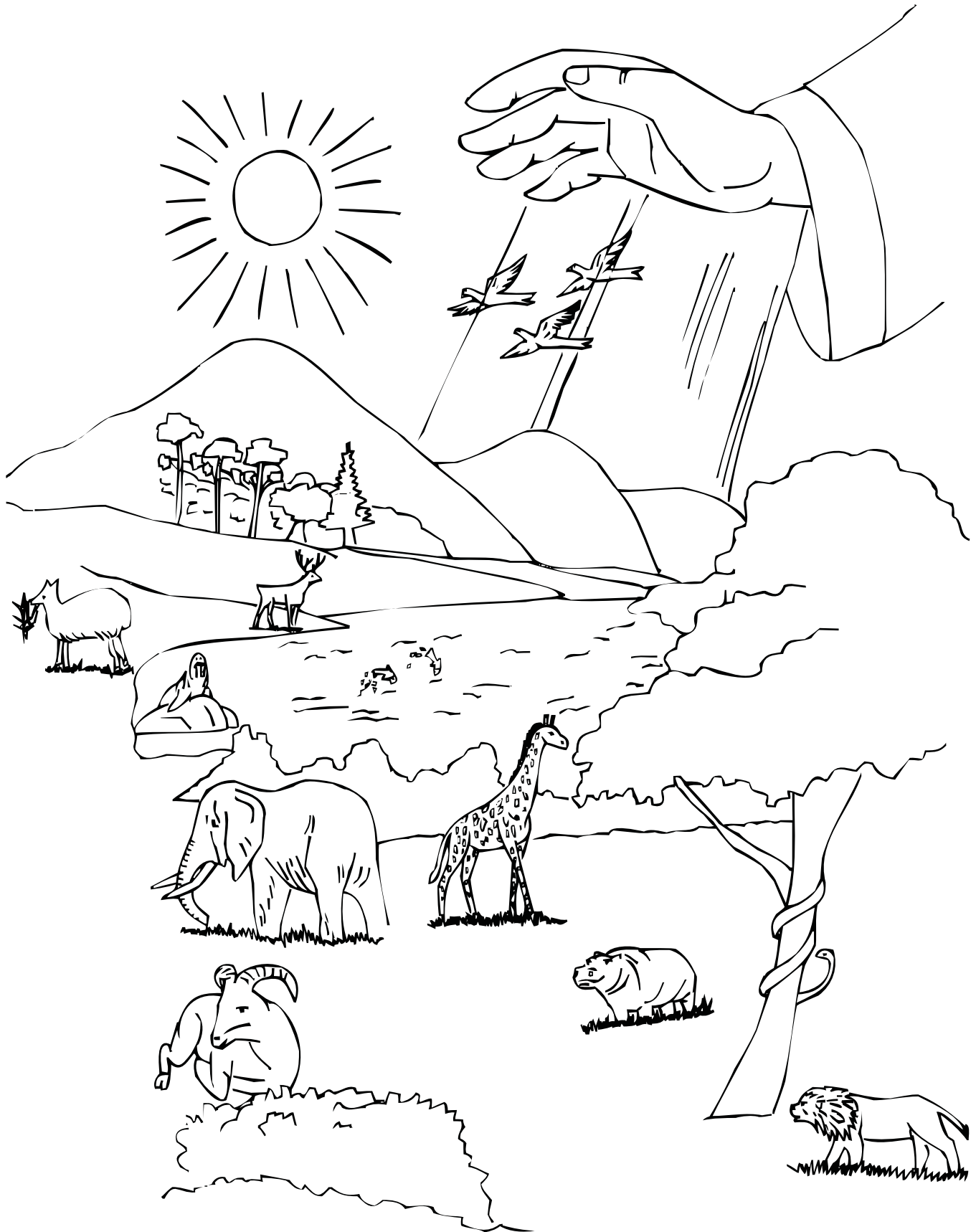
Talk About the Story:

1. What was the earth like to begin with?
2. What did God do to make the earth better?
3. What kind of living things did God make to live in the sky, in the waters, and on the earth?
4. What did God make last of all?

What Do You Say?

What do you like most about what God has made? Was God right to be happy about what he had made? How can we show that we are grateful to God for making the earth and giving life to us?

**God looked at everything He had made,
and He was very pleased.
Genesis 1:31**



The Beautiful Garden of Eden



Great Bible Truths:

1. God made the universe and all that is in it step by step
2. Last of all, God made man and woman for each other and to populate the earth.

Genesis 2:4-25

After God made everything else, He took some dirt from the ground and made a man out of it. God blew on what He had made, and the man began to breathe. Then God planted a beautiful garden in a place called Eden, and He brought the man, whom He called "Adam," to the garden and told him to take care of it. The garden was full of all kinds of fruit trees. There were also two special trees: one which gives life and the other that gives an understanding of what is right and wrong. God told Adam that he could eat everything that he found in the garden except the fruit of the tree of good and evil. The day he did that, God said, he would die.

God brought animals to the garden and told Adam to give names to each one of them. Adam did as God asked him, but he still felt very lonely because it was not enough for him just to live with animals. So God made Adam to fall into a deep sleep, and then God took out one of Adam's ribs and then healed Adam's body. God took the rib and used it to make a woman who was given the name "Eve." God woke up Adam and gave Eve to be Adam's friend and helper. Adam said, "Here, at last is someone like me. Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. Her name is woman because she was taken from man." God married them, and ever since that time a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one.

Talk About the Story:

1. Tell how God made Adam. Then, how did he make Eve?
2. What was the Garden of Eden like?
3. What did God ask Adam to do when he brought the different animals to him?
4. What was the one fruit that Adam and Eve were not to eat?
5. What would happen if they ate it?

What Do You Say?

Do you think Adam and Eve were happy in the Garden of Eden?

Do you think they were happy with each other? Do you think that God was happy that they were married to each other?

Do you think God is getting someone specially prepared to marry you when the right time comes?

***That is why a man leaves his father and mother
and is united with his wife,
and they become one.***

Genesis 2:24



Disobeying Spoils It All



Great Bible Truths:

1. From the beginning, people have decided to disobey God.
2. "Sin" is to disobey God, and sin separates people from God.

Genesis 3:1-24

Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the Lord had made. He came to Eve and asked Eve if God permitted her to eat any of the fruit in the Garden. "No," she answered, "God said we could eat every fruit except the fruit of good and evil. If we do, we will die." The snake asked, "Do you really believe that? God is just afraid that if you eat the fruit you will know as much as He does." Eve looked at the fruit and saw that it looked delicious, and she thought how wonderful it would be to know the difference between right and wrong. So she ate the fruit and took it to Adam, who also ate it.

When they ate it, they realized that they were without clothes and were ashamed. They got some big leaves and covered themselves with them. That evening, God came walking in the Garden, and Adam and Eve tried to hide themselves from Him. God called to Adam and said, "Where are you?" He found Adam, who said, "I hid from You because I was afraid and ashamed because I was naked." God asked, "How did you know you were naked? Did you eat the fruit of right and wrong that I told you not to eat?" Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit, and Eve blamed the snake.

God said that the snake would always have to crawl in the dust, and He said that the snake would someday bite the heel of the woman's offspring, and that the woman's offspring would crush the snake's head. (This was a prophecy about Christ's death on the cross and the devil's final defeat.)

Spiritually, Adam and Eve died the day they disobeyed God, who ordered them both out of the Garden of Eden. Their sinful disobedience spoiled everything. Weeds grew everywhere and people learned what it was to become sick and eventually to die. The beauty of earth was spoiled in many ways because of sin. The Lord made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. Both animals and men would now die because sin had come to earth.

Talk About the Story:

1. What did the snake tempt Eve to do?
2. Why did Eve eat the forbidden fruit? What did Adam do?
3. Why were Adam and Eve ashamed and hid themselves from God?
4. What did God say would happen to the snake?
5. What punishment did he give to Adam and Eve?
6. What were some of the ways the world was spoiled by their sin?

What Do You Say?

How are things spoiled today when people disobey God?

**And the Lord God made clothes
out of animal skins for Adam
and his wife, and he clothed them.
Genesis 3:21**



Murder In The First Family



Great Bible Truths:

1. It is God's plan that couples have children and that they enjoy the earth.
2. From the beginning, jealousy and hate led to murder and for people to hurt one another.

Genesis 4:1-26

Before they sinned against God, Adam and Eve lived in a paradise on earth. After they sinned, they were driven out of the Garden of Eden and they began to suffer the same things people suffer today. Happiness came to them when they had their two first children - Cain and Abel. These brothers grew up and Cain worked the soil and planted crops. Abel raised flocks. The time came when both brothers wanted to give offerings to God. Abel gave some firstborn of his flock and Cain gave fruit. But God was only pleased with Abel's offering, and Cain became very jealous of his brother. God warned Cain that he must choose to do what was right.

But Cain said to his brother, Abel, "Let's go out to the field." When Abel followed him there, Abel attacked his brother and killed him. Later, when God asked Cain where his brother was, Cain answered, "How would I know? Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord answered, "What have you done? Your brother's blood calls to me from the ground. From now on, the ground will not give you good crops. You will be driven away and be a wanderer." Cain said, "This is too much for me. Others will kill me." But God said that he would not be killed. Later, Cain got married and started a city. He named it after his first son, Enoch. More and more people were born and moved out into different parts of the world. People then began to call on the name of the Lord.

Talk About the Story:

1. What were the names of the first two brothers, sons of Adam and Eve?
2. Why was Cain jealous and angry with his brother?
3. What did he do to his brother?
4. What punishment did God give Cain?

What Do You Say?

How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they learned that one of their sons killed the other? Did their disobedience to God have anything to do with the murder in their family? Why or why not?

***The Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"
He answered, "I don't know. Am I
supposed to take care of my brother?"
Genesis 4:9***



God Decides to Destroy the Earth



Great Bible Truths:

1. When God can no longer stand the evil of people, He punishes them.
2. When mankind ruined the earth with sin and violence, God destroyed the world with a flood.

Genesis 6:1-22

At the beginning, people lived for a very long time, living for hundreds of years and having many children. Methuselah lived longer than anyone, dying when he was 969 years old! Sadly, the more people there were, the more the people sinned, doing what was evil in the sight of God. The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become and that people were thinking all the time of doing what was wrong. God became sorry that He had made the earth and His heart was filled with sorrow because the earth had become ruined by sin. So the Lord said, "I will destroy all the people on the earth, and the animals and the birds of the sky, because I am sad that I made them.

But God decided to save one man. Noah was a good man, without blame among the people who lived at that time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. God came to Noah with a surprising plan: "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So build yourself an ark of cypress wood, make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out so it will not sink. It must be very big, 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall.

"I am going to bring a flood on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, except you and your sons, your wife and your sons' wives, because I will make a covenant with you. And you are to bring two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you." God gave Noah other instructions, and Noah believed the Lord and did everything just as the Lord told him.

Talk About the Story:

1. Why did God become sorry that he had created people?
2. What did he decide to do with the earth?
3. Who was the one good man who walked with God?
4. What did God tell him to do? What did Noah do?

What Do You Say?

Have you ever seen something beautiful that became ruined? What was it?

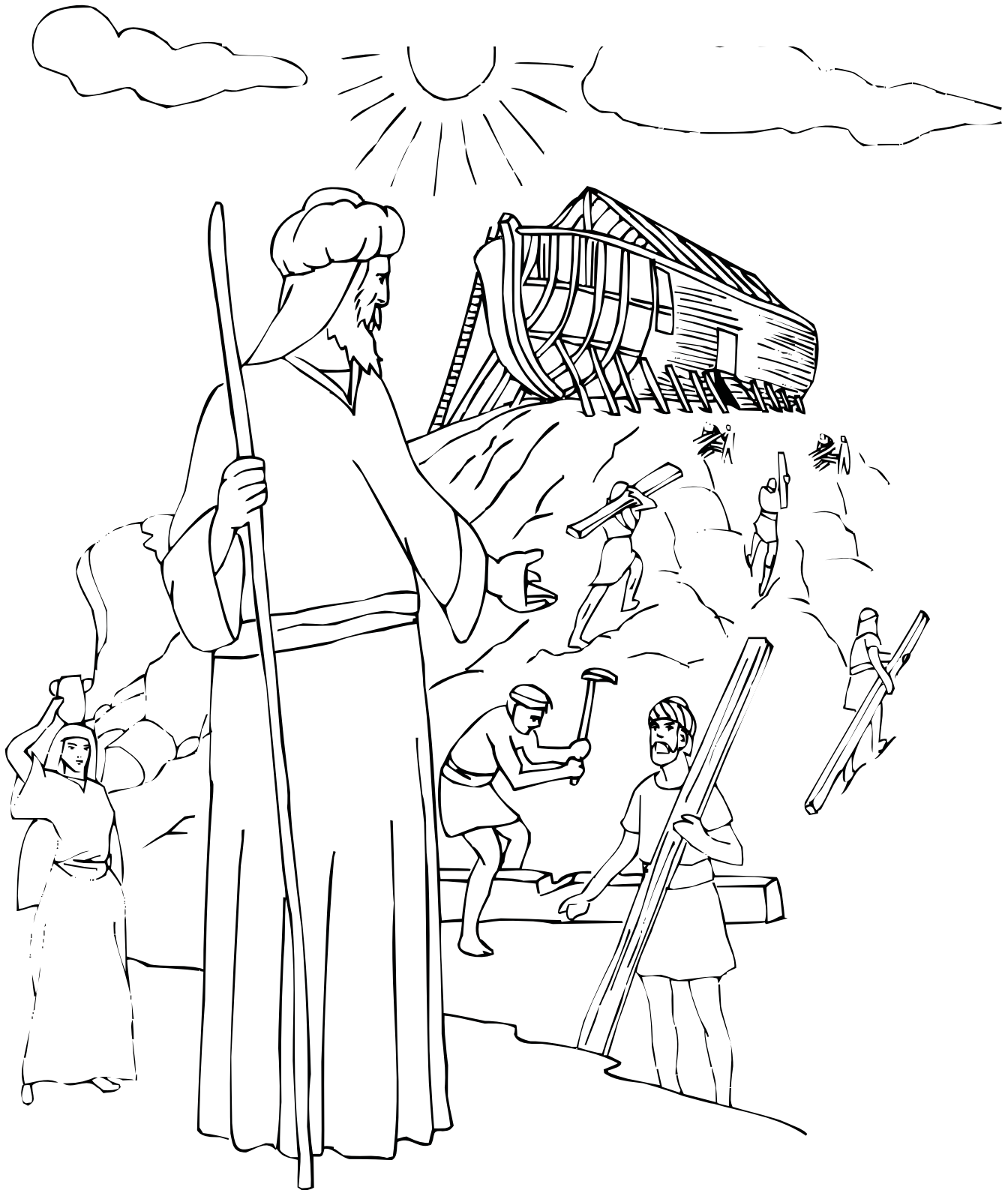
How do you think God felt when his beautiful earth was spoiled by the sins of the people?

Do you think the people on earth are much better today than they were in the time of Noah?

What do you need to do to be more like Noah?

***He was sorry that He had ever made them and put them on the earth.
He was so filled with regret that He said, "I will wipe out these people I have
created...because I am sorry that I made any of them."***

Genesis 6:6-7



The Flood Destroys Everything



Great Bible Truths:

1. God saved humanity by one family that loved and served him.
2. God will always save those who love and trust Him completely.

Genesis 7:1-24

When the ark was finished, God told Noah and his family to get ready to get in the ark, saying that Noah was the only one in the world who was doing what is right. God said that the flood would come in seven days and that Noah was to get everything ready to go. Noah was 600 years old when he and his wife and his three sons and their wives got into the ark. A male and female of every kind of animal and bird, large or small, also got onto the ark, just as God had commanded. When the seven days passed, all were on board the ark and God himself closed the door. Then the flood came.

The great body of water under the earth burst open and all the floodgates of the sky were opened, and rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. The water became deeper and deeper until at last it was higher than the highest mountain. Every living being on the earth died, every bird, every animal, and every person that were not in the ark. The water didn't even start going down for five months. But God had not forgotten Noah, his family and the animals in the ark. God caused the wind to blow and the water slowly began to drop.

Finally, the ark came to rest on the top of Mount Ararat. Noah removed the covering of the boat, looked around, and saw that the ground was getting dry. In a couple of months, the earth was completely dry and God told Noah to leave the ark with all his family. Then he said, "Take all the birds and animals out with you so they may reproduce and spread over all the earth. So Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the ark just as God had commanded.

Talk About the Story:

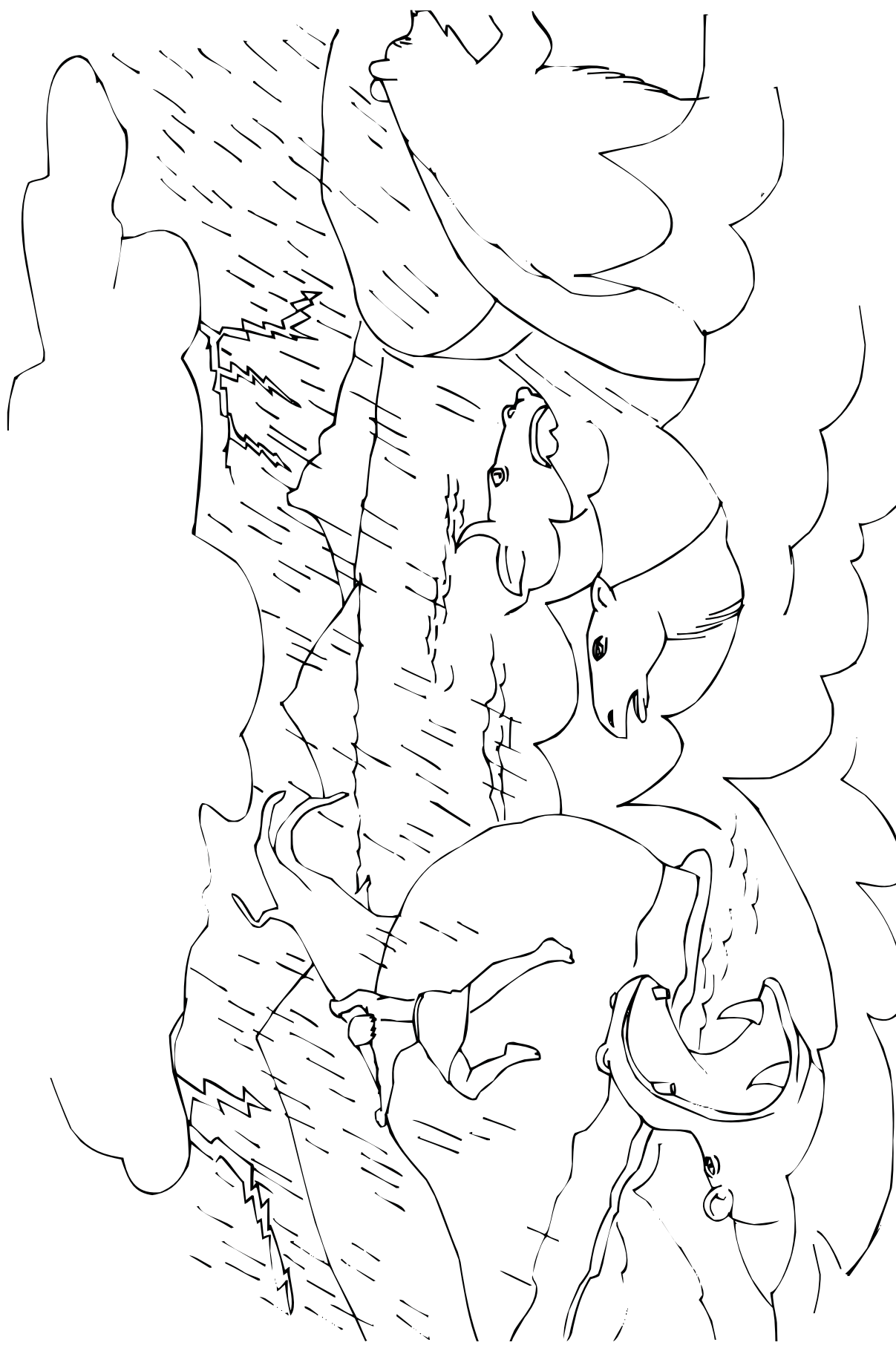
1. What did God tell Noah to do when the flood was about to come?
2. Who and what got on board the ark?
3. How long did the rain fall?
4. What happened to all the people and animals on earth that were not in the ark?
5. What finally happened to the ark and all that were in it?

What Do You Say?

How do you think Noah and his family felt when God shut the door to the ark and the flood came?
What caused God to be so angry that he destroyed all life on earth except those who were in the ark?
What do you think God thinks about the way people now act on earth?

***A male and a female of each kind of living being
went into the boat with Noah, as God had commanded.
Then the Lord shut the door behind Noah.***

Genesis 7:15-16



God's Promise To Noah



Great Bible Truths:

1. God gave humanity a second chance. He also gives sinners a second chance today.
2. The rainbow is God's promise not to destroy the earth again by a flood.

Genesis 8:20-9:17

When Noah and his family left the ark, Noah made a burnt sacrifice to God in thanksgiving for saving their lives. God blessed Noah and his sons and said, "Have many children so your descendants will cover the earth. All the animals, birds and fish are under your control. Now you can eat them as well as green plants. But you must not eat meat with blood still in it because the life is in the blood. And if anyone kills a human being, that person must suffer punishment."

Then God said, "Now I am going to make a promise to you and all your descendants and all living beings. The promise I make is this: 'Never again will I destroy all life with a flood nor destroy the earth in that way. I am putting my rainbow in the clouds as a sign of this promise, and I will never forget my promise.'"

The three sons of Noah were Shem, Ham and Japheth. All human beings on the earth today descended from these three brothers.

Talk About the Story:

1. When Noah and his family left the ark, what did Noah do to show God that he was thankful?
2. Why did God say that Noah and his sons were to have many children?
3. What did God say they were not to eat and why?
4. What promise did God make and what sign would remind both God and man of that promise?

What Do You Say?

How do you think Noah and his family felt when they stepped out of the ark into a world where everything and everybody had died?

If you were a pioneer with your family, being the first to live in a new land, what would be the first things you would do?

***I promise that never again will all living beings
be destroyed by a flood. Genesis 9:11***



The Tower Of Human Pride



Great Bible Truths:

1. Pride leads people to disobey God and work for their own glory.
2. People and nations are still separated from one another because of different languages.

Genesis 11:1-19

After the flood, the number of people living on the earth grew rapidly. At first, the people moved toward the east coming to the great flat plain of Shinar. They grew very proud of themselves and said, "Look, let us make bricks and build a great tower in the midst of our new city. It will be so high that it will reach into the heavens and we will make a great name for ourselves. This will keep us from being scattered all over the earth."

The Lord God saw how proud the people were and how they decided to stay in one place instead of spreading out across the earth as the Lord had commanded. He saw their pride in building a great tower and decided that He would ruin their plans. So God said, "These are all one people and speak the same language. This is just the beginning of what they are going to do, disobeying Me. Let us go down and mix up their language so they cannot understand each other."

So, that was what happened. The people, as they were working on the tower, suddenly heard everyone speaking in different languages and the workers were very confused because they could not understand each other. Immediately, the work on the tower stopped, and in great confusion the people moved away from there, scattering all over the earth. The people called the city "Babylon" which means confusion, because it was there that God confused them by making them speak in many different languages.

Talk About the Story:

1. What did the people decide to do that would keep them from spreading out all over the world?
2. What was wrong about their all wanting to stay in one place?
3. How did God ruin their plans and get them to spread out all over the world?
4. What does "Babylon" mean?

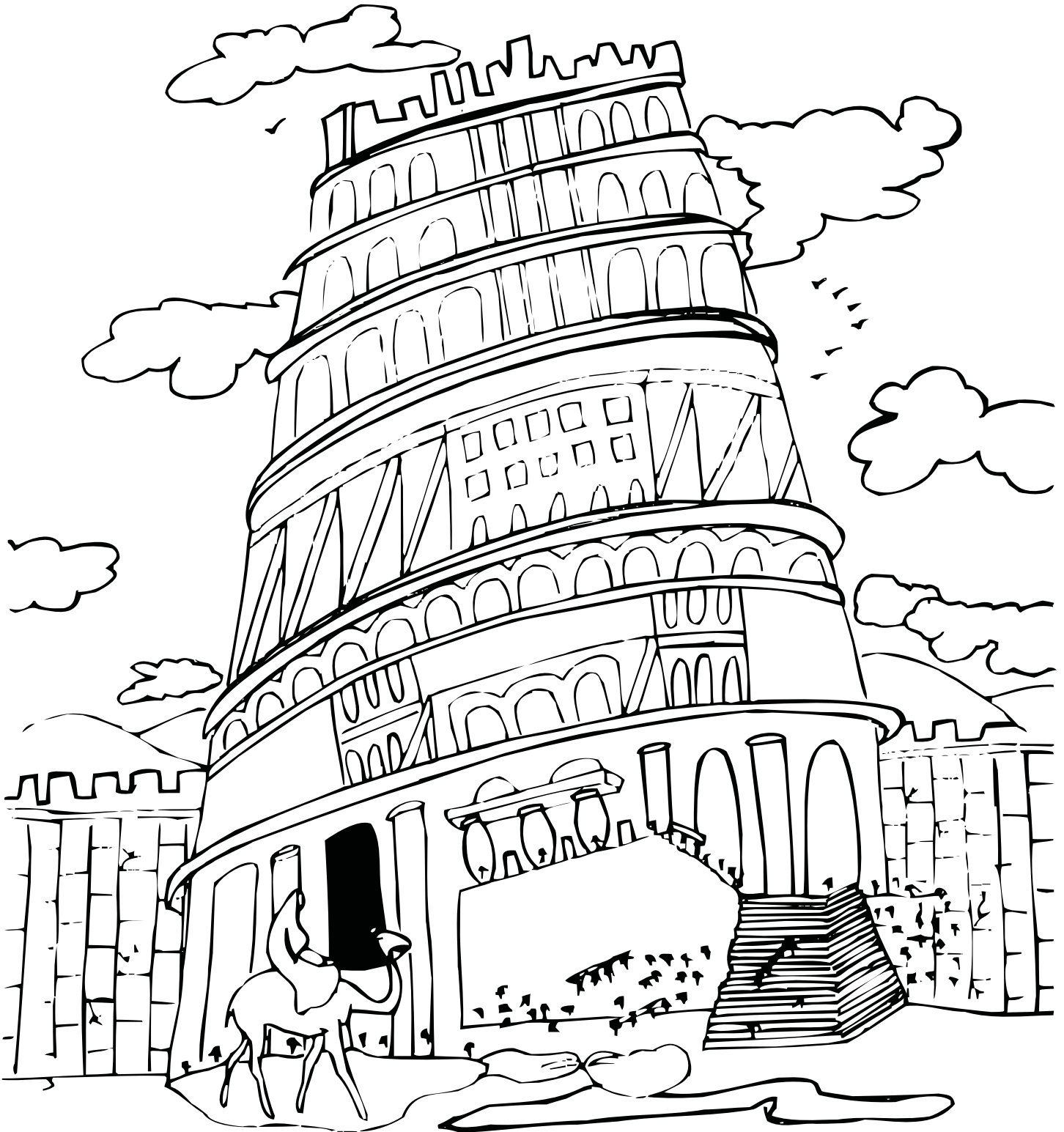
What Do You Say?

Do you think people are as proud today as they were when they decided to build the great tower?

What do you think is God's feeling when he sees that people disobey him and do things their own way?

How do you feel about yourself, are you a person who wants to serve God or do you want to live your own way?

***So the Lord scattered them all over the earth,
and they stopped building the city.
Genesis 11:8***



Abram Hears God's Call



Great Bible Truths:

1. God invites people of great faith to go and do mighty things for Him.
2. God promises very great things to those who will follow Him with all their hearts.

Genesis 11:27-12:9

After the time of the flood, and after the death of Noah, God looked for a man whom He could use to bring the world to know and trust in God. Ten generations after Noah, just such a man was found. His name was Abram, whose father was Terah. Terah took Abram and his wife, Sarah, and Abram's nephew, Lot, from the great city of Ur in Babylonia to go to the land of Canaan. They only got as far as a place which they named Haran, naming it after Abram's dead brother and Lot's father. After a number of years, Terah died in that place.

Then God came to Abram and said, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's house, and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing to many people. I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless all the nations on earth."

So, when Abram was 75 years old, he started out from Haran just as the Lord had told him to do, and Sarah and Lot, Abram's nephew, went with him. They took all the wealth and slaves and animals they had acquired in Haran and started out for the land of Canaan, to the south. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled all over the land until he came to the holy place at Shechem. The Lord came to Abram again and said, "This is the country I am going to give to your descendants." Then Abram built an altar there and worshiped the Lord. Then he moved to the hill country near Bethel and built a second altar and there offered sacrifices and worshiped the Lord who had called Abram to follow Him.

Talk About the Story:

1. What kind of a man was God looking for after Noah died?
2. What was the name of the man that God finally found?
3. What did God tell Abram to do when his father died?
4. What promises did God make to Abram?
5. Who went with Abram to Canaan?
6. What did God tell Abram when he got to Shechem?
7. What did Abram do to honor and worship God in both Shechem and Bethel?

What Do You Say?

What kind of a man do you think Abram was for God to chose him? What do you think Abram and his wife might have thought when they left the land they knew to go to a land they had never seen?

Would you have gone with them if you were there, or do you think you would have stayed where you were born?



***I will bless those who bless you,
but I will curse those who curse you.
And through you I will bless all the nations.***
Genesis 12:3

Abram And Lot Go Different Ways

Great Bible Truths:

1. God's people make sacrifices to avoid hard feelings with others.
2. Selfish ambition leads to big trouble, humble generosity leads to great blessings.

Genesis 13:1-18

Abram traveled through Canaan with his wife and everything he owned, and Lot went with him. Abram was very rich, having many sheep, goats and cattle as well as silver and gold. Lot had his own family and also owned many animals. In fact, they both had so many animals that there was not enough pasture land for them to stay together. So trouble came between Abram's servants and Lot's servants.

Abram said to Lot, "We are of the same family, and we and our servants should not be arguing. Let us separate; you choose any part of the land you want. You go one way and I will go the other. Lot looked around and saw the Jordan valley was well watered and had rich pasture land, much better than the hill country where they were. So Lot choose the whole Jordan valley and left the poorer hill country to Abram. Lot went down into the valley and camped near Sodom, whose people were wicked and who always sinned against God.

When Lot had left, the Lord came again to Abram and said, "Look all around you as far as you can see. I am going to give all of this land to you and your descendants, and it will be yours forever. I am going to give you so many descendants that they will be numerous like the stars in the sky or like the grains of sand on the earth." Abram moved back to Shechem and again he built an altar to the Lord and worshiped God there.

Talk About the Story:

1. What caused the trouble between Abram's and Lot's servants?
2. What did Abram suggest, so the two families would not have any more arguments?
3. What place did Lot choose for himself?
4. What were the people like in Sodom, where Lot decided to go?
5. What did God promise Abram after Lot had left him?

What Do You Say?

Do you think Abram was smart when he told Lot to choose whatever land he wanted?
Why do you think God made such a big promise to Abram but made no promise to Lot?

***Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot
lived among the cities of the plain and
pitched his tents near Sodom.***

Genesis 13:12



Abram Fights To Save Lot



Great Bible Truths:

1. The world has always had leaders and nations who try to defeat and take over others.
2. God gives His righteous people the power to save themselves and others from evil.

Genesis 14:1-16

Four powerful kings and their armies came into the Jordan valley and fought five weaker kings in the valley, defeating them. The four kings came to Sodom and took everything that was there along with all the people to be their slaves. Lot and his family were also taken, with everything they had. But one man escaped, and came to Abram telling him what had happened. Immediately, Abram called together all the men in his camp he had trained to fight, all 318 of them. They chased after the four kings. When they caught up with them, Abram divided his men into groups, who attacked the four kings and their soldiers at night. The four kings were defeated, and ran for their lives for a great distance. Abram and his men freed all who had been captured, including Lot and his family, and brought them back home.

When they got back, the five kings who had been defeated came and welcomed Abram and all those who had been taken. A mysterious man, named Melchizedek, was the priest of the most high God. He brought bread and wine to Abram and blessed him, saying, "May the Most High God, who made heaven and earth bless Abram. May the Most High God, who gave you victory over your enemies be praised!" The five kings told Abram to keep everything he had taken, except for the people, begging that he turn them loose. But Abram refused to take anything for himself, and gave Melchizedek a tithe, that is, a tenth, of everything they had rescued. And all the people were turned loose to go back to their homes.

Talk About the Story:

1. How did Abram hear about the capture of Lot and of the others who lived in the valley?
2. What did Abram immediately do? How many trained fighters did Abram have?
3. What happened to Lot and the rest who had been captured?
4. What did Melchizedek give to Abram and what did Abram give to him?
5. What did Abram do with the people and the loot that he had saved from the invaders

What Do You Say

Why do we think that Abram was a strong and brave leader? If you were Abram, what would you have done if the kings told you to keep everything you had rescued?

Why do you think Abram gave a tithe of everything they had rescued to Melchizedek, the priest of God.

*When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive,
he called out the 318 trained men born in his household
and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

Genesis 14:14



Abram Thanks God For The Victory

Great Bible Truths:

1. The good deeds of God's people inspires others to bless them.
2. God's people do not take advantage of the misfortune of others.

Genesis 14:17-24

When Abram came back from his battle with the army of the four kings, the king of Sodom met him in a place called the King's Valley. A priest, named Melchizedek, who was king of Salem (which means "King of Peace") also met Abram there. This mysterious person who was priest of the Most High God, gave Abram bread and wine, and blessed him. "May the Most High God, who made heaven and earth, bless Abram! May the Most High God, who gave you victory over your enemies, be praised." Abraham gave the priest one-tenth of everything that he had captured from the enemies as a gift to God.

The king of Sodom told Abraham, "Please keep everything you have taken from the enemy. Only, please, let the people of my kingdom go."

Abram answered, "I tell you that I will not keep anything of yours, not even a thread or a sandal strap. Then you can never say that you are the one who made Abraham rich. I will take nothing for myself, but my men will only accept what it cost them to follow me."

Talk About the Story:

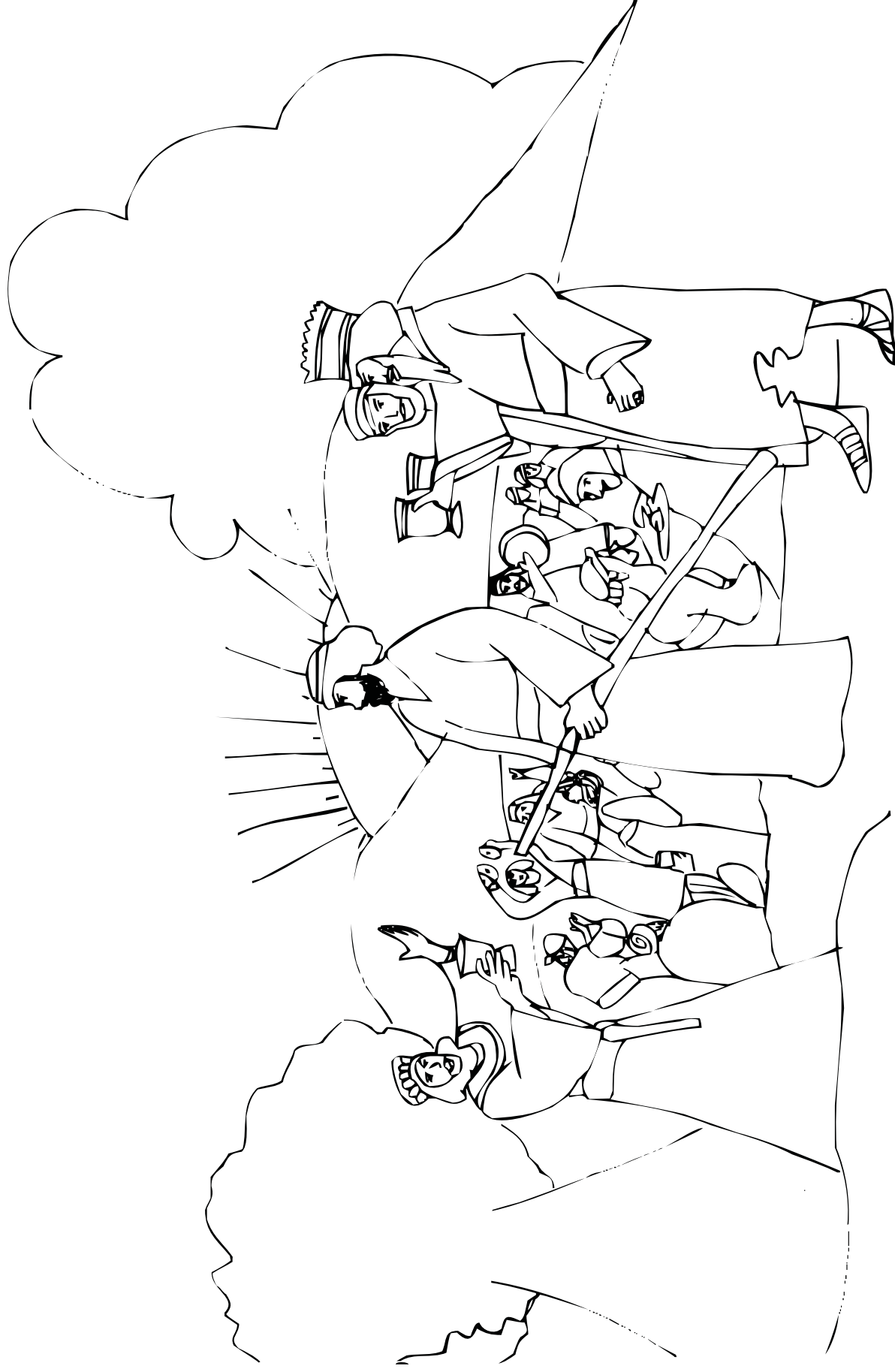
1. Who met Abram after the battle?
2. What do we know in this story about Melquizedek?
3. What two things did the priest give to Abram?
4. What are the two things served in the Lord's supper in churches today?
5. What did the king of Sodom ask of Abram?
6. What was Abram's answer? Why didn't he want anything for himself?

What do you say?

Who do you think was responsible for Abram's victory: His 318 fighting men? Abram? God?
Why do you think Abram gave a tithe of everything to Melquizedek?
How did Abram's faith in God help him to go after the enemy?

***And he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God
Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God
Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."***

Genesis 14:19-20



Abram Trusts God To Keep His Promise

Great Bible Truths:

1. God chose Abraham to be the father of the great nation and chose a special land for them.
2. God always tells His people about great things He will do.

Genesis 15:1-20

After this, Abram had a vision and heard the Lord say, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I will protect you from all danger and will give you a great reward." But Abram answered Him, "Great Lord, what good will Your reward be to me since I do not have any children at all. All I have will be given to my servants, since I have no child of my own."

God took Abram outside and said, "Your servants will not inherit your property. It will be for your own son. Look at the sky and count the stars. You will have as many descendants as that." Abram was very old to have a child, but he put his trust in the Lord. Because he trusted God, the Lord was very pleased with him and accepted him. Then the Lord said, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of Babylonia to give you all this land as your own." Abram asked, "How can I know that it will be mine?"

God answered, "Sacrifice to me a cow, a goat, and a ram, each of them three years old, along with a dove and pigeon." Abram brought and killed the animals, and cut them in half, placing the halves opposite each other in two rows, and put the birds between them. When the sun went down, Abram fell into a deep sleep and he became very afraid. God then told him, "Your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land where they will be slaves for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that makes slaves of them, and when they leave that land they will take great wealth with them and will come back to this land I have given you. You will live to be very old, and will die in peace and be buried here." Then, a fire pot and a flaming torch suddenly appeared and passed between the pieces of the animals. "I promise that I will give all of this land, from Egypt to Babylonia, to your descendants forever."

Talk About the Story:

1. What did Abram say when God promised him a great reward?
2. How did God answer Abram when he told God that he had no children of his own?
3. Did Abram trust God's answer?
4. How did God feel about Abram's faith in him?
5. What kind of a sacrifice did God ask Abram to prepare for him?
6. What did God tell Abram would happen to his descendants before they came back to take the land?

What Do You Say?

What problem did Abram have that made him wonder if God's reward would do his family any good?

Why do you think God was so pleased that Abram trusted him even though he still didn't have a single child?

Are God's promises always easy to believe?

***Abram put his trust in the Lord, and because of this
the Lord was pleased with him and accepted him.
Genesis 15:6***

