Use Week of:

Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6:5–9:17

MAIN POINT: God is holy, and He punishes sin.

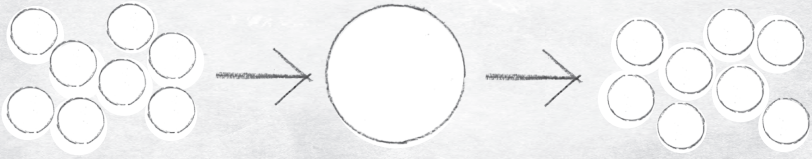
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 74

LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 76

SMALL GROUP LEADER
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 82



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Adam's son Seth lived 912 years. Despite their sin, the Lord sustained generation after generation. Seth's sixth-great-grandson, Noah, was born less than 20 years after his death. (See Gen. 5.) With each generation, the earth's population grew.

By the time Noah lived—10 generations after Adam—people had stopped following God. In fact, Scripture describes a deplorable situation: "Man's wickedness was widespread on the earth … every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time" (Gen. 6:5).
God was right to punish this sin. He decided to send a flood to cleanse the earth. The waters would cover the earth and

© 2015 LifeWay

destroy everything. God graciously chose to save one man and his family, so he warned Noah about the flood and told him to build an ark.

Noah believed God's warning about the coming judgment. He obediently worked to build the ark that would save himself, his family, and the animals. But the work took years, and Noah likely faced ridicule from his friends and neighbors. Was Noah crazy? He was building a boat where there was no water!

When the ark was complete, God's judgment did come. The floodwaters covered the earth. Every living thing was destroyed, but Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. God rescued Noah's family—the family His own Son would be born into. Jesus would warn of God's coming judgment too, but instead of condemning the world, Jesus would give up His life to rescue sinners.

Apart from the grace of God, every thought we have is nothing but evil all the time. Our wickedness is widespread, and God would be justified to destroy us immediately. What grace that He has provided a Rescuer!

Before you teach, pray that the Lord would help you clearly communicate the gospel to children. Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead them to receive the gift of salvation from Jesus, who rescues us from God's anger toward sin. (1 Thess. 1:10)



Additional resources for each session are available at *gospelproject.com.* For free training and session-by-session help, visit *www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.*

Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6:5–9:17

One day God looked at all the people on earth and saw that they were choosing to sin. Every person's thoughts were evil, and **God was sad that He made people.** God wanted people to have a relationship with Him, but the people did not want to know God or obey Him. **God had to punish the people for their sin.**

But God showed favor to a man named Noah. Noah was a descendant of Adam and Eve's son Seth, and **Noah was a righteous man; he followed God. God** warned Noah that a flood was coming to destroy all the creatures on the earth. He **told Noah to make an ark to save himself, his family, and some of the animals.**

God told Noah exactly how to make the ark. God said, "Put a door in the side of the ark and build three decks inside: a lower deck, a middle deck, and an upper deck."

God said that He would make an agreement, or covenant, with Noah and his family. **Noah did everything that God commanded him.**

When the ark was finished, God told Noah to go inside with his family and the animals. God said that rain was coming, and the rain would not stop for 40 days and 40 nights. Noah did what God said, and God shut the door of the ark.

The floodwaters covered the earth, and the ark floated on top of the water. The water rose higher and higher until all of the mountains were covered. Every living thing on the earth died; only Noah and those that were with him survived.

Finally, the rain stopped and the water started to go

down. Land started to appear, and the ark came to rest on some mountains. Noah waited, and then he opened the window of the ark. Noah sent out a dove, but the dove did not find anywhere to land. The waters still covered the earth. Noah waited again. Then he sent out the dove. It came back with a fresh olive leaf in its mouth. Noah knew the dove had found dry ground. Noah waited again. Then he sent out the dove. This time, the dove didn't come back.

When the ground was dry, God told Noah to bring all the people and animals out of the ark. So Noah did. Then Noah built an altar and gave an offering to the Lord. God was pleased with Noah's offering, and **He promised Noah that He would never completely flood the earth again.**

God told Noah and his family to spread out over the earth and fill it with people. God gave Noah a special sign of the covenant He made with him. **God placed a rainbow in the sky so that every time Noah and his family saw the rainbow, they would know God remembered the promise He made with all the living creatures on earth.**

Christ Connection: God rescued Noah and his family from the flood; only they lived. The story of Noah points ahead to a greater rescue. God's Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves. Jesus died so that we can live.



WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WORD? GET *ADVENTURE!*

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God promised Noah He would not flood the earth again. Instead, He would send Jesus to deal with sin. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out *www.lifeway.com/devotionals.*

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6:5–9:17
MAIN POINT: God is holy, and He punishes sin.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Welcome time

ARRIVING ACTIVITY: Zoo pets

- paper
- markers

Give kids a piece of paper. Ask each child to draw a picture of an animal that he would love to have as a pet.

SAY • Today we are going to learn about a time that a man named Noah took seven pairs of all clean animals and one pair of all unclean animals on a big boat, or ark. Has anyone heard this story before? We'll learn why this happened in today's story.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Noah and the Ark" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

SAY • What did the letters spell that you found in the maze? (*Set apart.*) Today, we will learn about a time when God sent a great flood but saved Noah and his family. The Bible says that Noah was different from the other people on earth. He followed God. He was set apart. What does it mean to be set apart? Do you think others who are not Christians should see you and know that you are different, or set apart for God?

Session starter (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: What should you do?

Guide kids to stand in the center of the room. Explain that you will give a scenario. Kids will run to one wall if they should obey in the scenario or run to the opposite wall if they should disobey.

Scenarios: Your friend asks to copy your spelling test; your mom asks you to clean up your room; your teacher asks you to stand quietly in a line; someone tells you to go across the street to play when your mom told you not to; a friend tells you to ignore another kid at lunchtime.

SAY • Do you remember the answer to our big picture question? ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.*** When we don't obey God, we sin. In some of our examples, not doing what a friend said to do was actually obeying God. God tells us how to obey Him in the Bible. He also tells us about sin, or disobeying God. In our story today, a man named Noah obeyed God.



OPTION 2: Most godly person I know

Guide kids to think of a person they know who follows Jesus. Ask kids to describe the person. Ask them to describe what the person is not like.

SAY • Today we will learn about a man who trusted God, and God viewed his faith as righteousness. God did something to punish sin in the world, but He saved Noah and his family from the punishment.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6:5–9:17
MAIN POINT: God is holy, and He punishes sin.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• binoculars

[Large Group Leader enters with binoculars to her eyes.]

LEADER • Man, would you look at that view? Have you ever ridden in a hot air balloon? The weather is beyond perfect for a flight right now, but I'm afraid the forecast includes rain. We might have to wait until another day to ride. That won't keep us from enjoying our day though! We have a story to hear!

Giant timeline (2 minutes)

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
• Main Point Poster

LEADER • Do you remember what we have learned so far? Let's look back at our timeline. First, God created the world and everything in it. **God created everything for His glory.** God also created people. **God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.** The people whom God created sinned. **Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God**, and **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.**

Our story today is about what happened when

God looked upon the world and saw that all of the people's thoughts were sinful.

Big picture question (1 minute)

- Big Picture Question Poster

LEADER • Maybe you remember our big picture question from our last session. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.*** We'll learn more about sin and its consequences today.

Sing (4 minutes)

- "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)" song

LEADER • Before we jump into our story, let's take some time to praise God for creating the world and sending Jesus to pay for our sin and give us His righteousness before God.

Sing together "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)."

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- "Noah and the Ark" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

LEADER • Before sin entered the world, everything was right and good. Adam and Eve lived in a garden God planted, and He met all of their needs. God walked with them in the garden. Then the serpent came into the garden and tricked Eve. She and Adam sinned because they ate fruit that God told them not to eat. From that point forward, sin was a part of each person's life.

Our story today comes many years after Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel. The earth was full of people. God looked at those people and saw that their thoughts were evil. God was sad He had made people. Let's see what happened.

Open your Bible to Genesis 6. Show the video or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

LEADER • God saw the sin of all the people. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death. (Romans 3:23) **God is holy, and He punishes sin,** and all people sin. God didn't choose to be merciful to Noah and his family because they were sinless, but because Noah trusted in God. We all mess up, but when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus, God shows us mercy! Everyone who puts their trust in Jesus will be saved and will live forever with Him!

Ask the following review questions:

1. How was God going to destroy the earth? (*by sending a flood, Gen. 6:17*)
2. What did God tell Noah to put in the ark? (*his family, food, animals; Gen. 6:18-21*)
3. How long did it rain? (*40 days and nights, Gen. 7:4*)
4. What sign did God give to Noah that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again? (*a rainbow, Gen. 9:13-17*)
5. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

LEADER • God showed mercy to Noah and rescued him because Noah trusted in God. This story reminds us of the greater rescue that God would provide through Jesus. **God is holy, and He punishes sin.** Sin separates people from God, and there is nothing that people can do to take away their sin by their own efforts. Jesus is the only perfect One who could take our punishment for sin by His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later. By trusting in

Jesus, we are saved from the punishment that our sin deserves! Jesus died and rose again so that we can live.

Key passage (4 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "There Is Only One" song

LEADER • Can anyone say our key passage by heart? Do you know the reference? First Corinthians 8:6 is our key passage, and it reminds us that only through Jesus were all things made, and it is only through Him that we live. Noah trusted in the one true God to rescue him and his family. Because of Noah's faith in God, he was counted as righteous. When we trust Jesus, we are counted as righteous before God, too, because it is only through Him that we may live forever with God!

Show the slide or poster of the key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse. Then sing together "There Is Only One."

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

- "Unit 1, Session 5" discussion starter video

LEADER • God showed mercy to Noah by rescuing him. Noah couldn't do anything to earn God's mercy. Let's watch a video and see what we think Emiliano should do.

Show the "Unit 1, Session 5" video.

LEADER • What do you think Emiliano should do? Do you think he's going to get very far by using the spoon to paddle the boat? Is there anything that Emiliano could do to rescue himself? It would probably be smart for Emiliano to call someone he trusts for help. How might this relate to our story today? Noah trusted God. Noah was declared righteous because

of his faith in God! God showed Noah mercy and rescued him from the flood. Did you know that Noah was more than 500 years old when the great flood came? Did you know some Bible scholars believe it had never rained on the earth before the flood? (Gen. 2:5-6) Noah had no way of knowing what was going to happen, but he built a boat just as God commanded. (Heb. 11:7) God rescued Noah from the punishment that others faced because of His great mercy!

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)

- Big Picture Question Poster

Show the big picture question poster.

LEADER • Let's review our big picture question. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.*** Can someone give me a few examples of sin that we might be tempted with today?

Pray and ask that God would show each child mercy and give them strength to obey Him, even when it is hard.

THE GOSPEL: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

 **God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

 **We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

 **God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

 **Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.

 **We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6:5–9:17
MAIN POINT: God is holy, and He punishes sin.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- giant stuffed animal
- timer

Guide kids to sit in a circle on the floor. Explain that you will give the giant stuffed animal to one child. That child will say the first word of the key passage and pass the animal to the next child. Each child will say one word as they pass the animal. Explain that you will time how long it takes for the group to complete the key passage. After completing the verse once, play again and attempt to beat the group's earlier time.

SAY • You all did a great job! There is only one God, the Father. **God is holy, and He punishes sin.** He also is merciful and sent Jesus to take the punishment that we deserve by dying on the cross and rising again so that we could have eternal life and a right relationship with God.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- small piece of green construction paper, 1 per kid

Help kids find the Book of Genesis in their Bibles. Explain that Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Help kids understand that the large numbers in printed copies of the Bible represent the chapters, while the small numbers tell us what verse it is. Help kids find chapter 6, verse 5. Guide them to put a finger on the verse. Read this verse aloud to

kids. Ask kids to stand around the room. Give each child a small piece of green paper. Explain that kids will hold the green paper in the air as soon as they know the answer to the question. Call on one child to answer the question from those who hold their paper up. Ask the following review questions:

1. What did God do about the sin that He saw on the earth? (*He sent the flood to destroy the earth; Gen. 6:17; 7:11-12*)
2. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***
3. How did God feel about Noah? (*Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord, Gen. 6:8-9*)
4. How did God rescue Noah and Noah's family? (*God told Noah to build the ark and to enter it at the appropriate time; Gen. 6:14-16; 7:1-5*)
5. How does this story of Noah and the ark end? (*God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise to never flood the earth again; Gen. 9:12-16*)
6. What has God done for us to provide a rescue from sin? (*God sent Jesus to pay for our sins on the cross so that we could be forgiven, Rom. 4:25*)

Activity choice (10 minutes)



- items that may be sorted, such as multicolored candy, buttons, or fuzzy pom-poms
- paper plates

OPTION 1: Set apart

Give each child a paper plate and handful of multicolored candy or items that might be sorted, such as buttons or fuzzy pom-poms.

SAY • Can you sort the items by color? Use your plate to separate the items by color.

Kids may also separate by other factors, dependent upon what items are used to sort. As kids work, remind kids that

Noah was set apart from those who were around him.

SAY • The Bible says that Noah walked with God. That means Noah tried to obey God. This doesn't mean that Noah never sinned, but God saw Noah's faith and saw him as righteous. **God is holy, and He punishes sin,** but God chose to show mercy to Noah and his family.

OPTION 2: God's promise

- multicolored candy, buttons, or fuzzy pom-poms
- glue
- paper plates
- brown construction paper
- markers
- animal stickers

Provide multicolored candy, buttons, or fuzzy pom-poms and give each child a few of each color. Give each child a paper plate as well. Guide kids to glue the items on the top of the paper plate in the shape of a rainbow. Help them to sort the items by color if needed.

Then, guide kids to cut out the shape of a boat from the brown construction paper. Place the boat, or ark, in the middle of the plate under the rainbow. Guide kids to use markers and stickers to decorate the scene. Remind kids that the boat landed on a mountain when the waters receded.

SAY • God showed great mercy to Noah and his family. **God is holy and He punishes sin,** but He also is merciful. The rainbow was a picture of God's goodness to His people. He promised that He would never destroy the earth again with a flood. God has shown us great mercy, too! God provided a way for us to escape the punishment we deserve for sin through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Guide kids to draw a picture of the cross as a reminder that Jesus came to take the punishment that we deserve for our sin. He is our Rescuer when we put our trust in Him. Writers may also write a thank-you note to Jesus for being their Rescuer.

- Journal page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*

SAY • God provided a rescue for Noah and His family. Noah wasn't perfect, but he did follow God. *God is holy, and He punishes sin*, but God chose to show great mercy to Noah. The greatest way that God shows mercy to us is through Jesus.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for showing us a picture of both His holiness and His mercy through the story of Noah. Pray that we would remember God's mercy that He has shown us through Jesus each day. Pray that kids would live a life that shows that they follow God and are set apart for Him.

Journal Page

God the Creator

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Session 1: God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-25
God created everything for His glory.

Session 2: God Created People
Genesis 1:26-2:25
God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 3: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 4: Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Session 5: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5–9:17
God is holy, and He punishes sin.

Session 6: The Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1-9
God created people to give glory to Him alone.



© 2015 LifeWay • OK to Print

There is one God, the Father. All things are from Him, and we exist for Him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through Him, and we exist through Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:6



God is holy, and He punishes sin.





Noah and the Ark

DOWNLOAD THE TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the maze to get Noah to the top of the ark. Write the letters you collect along the way below the ark.



KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

BIBLE STORY:
NOAH'S ARK

- God told Noah to build an ark.
- God sent a flood to cover all the earth to punish sin.
- God saved Noah, his family, and the animals.
- God made a rainbow as a reminder of His promise to never flood the whole earth again.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did God send a flood? (*to punish the world for sin*)
- What punishment do we deserve for our sin? (See Romans 6:23.)
- How does God rescue us from our sin?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

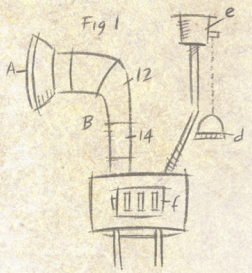
- Spend time thanking God for showing love to your family.
- Go further: Choose a family or individual and serve them in a special way. Tell them about God's love for them.



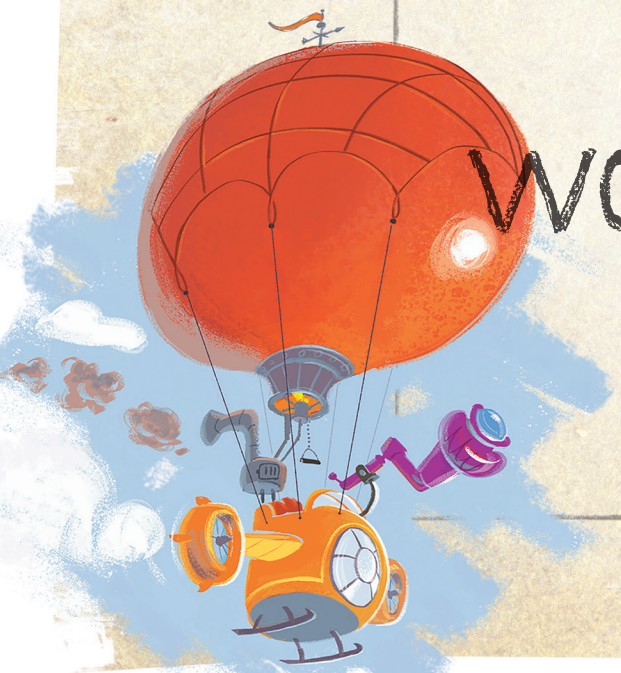
Why did God create the world?

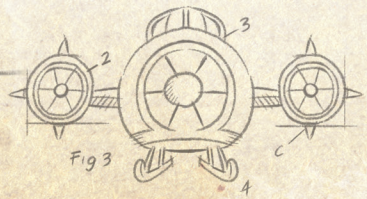


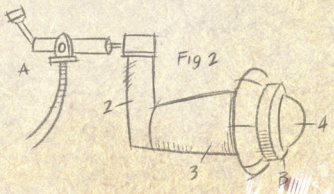
Why did God create the world?

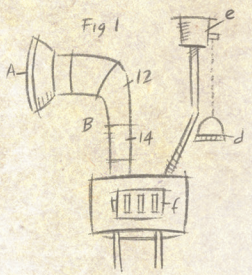


God created the world and everything in it for His glory.



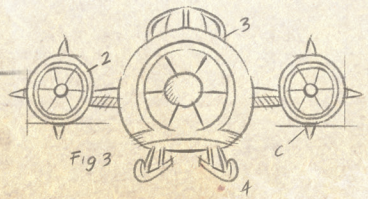


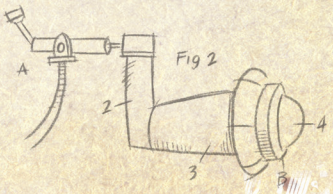




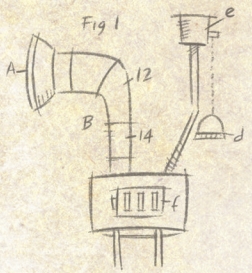
What is sin?







What is sin?



Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.



