Catechism Story 23 *The First and Second Articles of the Creed*
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer

BIBLE STORY: THE FLOOD
Genesis 6:5-22 (7:1-24)

Central Thoughts

- Man is sinful and corrupt from his conception (original sin): he has no true fear, love, and trust in God.
- God was "grieved" in His heart because man rejected God's love in his unbelief and wickedness.
- Noah was a "just" and "righteous" man because he walked by faith in the Lord.
- The Flood is both the judgment of God against a sinful and corrupt world and the salvation of God for those who cling to Him by faith, just as Holy Baptism is condemnation for those who do not believe and salvation for those who do.

Discussion Questions

What does it mean that "the wickedness of man was great…and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually?"
Mankind was bound in the corruption of sin and unbelief that he had inherited from Adam (original sin). This corruption of sin manifested itself in every form of evil and rebellion against God.
What does it mean that God was "sorry that He had made man" and that He was "grieved in His heart"?
God was grieved that man had rejected God's love and the gift of life. Nevertheless, God still loved sinful man and the Flood of divine judgment was also part of His plan of salvation.
What does it mean that Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord"?
Noah was loved by God; and Noah believed in the grace of God.
What does it mean that Noah was a "just man" who "walked with God"?
He was "just" or "righteous" by faith in the Lord. That he "walked with God" means that He believed in the Lord. He was saved by grace through faith in the Lord.
Who sent the Flood?
The Lord God
Who established His covenant with Noah?
The Lord God
Who determined the blueprint and materials for the ark?
The Lord God
Who brought the animals to Noah?
The Lord God
Who brought Noah and his family into the ark?
The Lord God
Who shut Noah into the ark?
The Lord God
Who determined the duration of the flood?
The Lord God
Who declared Noah righteous?
The Lord God declared Noah righteous.
Why did Noah do what the Lord told him to do?
Noah believed in the Lord and in the Lord's Word.
Of what does the Flood teach us?
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism. It was condemnation to those who did not believe and salvation for those who believed.

Meditation on the Bible Story

The corruption of original sin has been part of man since Adam's fall. Because of original sin there is no true fear, love, or trust in God. Out of this corruption flows all manner of wickedness. Man's sin is the rejection of the God of love who made him and from whom he receives his life and all things. The Lord

is grieved and sorrowful in His heart because man has turned away from Him, the only source of life and love. That Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" means that God's undeserved love and mercy rested upon Noah. Noah was declared "just" and "righteous" by the Lord, not because of what he had done or because he was without sin, but because Noah believed in the Lord. Noah was declared righteous "by faith" in the Lord. That Noah "walked with God" means that Noah trusted in the Lord. The Flood teaches us that God's judgment falls upon all who reject Him and that salvation is the free gift of God's grace to all who believe in Him. Throughout the entire story God is the actor. He sends the Flood upon the earth. He orders Noah to build the ark. He determined the ark's dimensions and the materials that would be used. He brought Noah and his family into the ark. He shut them in and saved them from the corruption of a sinful world and the condemnation of hell. All of this corresponds to Holy Baptism wherein God is the actor, sending the water, calling to faith, bestowing His Spirit, drowning the Old Adam, forgiving sin, and rescuing from death and the devil. Noah did all that the Lord asked of him because he believed in the Lord and His Word.

Just as the Flood condemned the unbelieving world and saved Noah and his family, so Holy Baptism saves us from our sin. "It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the Words and promises of God declare" (Small Catechism). "God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism" (1 Peter 3:20b-21a).

Prayer on the Bible Story
Heavenly Father, in the Flood You taught us that mankind is wicked and deserves to be punished, yet in saving Noah and his family through water You taught us that You still love us and that You sent the Flood to save mankind and to recreate the world. In the water of Holy Baptism you work forgiveness of sins, rescue us from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all who believe in Jesus. Give us true faith in Christ that we might trust in the promises of our baptism and walk with God as Noah did all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Flood

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