

THE FLOOD

From the time of the beginning of time, some people were really good and some weren't as good and some really had some problems.... but there were always people who prayed... and heard GOD speaking in their hearts. One of these people was Noah

One day, GOD said to Noah, "I am really annoyed with people. They aren't as grateful as they could be... they don't talk to me in prayer.... they hardly talk to each other! I think I should start over from the beginning. But you, Noah, I know you are a really good guy... and you treat your family well and they are good to other people.

I want you to build a huge, large, gimunga boat... call it an ark. Build it and put inside it a girl and boy of each kind of animal you can. And your family. Because I'm really going to make it rain and rain and rain and whatever is in the ark will be saved, but the other things will not. Although Noah was sad, he did what GOD told him to. Just as soon as every thing and every body was aboard the ark, GOD pulled up the plank and shut the door. And the earth beneath them cracked open and began spouting water and it began to rain and rain.

It went on like that for 40 days and 40 nights. There were no windows in the ark. Every now and then, Noah would come out to the deck to see what there was to see.... but there WAS nothing to see. Just water everywhere. There was so much water that they even floated over the mountains. GOD finally thought enough was enough and stopped the rain. But it was a while before everybody could climb out. Just to check if it would be OK, he let a dove go... but it came back, because it couldn't find anything to perch on.... the water was still too high. A few days later, Noah sent out the dove again, who came back with an olive twig.... so there started to be some place to sit for a while and some food to eat... but just to be sure, he waited another week. Noah sent out the dove, but it never came back, not even after a week..... so Noah knew it was safe to let everybody out.

GOD said to Noah that day, you have been faithful and wise and patient, so I want to make some special promises with you and your family. I just can't lose my temper like that again. So I make a promise to you and your family and everybody after them.... and all the animals from the ark and all the animals that come after them... that I will never, never send a flood to cover the earth again. You have my promise. And as a sign of my promise, look up - and see that I will send all the colors of creation into the air and back again... from the earth to heaven back to earth again, showing you my promise. Noah watched, and there appeared a wonderful sight... all the colors, side by side, running from the earth to the sky and back down again. A rainbow. And every time we see it, we can remember GOD's promise.