



GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT ONE: Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.

Lesson 3:

Noah Obeyed God

CONTENT:

1. After Cain killed his brother, the people in the world became more and more wicked. Only Noah and his family did what was right and good. So God decided to destroy all that he had made, except for Noah and his family.
2. God told Noah to build an ark and bring two of each kind of animal into it. Noah obeyed. Then it rained for 40 days and the waters covered the earth. Everything died, except for those who were in the ark.
-  3. Anyone who does what is right pleases God. Like Noah, we must do what is right. Then we can pray, 'Thy kingdom come!' [CCC 2569, 2819]
-  4. Jesus is going to come as King, so we must ask God to help us get ready for him by living in a good way. [CCC 2818]

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home.

REFERENCES: Genesis 6:5-7:24; CCC 401; 2569; 2818-19. See also 56-58.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. **STARTER:** [STORY: Building a Fort]

It was Diwali time. Rohit and his sister Rani decided to make a mud fort in front of their house. (*Children are used to saying 'mud' instead of 'soil'*) Rohit took a spade and dug up some mud. Rani poured water over it. With the wet mud they made a hill and the walls of a fort. They made steps going up to the fort and decorated it with shells and coloured stones. Rani collected plants from the garden and put them here and there to look like trees.

Mummy looked out of the front door and said, "Wow! That's a beautiful fort! Now all you need is some people and animals!" She gave them some money to buy some clay figures. The children put on their shoes and went off to the shops in the market. They bought little clay statues of Shivaji and Tanaji, some soldiers, a lion and other animals.

But when they got home, they found that their beautiful fort had dried and cracked in the sun. One of the walls had fallen down. Rani began to cry. She tried to make it stand again, but then the other side fell down.

Rohit shook his head. "It's no use Rani. Give up. I have a better idea." He said. "Pick up all the shells, stones and plants." Rani did what he said. Then Rohit took the hose-pipe and opened the tap.

WHOOSH! The water poured down like rain onto the mud fort. It became a little hill of mud and then it was a big pool of muddy water.

Mummy looked out and cried out, "Arrey! What are you doing to your lovely fort! Silly children! You are wasting all your work!"

Rohit smiled and said, "Don't worry Ma! Just wait and see!"

When the whole place was washed clean, Rohit got out a big bag of P.O.P. (*That is something they use to make statues*). Rani and he mixed it with water and built a hill with steps. Then they mixed another bag with water and they built the fort. This time it was strong and firm. The children arranged the shells, plants and little statues here and there. Rohit made a flag and put it right on top. Then he called out to Mummy. "Wow! It's wonderful!" she said. "It's the best fort I've ever seen!" Rohit said, "Now do you think we are silly?"

- Tell me what you think. Do you think Rohit was silly to wash away his mud fort? Why did he do it? [*Because it was spoilt completely. He knew he had to make it all over again.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

The same thing happened long, long ago soon after God made people. God had made good people, but they listened to the devil and disobeyed God. After that people kept on doing bad things. Last time we heard about someone who killed his own brother. (Who was that?) [*Cain*]

People got worse and worse. They fought each other and killed each other. They were greedy and lazy and wicked. God looked down on the world and he shook his head (just as Rohit had done when he saw the fort falling down). “I will have to destroy everything. People have become very wicked. They have spoilt the world.”

But God saw one man who was good and did what was right. That man was Noah. He and his family did what was right. They listened to God. So God said, “I’ll save this one good family, but I’ll wash away everyone else!”

Do you remember what Rohit asked Rani to do before he washed away the mud fort? [*He asked her to pick up all the shells, stones and plants.*] God also had an idea about how to save the good people while he destroyed the bad. In the next class we’ll find out what his idea was.

Home assignment:

Ask your family if they know what God’s idea was.

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we heard how Rohit and Rani had to wash away their mud fort and build a new one with P.O.P. Before washing it away they picked up all the good things like shells and plants.

When God decided to destroy all the bad people, he had an idea about how he would save Noah and his family. (He didn’t pick them up and hold them in his hand!)

God called out to Noah and said,

“Noah! I am going to destroy all the bad people, but I won’t let you or your family die. Now, I have some work for you! Make a very big boat out of wood with rooms in it. Make a door in the side of it. Cover the whole boat with tar. And then, when it is ready, collect every kind of animal and bird, two of each kind, and bring them into the boat.” (The boat was called an ark.)

Noah looked around. He couldn’t see any water for the boat to float on. He looked at the sky. There were no clouds. But he obeyed God. He and his three sons cut down big trees and started building the ark. They made three decks, like three floors in a building. They made a big door in the side for the animals to enter. Then they covered the boat inside and out with tar so that the water wouldn’t come in. (*Tar is the black, sticky thing the put on roads.*)

At last the ark was ready. Noah gathered all the different kinds of animals and birds and brought them into the ark: two ducks, two crows, two rabbits, two dogs, two tigers, two giraffes, two elephants... God had also told them to take some extra animals for food, so they took some extra chickens and goats and sheep.

At last Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives all entered the ark and closed the big door. At once big black clouds filled the sky and.. BOOOM! CRASH! The rain began to pour down. For forty days and nights it rained and rained without stopping. Water covered everything. It filled the houses and fields and valleys. It kept on raining and the water rose higher and higher till even the hills and mountains were covered with water. At last there was nothing to be seen anywhere except water and more water...and Noah’s ark floating on top.

All the people and animals on the earth died, except... (who?) Noah and the animals in the ark!

[Give out handouts at this point. Read the written matter.]

REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Jesus told us that after some time the world will come to an end. At that time he will come down from heaven as a great King. He wants us to get ready for him by praying and being good, like Noah. That's why he taught us to say, 'Thy Kingdom Come!'
- 'Thy Kingdom come' means, 'We want you to be king over the whole world. We want you to be our king also. We are ready to listen to you.'
- Do you want to get ready for King Jesus? Then open your hands like the child in the picture and say, "Thy Kingdom come!" After each prayer I pray say, 'Thy Kingdom come.'

Father help us to be good! [Thy Kingdom come!]
Just like Noah and his family. [Thy Kingdom come!]
Help us to do what you want. [Thy Kingdom come!]
And to get ready for King Jesus. [Thy Kingdom come!]

Home assignment: Read the handout at home.