

Children's Corner

A magazine for Children published by the
Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of the Reformation



Vol. TWENTY-NINE No. One January—July 2017

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that our Father in heaven would protect us from every evil of body and soul, property and honour, and finally, when our last hour is come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven.

How could you, in just a few words, sum up the Lord's Prayer? "Deliver us from evil". This is the "sum of all", as Luther says.

As we all know, God created the world good. There was no sin or suffering, pain or wickedness in the world He created. The Bible says that it was "very good". But sadly Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Through them sin entered into the world. Since then, the world has become the home of evil.

In this life we are subject to all manner of evil.

There are evils of body and soul, of property and honour.

Our bodies have to endure many

evils. Some of these evils are pain, sickness, hunger, thirst, the infirmities of old age, loss of eyesight, hearing, or speech.

There are also evils of soul. Some of these evils include mental troubles, loss of reason, loss of life, pain of parting, disappointments.

Evils befall our property. Our house may burn to the ground. Burglars could break in and steal valuables from our home. Our parents or other family members could lose their jobs.

There are evils of honour. We may be teased or ridiculed at school. Others may speak badly about us because we are Christians. In a moment of weakness, we could give in to the devil and say something hurtful to another person. We are all sinners by nature, and at times that does happen. In that case we should ask God to forgive us and apologise to the person that we have hurt.

We ask that God "deliver us" from these evils. "Deliver" means to keep them from us, to make us free from them.

(Continued on page 2)



Jesus asked His Father in Gethsemane that this cup may be taken from Him. He compared His sufferings to a cup of bitter medicine. But He submitted to His Father's will. "Not My will, but Thine be done."

God delivered Joseph out of prison. He delivered the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt. He delivered Peter from prison.

God often takes away the evil He allowed to come upon us for a time. Thus what is the proper thing to do in adversity or suffering?

Psalm 37:5: ***"Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."***

God does not always remove the trouble immediately, when we call upon Him. He will do it in His own time. After all, God's ways are higher than our ways. Only He knows what is good for our soul's salvation.

Joseph had to remain in prison for many years. But he was richly blessed. He became prime minister of Egypt. Due to his position, he was able to save the lives of many nations during the famine.

Job had to suffer great sickness. But he was richly blessed. The Lord restored to him double what he had lost. His patience during suffering has served as a great example of faithfulness for thousands of Christians.

Paul tells us that he had a thorn in the flesh, some special burden to bear. He doesn't tell us what it was. He says that three times he prayed that the Lord would deliver him from it.

But the answer to his prayer was, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9).

The Lord required Paul to go on bearing the burden, but gave him strength and joy to bear it.

God often allows us to experience that what we thought was evil, is a blessing in disguise. Think of Joseph.

Romans 8:28: ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."***

So in this prayer we ask God:

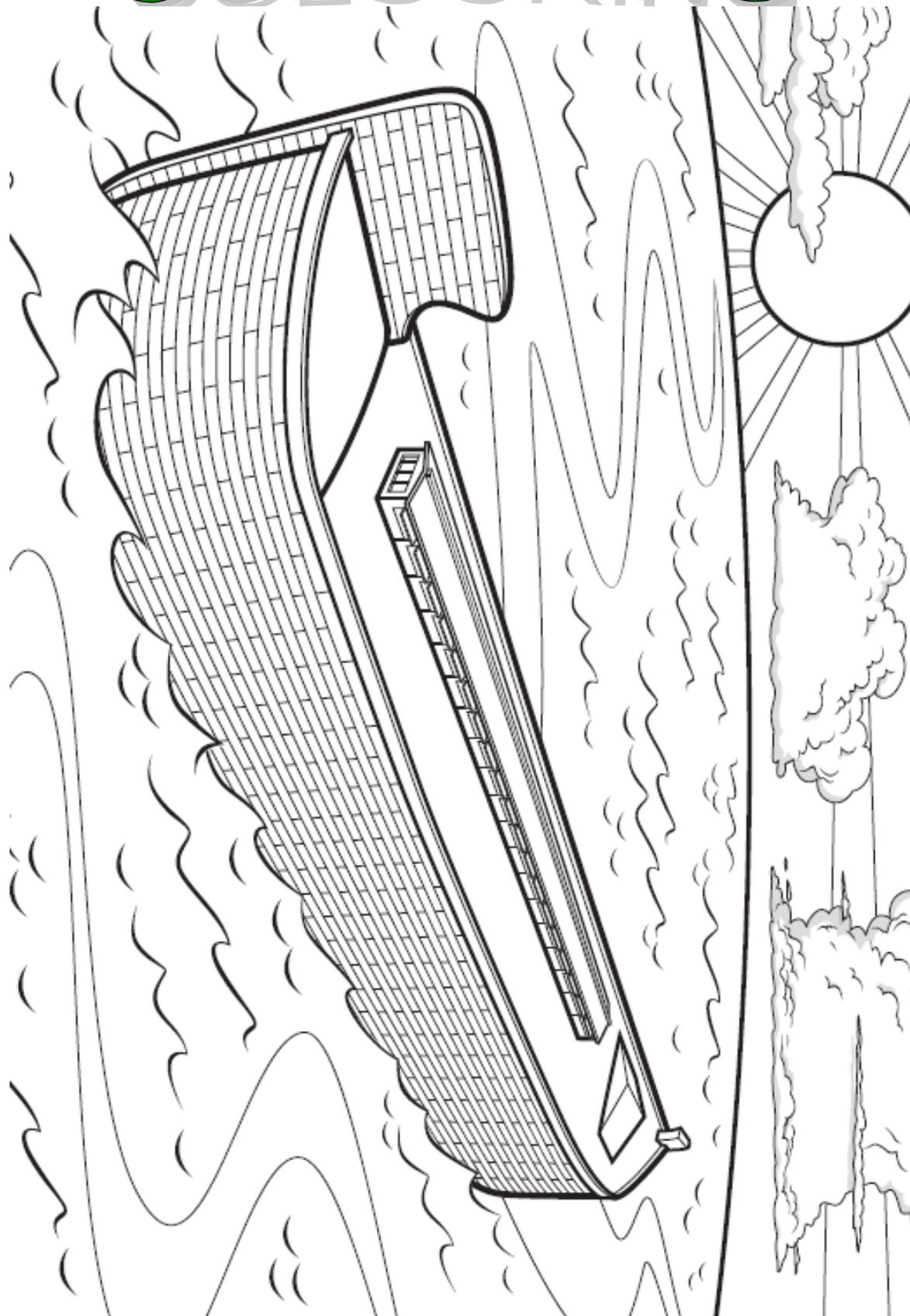
1. To spare us from many evils that might come our way;
2. When an evil has befallen us, that He would take it from us again;
3. If that be not His plan, that He would give us strength and joy to bear it;
4. To give us the faith to believe it will work to our good.

2 Tim 4:18: ***“And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom.”***

The final deliverance from evil is when God takes us from this world of troubles to Himself in heaven. Therefore the Catechism says, “And finally, when our last hour is come, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven.”

Prayer: Oh Lord, look upon us in mercy and destroy us not. Deliver us from evil, from every evil that might beset our path and take us from You. When the time of our departure comes, grant us a peaceful death and take us into the everlasting realms of glory. Hear us, Oh Lord, for Jesus’ sake. Amen. (TJW)

COLOURING



GOLDEN TEXT: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dear Children. — The story the Bible tells us of man is the story of the Holy Spirit striving to bring fallen man back to God through repentance and faith in Christ, the Redeemer. It is the story of God striving to free man from the power of sin, death, and the devil. It is the story of the love and mercy of God on the one hand, and the wickedness of man on the other. It is the story that tells how God always stretches out His saving arms to those who will allow themselves to be saved; but it also shows the awful punishment that comes upon those who keep on and on resisting all God's efforts to save them. The Bible story passes briefly over the hundreds of years after the murder of Abel to the most gruesome happening of which the world has ever been told. When you hear this story, do not forget that God is just, and that those who serve sin must expect nothing but death.

GENESIS 6—9

THE FLOOD

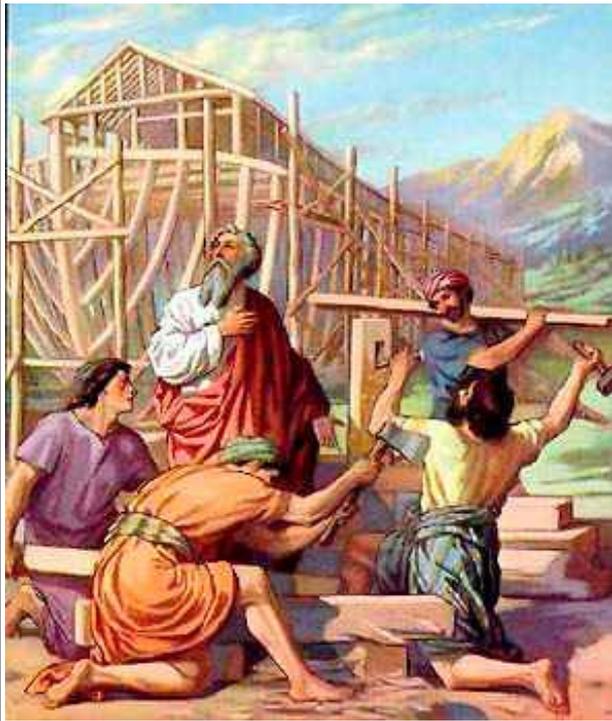
Cause of the Flood. — And man began to multiply on the face of the earth. Then the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took themselves wives of all which they chose. That means that the children of God began to marry wicked and unbelieving women. The result was that they themselves began to fall away from God. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and **that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** The earth was filled with strife, hatred, uncleanness, violence, murder, and all the horrors of sin. And God said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man (to save him); I will destroy man from the earth; yet his days (for repentance) shall be one hundred and twenty years."

The Ark. — But one man found grace in the eyes of the Lord, because he was a just man and walked with God. That was Noah. And God said unto Noah, "The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is

filled with violence. Make thee an ark of gopher-wood, three hundred cubits in length, fifty cubits in breadth, and thirty cubits in height. Make rooms therein, and pitch it within and without with pitch. A window and a door shalt thou make to the ark; with three storeys shalt thou make it. And thou shalt bring into the ark, of fowls, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing, two of every sort. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and it shall be for food for thee and for them." And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

The Flood. — And the Lord said unto Noah, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark: for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters were upon the earth. And he went into the Ark with his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, his wife, and the three wives of his sons; and all kinds of animals went in unto him into the ark, two

(Continued on page 6)



and two, as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And it rained upon the earth forty days and forty nights. And the waters increased greatly upon the earth, and bare up the ark; and all the high hills and mountains that were under the whole heaven covered fifteen cubits. And all flesh died, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast and creeping thing, and every man. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Explanatory Notes. — The ark was probably 150 metres long, 15 metres high, and 25 metres wide, a very big ship, and built in a way that would cause it to float easily and safely upon the waters. There was ample room in it for all the animals, birds, and reptiles, etc., that had to be saved from drowning. We are not told all the details of its construction, but we are certain that it was provided with light and fresh air and everything necessary to keep the living beings in it in good health and comfort.

6

The Lord Himself planned it, and that is reason enough to believe that no

better ship has ever been built or will ever be built.

The people who were drowned in the flood were all wicked, unbelieving, unrepentant sinners, who refused to be led by the Spirit of God. If God had not destroyed them quickly in the flood, their own sins would have brought a slow, unspeakably horrible death upon them. "The wages of sin is death." They had 120 years in which to repent. They knew that Noah was building the ark. They knew why he was doing it. No doubt they laughed and scoffed at him, and thought him mad. Those who saw the wild beasts, such as lions, tigers, leopards, wolves, and bears going into the ark without being driven in must have been amazed. Their amazement became greater when they saw the huge door of the ark move into its place and closing the ark of its own accord, because they could not see God who closed it. Their amazement grew into fear and terror when the flood began. Despair seized them when the waters rose higher and higher, and at last they perished miserably. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked."

Signs of the Flood are found in great number even to-day in all parts of the earth, even on the tops of many mountains. You will learn more about them when you grow older and better able to understand.

Noah and His Family were not saved because they were without sin. They too were sinners, but they believed in the words and promises of God, and in repentance and faith sought forgiveness for the sake of the Saviour whom God had promised.

Dear Children. — Learn from this lesson that nothing good ever comes from sin, but that those who give themselves up to sin will receive the rewards of sin, namely, unhappiness, suffering, and death, both of body and soul. But remember also that God has mercy on those who repent and ask forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

(Continued on page 7)

To-day Thy gate is open
 And all who enter in
 Shall find a Father's welcome,
 And pardon for their sin.
 The past shall be forgotten,
 A present joy be given,
 A future grace be promised,
 A glorious crown in heaven. (Hymn 289:2)

(Taken from "Our Sunday School Paper" Feb 12, 1939. Used by permission.)

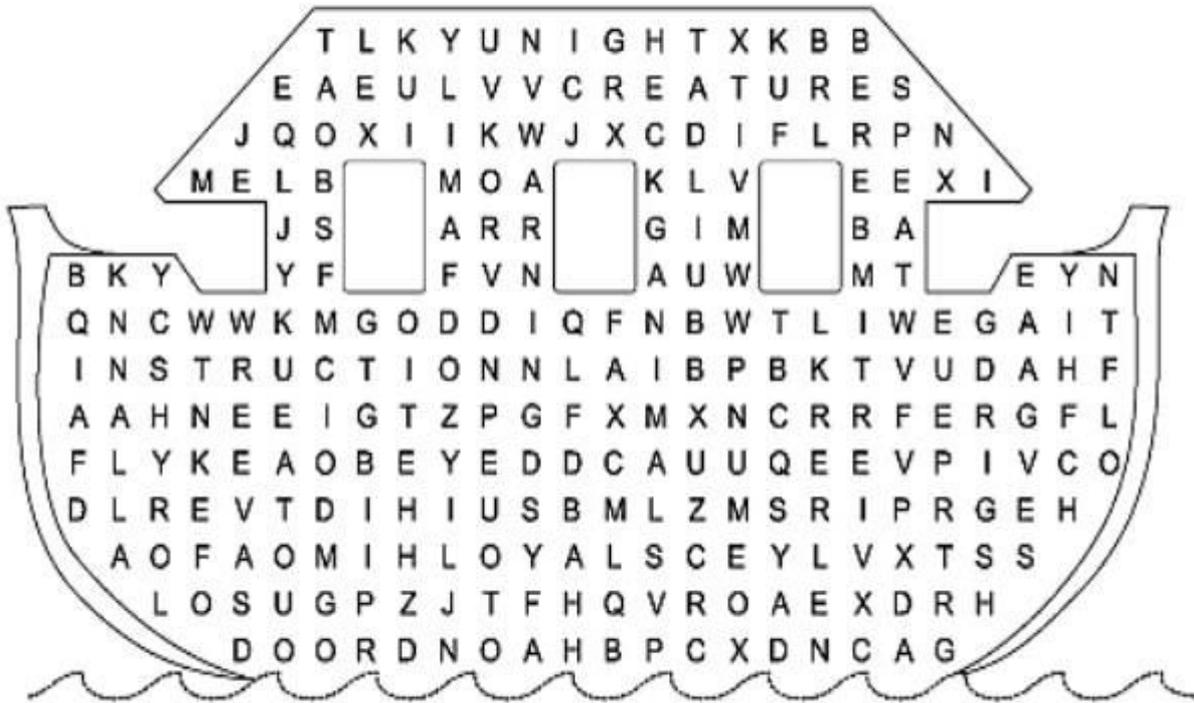
QUESTIONS

1. What did men begin to do?
2. From among whom did the children of God choose wives?
3. What result did that have upon the children of God?
4. What became very great?
5. Who noticed this?
6. How was every imagination of man's heart?
7. What did God then say?
8. What did God determine to do?
9. How long did He give men to repent?
10. Who among men found grace in God's sight?
11. What kind of man was Noah?
12. What did God command Noah to do?
13. Why?
14. What kind of wood was he to use?
15. How long was the ark to be?
16. How wide?
17. How high?
18. What are those measurements roughly in yards?
19. What else was Noah commanded to do?
20. What therefore did Noah do?
21. How old was he when he went into the ark?
22. Who also entered the ark with Noah?
23. What likewise entered?
24. How many?
25. Who shut them in?
26. What then began?
27. From whence did the waters come?
28. How long did it rain?
29. What at last did the waters do?
30. What then happened with all creatures that lived on the dry land?
31. What became of **all** men?
32. Who alone was safe?
33. What was the ark doing?
34. What is the reward of sin?
35. What therefore is necessary?
36. For whose sake will God forgive sin?



Word Find

Find the words below in the Ark.



INSTRUCTION CREATURES PRESERVE WARNING ANIMALS REFUGE FAMILY OBEYED TIMBER NIGHT
 BUILD RIGHT LIVED LOYAL FLOOD SAVE DOOR RAIN BOAT NOAH DAYS GOD ARK

PUZZLES



HOME EXERCISES

1. From the time of Adam's creation to the Flood was less than two thousand years. Yet, at the time of the Flood there already were many millions of people on the earth. The explanation for that rapid increase is to be found partly in the great ages to which the first men lived. That is something for thoughtful children to think about.
2. God said, "The earth is filled with violence." Violence means strife and murder. If the earth was filled with violence, with what must it have also have been filled? Why? _____

3. Many people think that only part of the earth was covered by the waters of the Flood. Which words of the story prove that idea to be wrong? _____

4. There are many reasons for believing that the ark was in all ways a very excellent ship. Find some of them. _____

5. Imagine that you were one of the people saved in the ark. Write an account of life in the ark.
6. Many of the people who drowned in the Flood may have gone to heaven. At any rate, that was possible. How would you explain? _____

7. To build the ark many great forest trees had to be felled, cut up into huge beams and planks, hauled to the building place, etc. For that tools were necessary: axes, saws, chisels, and great numbers of other things. Many people in our days think that we are wiser and cleverer in many thousands of ways than the people who lived before the Flood. The fact that the ark was built is a certain proof that in many ways those people knew as much as, if not more, than we do to-day. Mention some ways in which building the ark proves this. _____

Note: Be careful when you see pictures that depict the ark. Many of these can be greatly misleading. Recently, a replica full size ark has been built in Kentucky, USA.

For more information visit the website at <http://arkencounter.com>.

How would you determine if a drawing or picture depicting the Ark is accurate?

Editor: Pastor Timothy Winter,
7 Graham Street,
Kingaroy, Q. 4610.
email: ratspo_mit@yahoo.com.au

Co-ordinator: Mr. Marcus Jeffers
3/30 Mary St
Nambour, Q. 4560.
e mail: karkus_m@hotmail.com