

# Noah and his Ark

After many years, God looked at the world he had made and was sad. The people were bad, they hurt each other and did not listen to Him any more. God decided to flood the whole world so that everybody in it would drown.

There was just one man who loved God and obeyed Him. His name was Noah. God said to Noah, "You must build an ark, a huge boat, so I can save your family and all the creatures on Earth. I will tell you exactly how big it must be."

Noah did what God told him. He cut down trees and collected all the things he needed. Then he began to build his ark. His three sons helped him. They marked out the shape of the ark on the ground and made a wooden frame. Then they covered it with wood and put tar on the inside and outside to make the ark waterproof.

After months and months of hard work, it was finished. It had three decks, a door in the side and a roof, just as God had told Noah to build it. Noah and his

family loaded the ark with food and water for themselves and for all the creatures.

Just as they were carrying on the last load, huge clouds drifted across the sky, blocking out the sun. Noah looked up and a few drops of rain fell on his head. Then he looked toward the hills. A huge procession of creatures was walking, trotting, creeping, slithering or flying in an endless line. There were two of every kind of animal and bird in the world. Noah stared at them. "I didn't know there were so many," he said. As he watched, they filed into the ark. There was just enough room for them all. Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives went in too, and God closed the door after them.

Then it began to rain. It rained and rained for forty days and nights. Slowly the water flooded the ground and the ark floated away on a huge new sea, with everyone safely inside.

Outside, the water rose until it covered the very tops of the mountains, and everybody and everything left on the Earth was drowned in the flood.