



READ: Selections from Genesis 6-9 (NIV)

The Lord saw how bad the sins of everyone on earth had become. They only thought about evil things. The Lord was very sad that he had made human beings on the earth. His heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, "I created human beings, but I will wipe them out. I will also destroy the animals, the birds in the sky, and the creatures that move along the ground. I am very sad that I have made human beings." But the Lord was very pleased with Noah." (Genesis 6:5-8)

So God said to Noah, "...make yourself an ark out of cypress wood. Make rooms in it. Cover it with tar inside and out...I am going to bring a flood on the earth...It will destroy every living creature that breathes. Everything on earth will die. But I will make my covenant with you. You will go into the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons' wives...Noah did everything just as God commanded him. (Genesis 6:14, 17a, 18, 22)

"I am now making my covenant with you and with all your children who will be born after you...The waters of a flood will never again destroy all life." God continued, "...Here is the sign of the covenant I am making. I have put my rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of the covenant...Sometimes when I bring clouds over the earth, a rainbow will appear in then. Then I will remember my covenant between me and you and every kind of living creature. The waters will never again become a flood to destroy all life. (Genesis 9:9, 11a, 12-15)

ENTER THE STORY:

Do you remember a few days ago when we talked about how God created the first man, Adam? He knelt down on the ground, took a bunch of dirt and mud, packed it together, and formed it into a dirt-man. But it was only when God breathed his own breath into Adam's nose that Adam came to life. He was alive because he had God's breath in him.

In this story, God takes his breath away from some people, but not because he stopped loving them. He never stops loving people. No, God took his breath away from people because everywhere he looked, they were doing really, really bad things and hurting each other. It made God very sad.

God is not happy about ANY sin or disobedience, but during Noah's time, it was SO bad that he didn't have a choice. He needed to fix the mistakes people were making, so God hit the reset button. He caused water to rise up everywhere and cover the whole wide world in a flood. He did this so we would know just how serious sin is.

But God did not totally destroy His creation. **Remember Noah?** Noah loved God. Everywhere God looked, people were turning their backs on him, but not Noah. Noah didn't care what people thought of him. Noah's heart was committed to God, so God showed mercy by saving Noah, his family, and a few of the animals.

In this story, we see God punish everyone for their sins and save **ONLY ONE** family. Soon, we will see God punish **ONLY ONE** man to offer salvation for everyone.

Do you know who this special someone is? It's Jesus!

After Jesus finished the job God gave him to do, he returned to heaven but he did not leave us without God's presence. He promised to send another helper, One who would help us know the truth and make us feel sorry for our sins. This helper is the Holy Spirit, and he **IS** the very breath of God.

PRAY: Lord, forgive us when we make mistakes and do bad things, especially when we hurt those closest to us. Thank you for your amazing love and for sending us your Holy Spirit, who draws us close to you. Amen.