

Unit 3



family

DEVOTIONAL

God Is Faithful



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

Answers Bible Curriculum

Unit 3 • Family Devotional

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Introduction

Welcome to the Answers Bible Curriculum family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple of nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training their children and teaching them the things of the Lord:

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.” (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

We suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller pieces.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and he delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that his wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



Effects of the Fall

Lesson Summary

When Adam and Eve disobeyed their Creator, corruption was introduced into the world. The resulting curse affected the entire universe, and God’s “very good” creation is now under bondage to corruption and decay. But for those who have trusted in Christ, there will be a glorious future when the curse will be removed, and God will create a new heaven and new earth.

The world has changed from what God originally created. Death was not present in God’s “very good” creation. But sin changed everything! Sin brought God’s curse on the entire universe. It affects everything now—animals, the weather, men, women, boys, and girls. We can’t blame the suffering we see in the world today on God. He did not create the universe to be this way; he created a perfect place. But Adam and Eve sinned. And since then, all people have that same desire—to sin and disobey.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 15:20–26

1. How does Paul contrast Adam and Christ? What did each bring?
2. What is the last enemy to be destroyed?
3. If death is an enemy, could it have existed in the original, perfect, “very good” creation?

Romans 8:18–25

4. Who subjected the creation to futility? When was that done?
5. What are some evidences of the bondage to corruption in the present creation?
6. What is God going to do about it?

Revelation 22:1–5

7. The curse began when Adam and Eve rebelled against their Creator way back in Genesis 3. What is the future of the curse?
8. What excites you in this description of the future blessings to be ours?

Memory Verse

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Prayer

Thank God for the glorious future he has planned for all of his children, and ask him for perseverance and patience as we wait for his will to unfold in our lives.

Family Prayer Requests:



Cain Kills Abel

Lesson Summary

Last week we discussed the fall and how it has affected everything. We also saw that God has a plan to redeem his creation, and one day he will create a new heaven and new earth where “death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

This week we see one of the effects of sin—the very first murder. Two brothers—Cain and Abel—both made offerings to God. One offering was an animal, the other the fruit of the ground. One sacrifice was accepted; one was not. One brother loved the Lord, was obedient to him, and wanted to honor God with his sacrifice. The other brother was wicked, and his works were evil. Even though he made the sacrifice, it was not acceptable to God.

Abel’s sacrifice was accepted because his heart was right with God. Cain’s sacrifice was not accepted because God knew his heart—that it was not set on true worship of the holy God.

After killing his brother, Cain deserved punishment, and he received it—this revealed God’s justice. But God also showed Cain mercy by sparing his life and protecting him from being killed by those who were angered by the murder of Abel.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 John 3:11–16

1. What is God's command concerning brothers (see also 1 John 4:21)?
2. Is this just talking about family relationships?
3. Why did Cain murder his brother?
4. What does John say about hatred in this passage?

Matthew 5:21–26

5. What does Jesus say about being angry with our brother?
6. What should we do if our brother has something against us?

1 John 4:7–11

7. According to this passage, how can we know that we have come to know God?
8. How did God show his love for us? What did Jesus do for us?
9. If we were to love others in the same way, what might that look like?

1 John 4:20–21

10. Can we both love God and hate our brother? Why or why not?

Memory Verse

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Prayer

Thank Jesus for his obedience to the Father—that he went to the cross and took sin’s punishment upon himself. Take time to confess any hatred or lack of love, and ask God to help you love others as he loves you.

Family Prayer Requests:



The Hearts of Man

Lesson Summary

Last week we learned about Cain and Abel—how Abel had a heart of worship and obedience to God, while Cain had a wicked heart. Abel's offering was acceptable to God, while God rejected Cain and his offering. Cain killed his brother, but while Cain bore the punishment for his sin, God showed him mercy.

The fact is, all humans are born with a wicked heart like Cain's. The Bible is clear that men's hearts are wicked (Jeremiah 17:9), that no one seeks after God (Romans 3:10–11), and that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). Unbelievers are all under God's judgment and deserve punishment in hell.

The fact that we are all sinners seems like very bad news, doesn't it? Yet, there is really good news. God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world, so that whoever believes in him can have a relationship with God. Jesus's sacrifice on the cross paid the penalty of death for everyone who will repent and believe in him. Without Jesus we all are separated from God. But through true repentance and faith in Jesus, we can have everlasting fellowship with God and eternal life. And not only that, but God promises new hearts for those who trust in Christ and thereby become partakers of the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:33–34). We become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and can walk in newness of life, no longer living as slaves to sin (Romans 6:1–7).

Read and Discuss

1. Read the following passages and discuss what they tell us about the unregenerate man's heart and his state before God.

- Genesis 8:21 –
- Psalm 51:5 –
- Isaiah 64:6 –
- Jeremiah 17:9 –
- Luke 18:19 –
- Romans 3:19, 23 –
- Romans 5:12 –
- Romans 8:6–8 –

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Hebrews 8:6–12

2. There are at least four things that God promises to do for his people in the new covenant. What are they?

2 Corinthians 3:4–17

3. What are some names the Apostle Paul gives to the old covenant and the new covenant (vv. 7–9)?

4. What happens when a person turns to the Lord (vv. 15–16)?

Romans 6:1–14

5. What is true about those who are in Christ (vv. 4–7)?

6. How are we to live (vv. 4, 12–14)?

7. What no longer has dominion or power over us (vv. 9, 14)?

Memory Verse

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Prayer

Thank God that though we are all sinners deserving his just punishment, he has provided Christ as the sacrifice for sin. Thank him that through Christ we can be partakers of the new covenant and have a new heart with new passions and desires, and that through him we are no longer slaves to sin. Ask him to continue his good work in you as he transforms you into the image of Christ.

Family Prayer Requests:



Catastrophe: The Flood

Lesson Summary

God brought a huge catastrophe—a worldwide flood—as punishment for sin and wickedness. Disobedience—any disobedience—grieves God and leads to his judgment. The flood was judgment on the sins of the people in Noah’s day. But God provided an ark for Noah and his family to save them from the terrible judgment of the worldwide flood. Noah was saved because he “found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8). Noah had faith in God and wanted to obey him—he was righteous.

Just as God saved Noah from his judgment against sin through the ark, God has provided a way for us to be saved from our sins. That way is Jesus Christ. Because God is holy and just, he must judge sin. But Jesus has taken the punishment—God’s judgment—upon himself for all those who will repent of their sin and turn to Jesus for forgiveness.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 6:5–9

1. What was the condition of man's heart before the flood? Is it any different today?
2. What was God's response to man's wickedness?
3. How was Noah different from the rest of mankind?

Hebrews 11:7

4. What motivated Noah to build the ark?
5. What was Noah's righteousness based on?

Genesis 9:11–17

6. What was the covenant that God established after the flood (vv. 11, 15)?

7. With whom was the covenant established? How long will it last?

2 Peter 3:1–7

8. What do the scoffers deliberately overlook (vv. 5–6)?

9. How will the future judgment differ from the judgment of the flood?

10. How can we be saved from God's future judgment?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Prayer

Thank God for his true Word. Praise him for his holiness and justice demonstrated in the flood, but also for his grace and mercy shown to Noah. Thank him that we can be saved through faith in Christ—who is our ark of salvation.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Saves Noah

Lesson Summary

Last week we began to look at the second C of history—Catastrophe—God’s judgment on a wicked world through the global flood. But we also saw his mercy as he provided a way for Noah and his family to be saved.

The flood was a terrible catastrophe that covered the whole world and killed everyone on the earth. God was in complete control of this catastrophe. He warned the people through Noah. God gave Noah detailed instructions for the ark and sent the animals to the ark. After shutting the door of the ark, God started the rain and opened up the earth to start the flood. God stopped the rain when the right time had come.

Only Noah and his family—eight people—were saved from the flood. Only two of each kind of land animal (and seven of some) were saved. Everything else was destroyed!

God must judge sin because he is holy and just. That is why he had to destroy the world with the flood. But God shows us through Noah that he is merciful and that he rewards faith and obedience.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 6:13–7:5

1. What were the details that God gave to Noah concerning the building of the ark?
2. Who or what in addition to Noah was saved in the ark?
3. Why did God have Noah take a male and female of each land animal kind?
4. Why were seven pairs of the clean animals taken on board (see Genesis 8:19–20)?

Luke 17:26–30

5. Did Jesus believe that Noah was a real person and that the Genesis flood was a real event?
6. In what ways will the future judgment on the wicked be similar to the judgment in Noah's day?

7. How can we be saved from God's future judgment?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Prayer

Take time to praise God for his attributes demonstrated in the flood. Thank him that we can trust his word to tell us the true history of the world. Ask him to show you how to be faithful and obedient, as Noah was.

Family Prayer Requests:



The Worldwide Flood

Lesson Summary

This week we are continuing our study of the flood of Noah's day.

The only way we could know for sure whether this event really occurred and whether it was global or local is if there is an eyewitness record of what happened. And there is! The God of history moved men by his Spirit to write his Word. In God's Word, we are told that Noah's flood was a real event. The flood lasted for 371 days and covered all the high hills under the whole heaven (Genesis 7:19).

A clear reading of the flood account in Scripture gives us an understanding of how catastrophic this flood was. The depth of the water (more than 20 feet above the high hills), the destruction recorded in Scripture (the destruction of all land-dwelling creatures on the entire earth), and the duration of the flood (371 days) are a few of the scriptural evidences given to us by God.

And as we would expect, what we see in the world confirms what we read in the Word. What would we expect to see on the earth if this flood were real? Wouldn't we expect to find billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth? Yes! And that is exactly what we find. The rock layers and fossil records are just a couple of the evidences that confirm the reality of a global flood.

Read and Discuss

Read the following psalm and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 104

1. What attributes of God stand out to you from the first nine verses? How are they demonstrated?
2. What do verses 6–9 tell us about the flood? How does this compare with Genesis 7:19–20 and Genesis 9:11?
3. How do verses 10–30 show God’s care for his creation?
4. What responses to God are triggered in you by the psalmist’s meditation on God’s creation and his care for it?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prayer

Praise God for his amazing creation. Praise him for his providence in caring for all of the animals he has created, and in caring for us, too. Acknowledge that God is holy and must judge sin, as he demonstrated by bringing the global flood. Thank him that he has provided his Son Jesus Christ as our ark of salvation. Jesus took upon himself God's wrath that we might have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

Family Prayer Requests:



Noah's Ark

Lesson Summary

Last week we saw that the flood was a global event. Scripture clearly describes the flood as being worldwide, and it doesn't make sense that Noah would need to spend years and years building a huge boat if it had been merely a local flood. He could have just hiked over the mountains.

In fact, the sheer size of the ark confirms that this was a global flood and that Noah did have representatives of the land-dwelling, air-breathing animals on board so that they could survive the watery catastrophe. The ark was a massive ocean-going vessel, very similar in size to large cargo ships today.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passage and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 6:9–22

1. What do you think it means that “Noah walked with God” (v. 9)?
2. Why did God decide to flood the earth? Why was Noah chosen to be spared?
3. What were the specific instructions that God gave Noah for building the ark?
4. If a cubit is about 20 inches long, what were the dimensions of the ark? What is its total volume in cubic feet? (Hint: Length x Width x Height)
5. Who were the people who were to be on the ark?
6. Which categories of animals did God bring to the ark?

7. Did Noah have every species of animal on the ark?

8. What were some of the jobs that probably had to be done on the ark?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prayer

Thank God for his Word, that it is true and trustworthy, and that it presents the true history of the world. Praise him for his grace and mercy in preserving Noah, his family, and the animals. And praise him for his grace and mercy in providing for our salvation through Christ.

Family Prayer Requests:



The Ice Age

Lesson Summary

Secular scientists tell us that there have been multiple ice ages over hundreds of thousands of years. But the history recorded in the Bible doesn't square with these theories. As we learned in class this week, the Genesis flood provided the perfect conditions for an ice age—warm oceans and cool land temperatures. This one ice age most likely lasted for around 500–700 years following the flood.

While not an issue of biblical theology or history, *per se*, the secular view of multiple ice ages undermines the biblical timeline, and thus the Bible's accuracy. As believers, we need to be equipped and prepared to defend the historical accuracy of Scripture and to show others how the Bible's history can explain natural phenomena, such as the evidence of glaciation over large areas of the Northern Hemisphere.

Since events of the Bible occurred in and around the Middle East, and the ice age mainly affected the northern and southern regions of the earth, there are very few references to ice and snow during the time of Job and the Patriarchs, which is when the biblical ice age would have occurred.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Job 37:9–10, 38:29–30

1. How might these verses relate to an ice age at the time of Job?
2. What might the “broad waters” and the “face of the deep” refer to?

1 Peter 3:14–16

3. What should our response be to those who persecute or threaten us?
4. What are we to do before we attempt to answer our critics?
5. What is to be our attitude as we defend our faith?
6. How does this verse relate to questions we might get about the ice age (or any other issue that questions the accuracy of biblical history)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prayer

Thank God for his Word that gives us the true history of the universe. Ask him for the ability and desire to study his Word and his world so that you can better answer the questions of others. Ask God, by his Holy Spirit, to work in you meekness and humility so that your responses will be honoring to God and bring glory to Christ.

Family Prayer Requests:



Confusion: Dispersion at Babel

Lesson Summary

Last week we concluded our look at the flood of Noah's day and its effects on the entire earth. This week we move forward about 150 years after the flood ended. Shem, Ham, and Japheth have had children, who have had more children. In fact, the Bible indicates that the population grew quickly in the years after the flood. Japheth had seven sons, Shem had five, and Ham had four (as well as their daughters who are not mentioned in the text). In the next generation, Japheth had 23 grandsons; Shem had 14, and Ham had 28. You can see how the population grew exponentially, so that at the time of the tower of Babel event, there were likely many hundreds of people on earth. Many of them (perhaps all of them) were living together in the plain of Shinar—most likely located in modern-day Iraq.

It was here that the disobedient descendants of Noah began to build a city and a tower. They disobeyed God's command to populate and fill the earth (Genesis 9:7). Instead of honoring God, they became proud and wanted to make a name for themselves. But God's plans will not be thwarted. He confused their common language, and so they departed from Babel by family groups and began to fill the earth, as Genesis 10 records.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 11:1–9

1. What was the attitude and goal of the people who started building the city and tower?
2. What was God's response to them?

1 Peter 5:5–7

3. What is God's attitude toward the proud? Toward the humble?

Luke 1:46–55

4. Whom is God's mercy upon?
5. What has God done to the proud and mighty?
6. What does God do for the lowly?

7. In what ways can you demonstrate humility rather than pride?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prayer

Praise God for his perfect goodness and justice. Thank him for his Word and for his Holy Spirit. Ask him to work humility and meekness into our lives, and to root out all pride and rebellion.

Family Prayer Requests:



Reshaping the Earth

Lesson Summary

We spent five weeks looking at the flood of Noah's day and really only scratched the surface of this major event of history. Be sure to see the Online Resource Page for articles that take a more in-depth look at the biblical and scientific issues surrounding the flood.

When we look at the world, we see rock layers and fossils spanning the globe. These are best explained by the results of a global flood. If there was a global flood, we would expect to find billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. And that is exactly what we see today.

We would also expect to see erosional features that can be explained only by truly massive amounts of water having moved across the continents. We see features like Devil's Tower in Wyoming, Grand Canyon, Ayer's Rock (Uluru) in Australia, and other landmarks around the globe that stand as testaments to the flood. God's Word is true, and we can trust the historical information it contains, just as we can trust its gospel message.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 1:9–10

1. What does this passage suggest about how many oceans and continents there were on the pre-flood earth?

Genesis 7:10–12

2. What were the two sources of the rainwater for the flood?
3. How long did it rain on the earth?
4. What were the “fountains of the great deep”?

Genesis 8:1–5

5. How long were the “windows of the heavens” open? How long did the “fountains of the great deep” pour forth?
6. How long did it take until the tops of the mountains appeared?

7. How does the Genesis flood demonstrate God's power? His justice? His mercy?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prayer

Thank God for his inerrant Word, which gives us the true history of the universe. Thank him for those who study the Bible and science to help us better understand. Ask God for the faith to believe his Word even when we don't have all the evidence. Thank him for Jesus, and ask him for boldness to share the life-changing gospel with friends and family.

Family Prayer Requests:

