



**Worship Illustration: Storybook**

***Bible Barn***

**God of Wonders Part 2: Genesis - Joshua**

**Unit 6, Lesson 29**

# **Noah Builds an Ark**

**Genesis 6-9**

**"Hoo-ooo doggy! Howdy, Campers." Catastrophe Jones shouted from the Bible Barn stage.**

**The campers continued filing in as Catastrophe's brother, Wyoming, waved both arms in the air and called out, "Welcome back to the Bible Barn!"**

**"Let's get right to our Camper's Code. Raise your right hand and let's say this together, "I will love God with all my heart, I will love my neighbor as myself, I will be a light wherever I go!" The campers repeated the code after Catastrophe and then took their seats.**

**Wyoming excitedly tugged on Catastrophe's sleeve, "Ooh, Catastrophe, guess what I got! Guess what I got! Guess what I got!"**

**"Hmmm. Swamp fever?" Catastrophe guessed with a grin.**

**"No," Wyoming said pulling a small cage from behind a hay bale, "I got our Camp Critter! It's a white dove!"**

**The dove cooed happily as Catastrophe poked a skinny finger between the cage bars to stroke the small bird's soft feathers. "That's great, Wyoming, 'cuz there actually is a dove in today's story."**

**Wyoming scratched his chin. "But, lots of Bible stories have doves in them!"**

**"Yes," Catastrophe agreed, "But this story also has animals, a rainstorm and a big boat!"**

**Wyoming's eyes lit up, "I think I know." He peered out over the group of curious campers who were straining to get a better glimpse of the dove. He took it out of the cage and cradled it in the palm of his hand asking, "Who can guess today's Bible story?"**

**A camper from the back row shouted out, "Noah and the ark!"**

**"That's right! Today we're talkin' 'bout how God saved Noah. Raise your hand if you've heard the story of Noah and the Ark before." Catastrophe polled the campers.**

**"Oh! Oh! Me! Me! I know! I know!" Wyoming shouted, wildly waving his free hand in the air as he marched over to the grain bin and yanked on the door. "I'll get the Bible! I've heard this story a million times!"**

**Catastrophe smiled at his brother's enthusiasm. "That may be true, but today you're going to hear the real story."**

**Wyoming suddenly stopped short of pulling the Bible out of the bushel basket full of grain. He squinted one eye at his brother, "What do you mean the real story?"**

**"Well, sometimes the story of Noah is told as a story about animals," Catastrophe began.**

**"Yep! That is my favorite thing!" Wyoming heartily agreed, grabbing the Bible and blowing the grain dust off the cover. He handed the Bible to Catastrophe as he continued, "All of the spider monkeys and the bumblebee monkeys and the grasshopper monkeys..."**

**Catastrophe shook his head, "You got to get the zoo more often."**

**"Well," Wyoming protested, "Noah's Ark is about animals, isn't it?"**

**"Oh sure!" Catastrophe said, "Animals were definitely a part of the story, but it's really a story about being saved."**

**"So who got saved, the animals?" Wyoming wondered aloud.**

**Catastrophe hesitated, "Well, yes, after He told Noah to build the ark, God did save two of every kind of animal, but He also saved Noah's whole family."**

**"Noah had a family?" Wyoming asked.**

**Catastrophe nodded, "Noah, his wife and their sons and all of their wives were onboard. If you remember, God told Noah to build the ark because He was about to flood the earth."**

**"Why would God do that?" Wyoming asked sadly, peering down at the white dove, still nestled comfortably in his hand.**

**"At that time, the world was full of violence." Catastrophe explained putting a hand around Wyoming's shoulder. "People was doing lots of wrong things in God's eyes, and it made God very sad."**

**"So, He sent a flood to rid the world of the evil?" Wyoming asked thoughtfully.**

**"Yup," Catastrophe said opening the Bible to Genesis 6:22. "But the good news for Noah was that God saw Noah was a righteous man. That means Noah chose to do what was right. The Bible says, 'Noah did everything just as God commanded Him.'" Catastrophe closed the Bible, hopped off the stage and began wandering to the back of the Bible Barn.**

**"And, Noah trusted the Lord with all his heart. Is that why he built the ark when God told him to?" Wyoming asked.**

**"That's right!" Catastrophe replied, stepping outside to grab the large barn doors by the handles. "And once the animals and Noah's family were onboard, God closed the doors." Catastrophe pulled the doors closed. Light streamed into the dimly lit barn through the small windows high atop the grain loft.**

**Wyoming sat on the edge of the barn stage, "And when it rained for 40 days, Noah trusted that God would keep the ark afloat."**

**Catastrophe sat next to his brother, "And when it took another 150 days until the flood stopped, Noah trusted that God would dry the land up so they could get off the ark!"**

**Wyoming smiled at his brother and said, "You know, what's my favorite part? When Noah kept sending the dove out to find dry land. And finally it came back with the leaf of an olive branch. Noah trusted that it was a sign that the land was dry enough for everyone to get off the ark." He released the small dove from his hand. It flew past the campers to perch in a comfortable spot in the rafters.**

**"God promised never to flood the whole earth again. And He sent a special sign, a rainbow! And Noah trusted God to keep His promise!" Catastrophe finished the familiar story.**

**"Wow," Wyoming sighed. "Noah sure did trust God with all his heart, soul and mind!"**

**Catastrophe leaned forward and looked at the campers, "We can trust God the same way."**

**"We can?" Wyoming asked, "How we gonna do that?"**

**"Noah trusted that God provided the ark for him to be saved from the flood. We can trust that God has provided the cross for us to be saved for life forever with God." Catastrophe explained.**

**"To be saved for a life forever with God, the first thing we need to do is admit that we are sinners. Sin is when we do things that are wrong in God's eyes. You see God is perfect and heaven is a perfect place. So sin cannot enter into heaven. And the sad thing is that we all sin, so, none of us are good enough to enter into God's presence."**

**Catastrophe took the Bible and opened to Romans 3:10b and read, "There is no one righteous, not even one." He closed the Bible and looked at the campers. "You see, Jesus is the only person who ever lived without sinning. Jesus chose to give His life on the cross, so that our sins would be washed away. Just like when God washed the earth clean with the flood, we can trust and believe that Jesus is the Lord who died to take our sins away and give us a clean new start with God."**

**"Oh, I gets it now." Wyoming said with a smile, "Jesus did the hard part. Our part is easy!"**

**Catastrophe picked up the stick and pointed to the letter A, "Yup. All you have to do is A: *admit* to God that you're a sinner. Tell God that you're sorry for doing wrong things."**

**Moving the stick to point at the letter B, Catastrophe continued, "Then tell Him that you *believe* that Jesus died to take away your sins."**

**He retraced the letter C with the stick as he got to the third letter, "And finally, invite Jesus to *come* into your heart so you can have a life forever with God."**

**"And with Jesus in our heart, we git that brand new start!" Wyoming cheered.**

**"That's right... and that reminds me of our Camp Critter Song. Let's give 'er a whirl!" Catastrophe reached for his banjo. The campers joined in as he began to strum.**

**I spied a DOVE overhead.  
Here is what that DOVE said,  
"God sent the rain – to start again!"  
Whew! I spied the DOVE  
who followed the COYOTE  
who followed the OTTER  
who followed the OWL  
who followed the LOVEBIRDS  
who followed a HOUND DOG  
who followed a CATFISH s  
who followed an EAGLE,  
And the EAGLE hollered,  
"Yippee-kigh-yay!  
At Camp Venture today!"**