



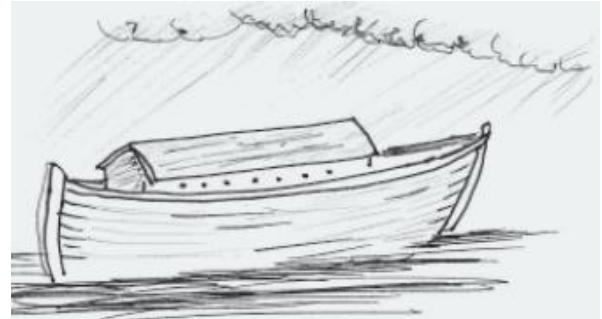
## B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

# Noah – lessons in preparedness



## Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study helps us learn from Noah's preparation for the flood, about how we can prepare for disasters.



## Preparing for disaster

**Genesis 6:5-8:22.** The story of an extensive flood is found in the Bible and in other religious texts and cultural stories. According to Genesis, 40 days of rain flooded the land to a depth of seven metres. The flood lasted for 150 days. The human population and land animals were all destroyed, except for those with Noah in his boat.



## Key points

- Many people think that disasters are 'God's will' or 'His judgement' on us. Whilst the world is broken because of sin, the Bible teaches that God sends warnings of disasters and wants us to prepare for and learn from them.



## Questions for discussion

**Read Genesis 6:5-7.** The Bible describes the flood as God's punishment of bad human behaviour.

- Do people today sometimes hold this view of disasters?
- Taking account of other Bible teaching, is there any justification for this view?

**Read Genesis 6:11-17.** Noah was warned by God that a flood was going to happen. God also gave Noah precise instructions about building a large, waterproof boat, described as an ark.

- What warnings do we get that disaster is coming?
- What traditional knowledge or signs do people use to predict disaster?

**Read Genesis 6:18-22 and 7:1-4.** God gave other instructions to Noah about the birds and animals and food for them.

Awareness-raising

Children &amp; youth

Climate &amp; environment

Conflict &amp; peace-building

Corruption &amp; governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination &amp; inclusion

Food &amp; livelihoods

Gender &amp; sexual violence

Health &amp; HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration &amp; trafficking

Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene

- How did this prepare for the period after the floods had gone down?
- What are the things we most need to keep safe during times of disaster?

**Read Genesis 8:3-5 and 8:13-19.** When the flood water went down, the ark rested on a hill and Noah and his family were able to make a fresh start, living on higher land.

- What opportunities do disasters bring for a fresh start and reduced risks?



## Notes

This Bible study was first published in Tearfund (2011) ROOTS 9: *Reducing risk of disaster in our communities*

[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/reducing\\_risk\\_of\\_disaster\\_in\\_our\\_communities/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/reducing_risk_of_disaster_in_our_communities/)

### Related tools

- A1 – Revealing fatalistic beliefs about disasters: information for facilitators [*A1: Disaster risk management-1*]
- A2 – The need to prepare - reducing the effect of disasters [*A2: Disaster risk management-1*]
- A2 – Disasters ball game - understanding shocks and stresses [*A2: Disaster risk management-1*]
- B – Fatalism - can we avoid disasters? (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-1*]
- B – Preparing for disaster (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-3*]
- B – God of justice and mercy (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-4*]
- B – God's provision for the future (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-5*]
- C2 – Flood-resistant buildings [*C2: Disaster risk management-1*]
- C2 – Protecting a spring (a water source) [*C2: Water, sanitation & hygiene-2*]

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