

The Floating Zoo

Genesis 7; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 97-104

7
Lesson

Do you like to visit the zoo? Have you ever watched zoo animals being fed or their cages being cleaned? Noah and his family had a lot of work to do on their floating zoo!

After 120 years the ark was finally finished. Although it was done, there was still a lot of work to do. When God first told Noah to build the ark, God also told him *why*. "Take with you seven pairs, each male with its female, of every kind of clean animal.

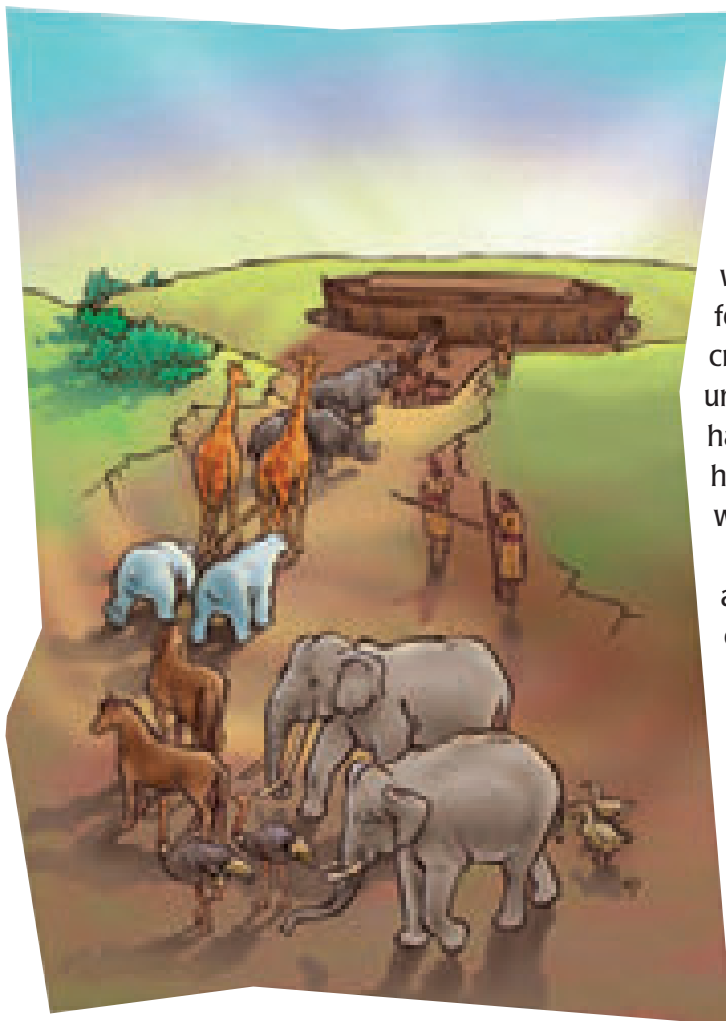
And take one pair, each male with its female, of every kind of unclean animal" (Genesis 7:2, ICB). A male and female of all living creatures and seven of clean animals would enter the ark. Every kind of bird and animal, every bug and snake and spider were to be kept alive. All would enter the ark.

Noah was also to stock the ark with food for himself and his family. Other food would be needed for all the animals. The people and animals would be on the ark for a long time.

Yes, the ark was finished. So Noah and his family packed the pantries. They heaped the haylofts and filled the granaries. They stuffed the cabinets and stocked the storerooms.

Soon the ark was ready for its cargo of animals. And it happened just as God said it would. The animals came to Noah out of the forest. Walking, lumbering, hopping, slithering, crawling two by two, they came. What an unusual parade that must have been! An unseen hand led the animals to the ark. There, Noah and his family led them to their places. Soon they were prepared for the long days ahead.

And now Noah had a new job. As the animals entered the ark, he became the chief zookeeper. For long months, Noah and his family were responsible for all those animals. What a job! Caring for one or two pets sometimes seems like a lot of work. Just imagine how much work it must have been to care for the hundreds of animals! A building longer than a soccer or football field, and three stories high, stuffed full of animals! They all needed food. They all needed water. And they all needed to be kept clean.



The Message

People in God's family
work together.

Memory Verse

“Work together as a
team for the faith”

(Philippians 1:27, ICB).

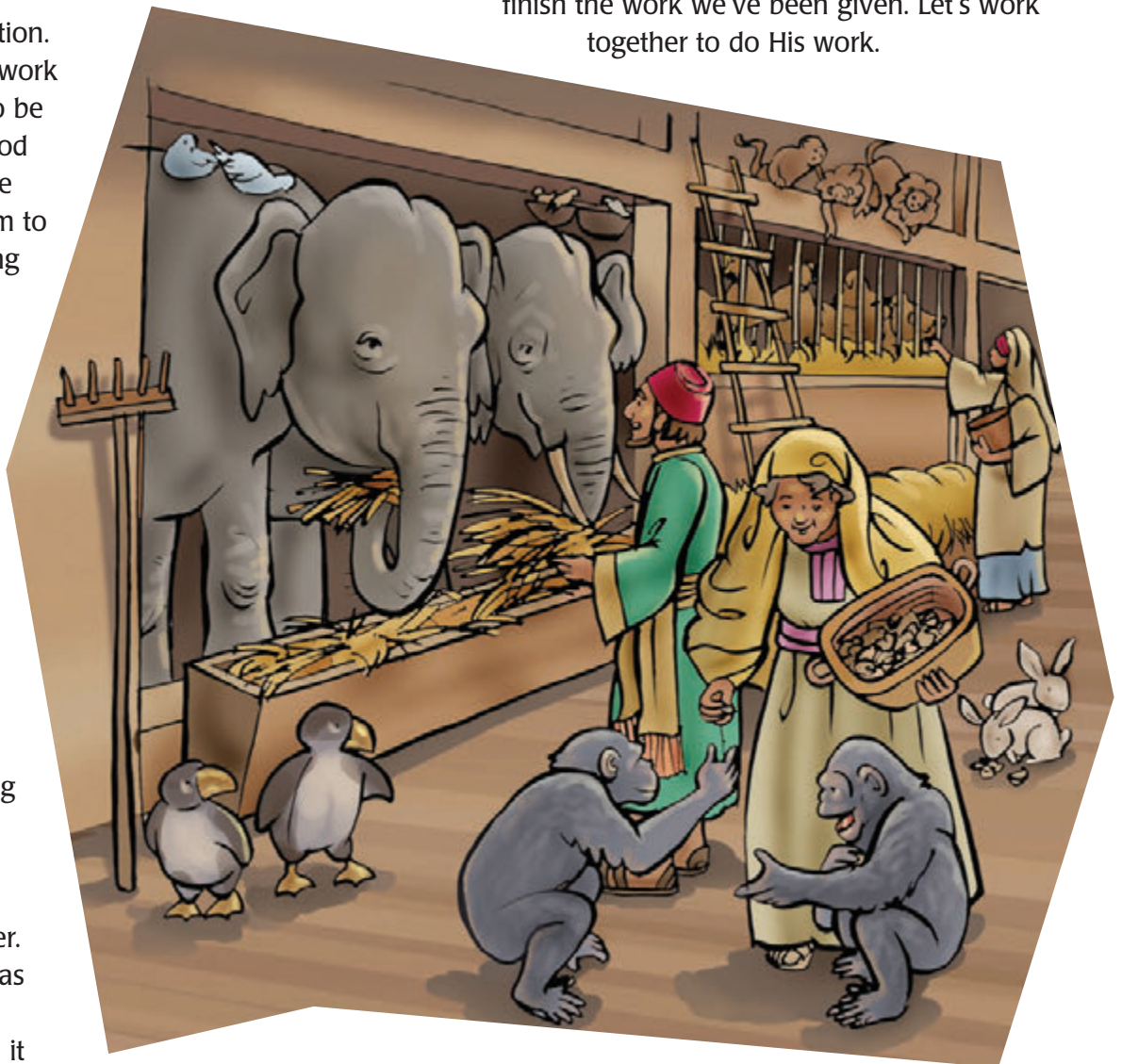
This was no luxury cruise for Noah and his family! They worked long, hard hours caring for the animals. And they worked together to care for their floating home and the creatures God had put in their care.

God still needs us to work together as a family of believers. Our homes, schools, and churches still need care. Some members of the family need special attention.

There is still work that needs to be done. And God calls on those who love Him to do it. Cleaning windows, sweeping floors, and washing dishes may not seem like exciting work for God. Noah's family probably didn't think that shoveling manure and pitching hay was very exciting either. But it, too, was God's work. And they did it

together. Working together is often easier than working alone.

We show our love to God when we cheerfully finish the work we've been given. Let's work together to do His work.





S A B B A T H

READ Read the lesson story with your family and your pet (if you have one). Teach the memory verse to your family. Thank God for the animals you enjoy.

DO Put the ark you made in Sabbath School where it will remind you to look for ways to work with others.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss Genesis 7:6-16. How old was Noah when he entered the ark? How many days did Noah and his family wait in the ark before it started to rain? How many days did it rain?

DO Work together with someone in your family today. Cheerfully help them with something.

PRAY Pray for the person you helped.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Genesis 7:17-24 during worship. What do you think it was like to be inside the ark during the Flood? How do you think Noah and his family helped one another? Do you think they were ever afraid? When you see lightning and hear thunder, how do you feel? Ask God to help you when you are afraid.

DO Sit in a circle with your family. Toss something small to each other. Have each one name a different animal with each toss.

DO Noah and his family were kind to the animals. Do something extra special for your pet today. Or do something nice for a friend's pet.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship today read and discuss Genesis 7:1-5 with your family. What do you think about the people who talked others out of going into the ark? Why?

DO List all the animals you can think of. How many of those animals would have been on the ark? (Multiply the clean animals by 7 and the unclean by 2.)

DO Visit a zoo, or get a book from the library about zoos and the work of zoo keepers.

During the Flood the highest mountains were covered by more than 25 feet (8 meters) of water.



W E D N E S D A Y

ASK During worship ask your family these questions: If an average elephant eats 200 pounds of hay a day,* how much would it need for nine months?

THINK What kind of food do you think Noah took into the ark for his family? What did he take for the animals? Where and how do you think they ate? Make up a daily menu for everyone in the ark.

DO Name an animal for each letter of the alphabet. As you do so, make actions or sounds for each. (You may have to skip X.) Have your family guess what they are.

PRAY Thank God for the food you have to eat.

* Elephant fact taken from elephantcenter.com.



THURSDAY

DO During worship, tell how you think each day began for the people in the ark. What did they do all day? How did each day end? Make a schedule for a day in the ark. Tell what each member of the family would do to help.

DRAW Draw a picture of the ark floating on the flood waters.

PRAY Thank God for His protection.



FRIDAY

SING With your family sing "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136) or "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137).

THINK Ask your family to imagine what could have been done to help make the animals comfortable on the ark.

PRAY Thank God for opportunities to work together with His people. How will you work with others tomorrow? At church? At home?

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PUZZLE

Directions: To find a key word from this week's memory verse, write the first letter of each pictured animal's name in the spaces provided.

