

December 1

## WHAT WENT WRONG AND THE ONE WHO'S COMING

*From Genesis 1–3*

**T**here was a time in the very beginning when everything was good. Nothing to worry about. Nothing to fear. No hurt feelings. No tears.

God made the heavens and the earth, and everything He created was very good. But one thing was best: people. That's right. People like you and me were the most marvelous things God made.

The first two people were named Adam and Eve. God put them in a beautiful garden filled with delightful things, and every day, God came down to the garden to join them for an afternoon walk. God gave Adam and Eve a special job: they, along with all their sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, were to work in and grow this garden until it covered every last inch of the earth, and they would all rule together as princes and princesses.

God knew what was best for Adam and Eve—He created them, after all. So He gave them a few rules. Now, you may think, *Rules? I thought you said everything was good!* But good rules are a good thing! God's rules would help Adam and Eve live the life they were made for and enjoy the world God made! The rules were straightforward: love God, love each other, take care of the earth and the animals, be fruitful and have children, and *don't eat the fruit from that one tree over there.*





One day, everything went horribly wrong.

A sneaky old snake strutted up to them and started talking. (Never trust a talking snake.) This snake asked them questions like, *Is God really good? Are you sure He's telling the truth? Does He really want what's best for you? Wouldn't it be better if you do what you want instead of obeying those silly rules? Maybe you should just reach out, take the fruit from that tree, and eat . . .*

They listened. They took the fruit. They ate it. And everything fell apart.

The problem wasn't that Adam and Eve got hungry and needed a snack. No, the problem was that, at that moment, Adam and Eve stopped believing God was good—that He knew, loved, and wanted what was best for them. They thought they had to look out for themselves. And, well, people weren't made to do that!

At that moment, Adam and Eve trusted themselves more than they trusted God. The Bible calls this "sin." And this first sin broke everything: their relationships with the plants and the animals they were to care for, their relationships with one another, and all the people who would come after them. Worst of all, their relationship with God was broken. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden and go away from God's presence. Every person since—all their sons and daughters, grandsons

and granddaughters, and you and me—has been born in this sad state away from God's presence. Born trusting—just like Adam and Eve—in ourselves more than we trust God.

Every person, that is, except one.

God created a good world. He created us for that good world—for unending life and unlimited love. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the goodness was lost. But there was hope. God promised them that someone would come and fix it all. He would obey God perfectly. He would trust God completely. He would never sin. He would bring people back to God and give us the unending life and unlimited love we were made for!

*There is One coming*, God promised. He's the One we're waiting for.

*Song for family reflection:*  
"All Creatures of Our God and King"

### DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER

- *Why did Adam and Eve think they knew better than God? Do you sometimes think you know better than God?*
- *What do you think "unending life and unlimited love" means?*
- *God promised that someone would come who would fix everything. Who do you think that is?*



December 2

## A BIG BOAT, A GIANT STORM, AND ONE FAITHFUL MAN

*From Genesis 6–9*

**A**dam and Eve had children, and their children had children, and their children had children. And things did not get better. In fact, they got a lot worse.

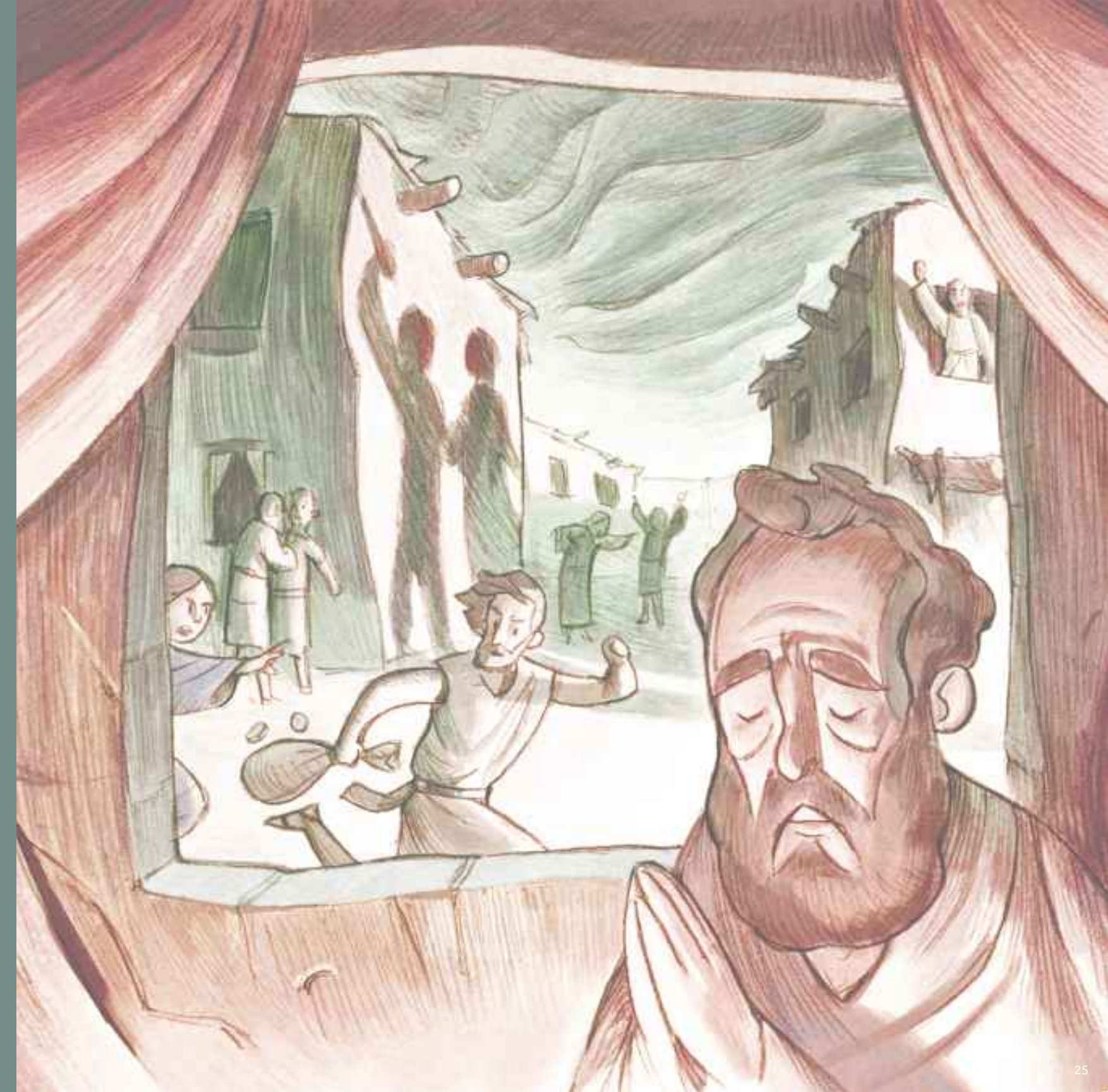
The world was filled with sin. No one trusted God. Everyone thought they knew better than Him. And the unending life and unlimited love God made the world for were a distant memory. Now, people knew only death, tears, and heartache.

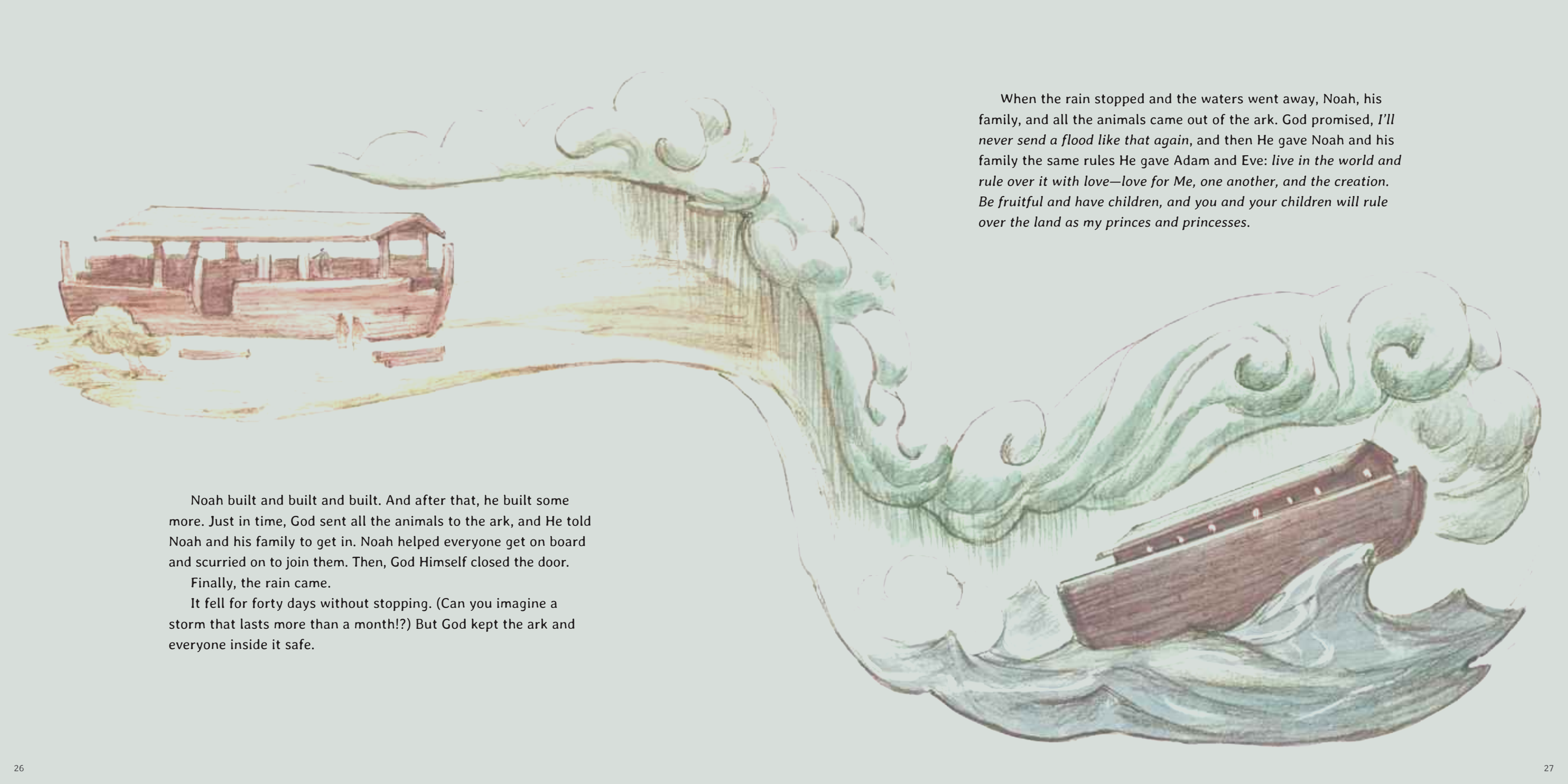
There was one person—only one in the *whole world!*—who still trusted God. The Bible says he “found favor” in God’s eyes, which means he knew that God loved him. His name was Noah, and he wasn’t perfect. But he did trust God.

Noah’s name means something like “He will bring us help.” When Noah was born, his father may have said, “Maybe this one, Noah, will bring us help. *Maybe he is the one we’re waiting for.*”

God decided, because of all the evil in the world, to start over. He would undo the creation by sending a flood to cover the earth. Then, He would recreate the world using one set of parents from every animal—and one family of people: Noah’s family.

God warned Noah ahead of time about the flood, and He told Noah to have faith and build a giant boat called an ark. God promised that Noah, his family, and the animals would be kept safe through the flood. When everything dried up, God would recreate the world through them.





Noah built and built and built. And after that, he built some more. Just in time, God sent all the animals to the ark, and He told Noah and his family to get in. Noah helped everyone get on board and scurried on to join them. Then, God Himself closed the door.

Finally, the rain came.

It fell for forty days without stopping. (Can you imagine a storm that lasts more than a month!?) But God kept the ark and everyone inside it safe.

When the rain stopped and the waters went away, Noah, his family, and all the animals came out of the ark. God promised, *I'll never send a flood like that again*, and then He gave Noah and his family the same rules He gave Adam and Eve: *live in the world and rule over it with love—love for Me, one another, and the creation. Be fruitful and have children, and you and your children will rule over the land as my princes and princesses.*

God kept Noah and his family safe through the flood and remade the world through him.  
*Was Noah the One?*

Sadly, as soon as things settled back down to normal, Noah failed, just like Adam and Eve. Noah stopped believing God was good and decided to do what he wanted instead of obeying God. Instead of using God's new creation to honor and praise God, Noah used it selfishly—just like Adam and Eve. Noah's son, Ham, made a bad situation worse by mocking his father, and Noah cursed him and his offspring. Things got worse and worse and worse.

Noah found favor with God, and God graciously used him to save his family from being destroyed by the flood. But just like the first people, Noah failed. The One we're waiting for will also find favor with God, but He will never fail. God used Noah to save his family from the flood, but the One we're waiting for will save us from the destruction we all deserve because of our sin.

*There is One coming*, God promised. He's the One we're waiting for.

*Song for family reflection:*  
"This Is My Father's World"

### DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER

- *Before the flood, every heart was filled with evil all the time. What do you think it means to have a heart that is filled with evil?*
- *How do you think Noah felt when God told him about the flood?*
- *Noah failed and sinned just like Adam and Eve and just like all people do today. How have you sinned today?*

