

# FAMILY FAITH

## Chapter 7: Noah and the Flood

*God saved Noah and his family from the Flood.*

### Chapter Summary

Noah lived during a time when there was much sin and evil in the world. God sent a flood to cleanse the world of sin and give a new start to His creation. Because of his love and trust in God, Noah and his family were saved from the Flood. After the Flood, Noah offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving. God made a covenant with Noah never to flood the earth again. His promise is everlasting and signified by the rainbow. The saving and cleansing power of the water of the Flood foreshadows the waters of Baptism, which are a sign and instrument of God's grace.

### More for Parents

Noah's ark is often reduced to a children's story or an adorable nursery design. Often the focus is on the parade of animals rather than God's saving His people from sin. The main purpose of this biblical narrative is to show how tragic sin is and how God proves time and again that He works to cleanse us from sin. God provides us with many opportunities to be washed from sin in our everyday lives, particularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. How can we foster a desire to be washed from sin and spiritually renewed regularly in our homes? How can we teach our children about God's ever-present desire to cleanse us from sin?

### Virtue in the Family

God gives us the theological virtue of hope at our Baptism so that we can trust in Him and trust that He has prepared a place for us in Heaven. We make choices based on our desires. The virtue of hope directs our desires to be fulfilled in God as the only source of happiness and of being loved. We must learn to practice the virtue of hope in every decision we make.

### Growing in the Virtue of Hope

- Prayer activity
  - Gather together as a family and spend a few moments in silence.
  - Take a few minutes to reflect on the virtue of hope and how to nurture it as a family.
    - What choices did you make today? Did they lead you to God or away from God as the only source of happiness?
    - Ask God to show you what leads you away from Him.
    - Ask God to give you stronger hope in Him.
  - Conclude by praying the Our Father together and pause on the words "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." These words may stand out to you differently in light of the virtue of hope.
- Every time you enter the church and dip your finger in holy water, thank God for your Baptism, which cleansed you of Original Sin.
- Read Bible accounts of faith to your children, such as Mark 5:21–43. Point out that God never gives up on those who believe in Him.
- Celebrate everyone's baptismal date as his "birthday" into new life in Christ.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **ark**
- **faithful**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.