

## Noah's Ark vs. the Brother of Jared's Arks A Sharing Time or Family Night/Family Scripture Study Idea



Are your children ready for a scripture challenge? Teach them the difference between Noah's ark and the brother of Jared's eight arks (an ark just means a ship or boat). Review each scripture story (Genesis chapters 6-8 and Ether chapters 1-3, 6). Then cut the following into wordstrips or highlight one scripture to hand out to six children or groups of children.



	<b>Noah</b>	<b>Brother of Jared</b>
How many boats?	(Genesis 6:14)	(Ether 3:1)
What did the boat(s) look like?	(Genesis 6:16)	(Ether 2:16-17, 20)
How did they gather animals?	(Genesis 6:20, 7:8-9)	(Ether 1:41, 2:2-3)
How many people were in the boat(s)?	(Genesis 6:10, 7:7)	(Ether 6:14-16)
How many days on the water?	(Genesis 7:11-13, 8:13-16)	(Ether 6:11)
Where did they land?	(Genesis 8:4)	(Ether 6:12)

<b>WITH ANSWERS</b>	<b>Noah</b>	<b>Brother of Jared</b>
How many boats?	One (Genesis 6:14)	Eight (Ether 3:1)
What did the boat(s) look like?	Three-story ark with a window and door (Genesis 6:16)	Closed small barges with a door and holes on top and bottom that could be stopped up (Ether 2:16-17, 20)
How did they gather animals?	Animals came to Noah (Genesis 6:20, 7:8-9)	Brother of Jared had to catch the animals (Ether 1:41, 2:2-3)
How many people were in the boat(s)?	8 people (Genesis 6:10, 7:7)	At least 32 people (Ether 6:14-16)
How many days on the water?	about 378 (Genesis 7:11-13, 8:13-16) (also see Liahona Sept 1984)	344 days (Ether 6:11)
Where did they land?	Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4)	Seashore (Ether 6:12)

For extra drama, help the children visualize the size of Noah's ark: Genesis 6:15 gives the dimensions in cubits. Each cubit was about one and a half feet (see "Cubit," Bible Dictionary). Ask a few math whiz children to figure the dimensions in feet: about 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet high. If your chapel has a cultural hall, the average basketball court is 94 feet long by 50 feet wide by 10 feet tall to the top of the basketball rim. That means Noah's ark was about the length of 4 1/2 cultural halls put end to end, about 2/3 as wide as a cultural hall, and about as tall as 4 1/2 basketball poles. That is a big floating house for a year.

**APPLICATION:** There are many lessons embedded in these stories, such as obedience (build that boat when God tells you!), faith (really, God? I'm going to get into that thing and not steer?), and trusting in God no matter what storm is raging outside (don't think about the rain or the winds, just stay in the boat). Help the children see the connection to situations in their own lives.

Interested in more challenging scripture activities like these?

See [Getting Children to Open – not just bring – Their Scriptures on PrimaryinZion.wordpress.com](http://PrimaryinZion.wordpress.com) and [Primary as Pre-Seminary: Raising the Bar and Addressing the Boredom Challenge](http://PrimaryinZion.wordpress.com)

(photos from [latterdaythinking.org](http://latterdaythinking.org) and [nothingwaver.org](http://nothingwaver.org))