

The Do-over: A Family Bible Study

Jesus is the New Noah—he fulfills what the original Noah foreshadows. Noah saved his family from a flood through his blamelessness (i.e., he was good and not sinful). However, he could not save his family perfectly, because right after the flood, his bad choices (i.e., sins) led directly to the breakup of his family and their descendants (e.g., tower of Babel). Noah saved his family from the *tohu wabohu* (watery chaos of the flood), but in the end, he wasn't able to save them from the chaos that sin brings into our lives and into the world. Jesus does what Noah and the rest of the Old Testament mediators could not do—he perfectly saves us from sin and separation from the Father. Before we talk more about Jesus, we're going to do a little Bible study together as a family to learn more about Noah and the flood.

1. Let's start out with a trip down memory lane. Can you think of a time with your family when things went from bad to worse? (For example: a road trip that went wrong, a game that got out of hand, a house project that went bad.) Share stories!
2. Well, after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, things went from bad to worse, too. They hid from each other, they hid from God, work gets harder, bearing children rather painful, they're banished from the garden, Cain kills Abel, and Lamech has more than one wife. Read Genesis 6:5-7. What does God decide he's going to do given the terrible situation?
3. God makes a judgment about humanity. What does judging mean? Is it always bad to judge? Can you think of any ordinary examples of times when you make judgments?
4. But God finds favor with Noah—he's happy with Noah. Read Gen. 6:8-14; 17-22. So, God decides he's going to have mercy on humanity. Do you know what mercy is? How would you define it? Can you give an example of someone being merciful? What does that show us about mercy?
5. God's basically going to have a "do-over" with humanity by way of a flood, an ark, and Noah and his family. Can you think of a time when you've had to do something again or start over because something went wrong? (They can be funny or serious.) Did anything surprising or good come out of starting over?
6. What does the flood put an end to? How are Noah and his family members saved from the flood? Was there any other way to be saved?
7. Using the back of this page, use colored pencils to draw the scene in Gen. 7:23.