

# How Big Is An Ark, Anyway?

By

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## Theme:

This play shows how we learn about obedience from the story of Noah's Ark.

## Biblical Reference:

Genesis 6

## Approximate Running Time:

10 minutes

## Cast of Characters:

Chris: A strong Christian teenager who is not afraid to share his faith with his friends. He should be played as a frail looking youth. This part could also be played by a girl.

Peter: A doubter. This teenager is skeptical about everything. He is a friend of Chris and Paul's but he is not a Christian.

Paul: A young Christian who looks to Chris for leading. He is not afraid of his new found faith but he is not sure of how it should be exhibited in his life.

Teacher: Somewhat of an absent minded teacher who has his heart in the right place. This part can be played by either a man or a woman.

Butch: A bully who knows Chris, Peter, and Paul from school.

## Scene:

Chris, Peter, and Paul are standing outside of church just before another day of DVBS.

Peter: Can you believe how much rain we got yesterday? I mean, I thought that it would never stop raining. In fact, I was starting to wish that I had an ark in the back yard in case it didn't ever stop raining.

Chris: Speaking of arks, I think that today's lesson is on the story of Noah's ark.

Peter: Oh good. I think that the story of Noah's ark is such a cool story. Can you imagine what it would be like to have been on an ark if that story ever happened?

Paul: Don't you believe that the story of Noah's ark is true?

Peter: No way. You have got to be kidding me. *[Pointing at Paul.]* Do you believe that it's true?

Paul: Yes.

Peter: *[Pointing at Chris.]* And you?

Chris: Of course I do. I believe that every single story in the Bible is true.

Peter: You do?

Chris: Yes I do.

Peter: How can you believe that the story of Noah's ark is true?

Chris: How can you believe that it isn't true?

Peter: Think about it. Two of every single animal on the earth fitting onto one boat that was made out of wood.

Chris: What's hard to believe about that?

Paul: I don't think that it's that hard to believe, Peter. Have you ever seen some of the boats that the U.S. Navy uses these days? They are huge.

Peter: Have you ever seen a boat that was the size of the boats that Columbus came to America on? Have you ever seen how tiny they were compared to those great big navy ships? Have you ever seen how small the Viking boats really were? I mean you could fit like a hundred of them on one of our cruise ships of today. I don't think that you could fit more than a couple horses, cows, or sheep on that size boat. I just can't believe that Noah would have known how to build a boat that was big enough to fit all of those animals.

Chris: Well, first of all, the Bible says that the ark which Noah made was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Let's see, to put that size into perspective, the ark would have been about the size of Rich stadium.

Paul: Do you mean the place that the Buffalo Bills play football?

Chris: That's the place that I am talking about.

Peter: I don't believe you!

Chris: Okay, have you ever been to that stadium before?

Paul: Yeah, my uncle took Peter and I there to see a game once.

Chris: Good. Now, tell me, the football field is how long?

Paul: One hundred yards.

Chris: The end zone is how long?

Paul: Ten yards.

Chris: How much room do you think is behind the end zone?

Peter: I'd say, about ten yards.

Chris: So, add it all together and you get one hundred and forty yards, or 420 feet. The Bible says that the ark was 450 feet long. So the ark would be a little longer than the playing surface of Rich Stadium. Now, how wide do you think that the football field is?

Paul: I would say that Rich Stadium is about one hundred yards wide.

Chris: Well, the ark was only 75 feet wide. That's just 25 yards. So, there would be plenty of extra room from side to side. Now, I would say that the uprights on the field goals are about 50 feet high. The ark was 45 feet high. So, they're about the same. I think that if you filled the stadium about half way with water that the ark would fit in the water, but there would be no way for it to turn around.

Peter: Okay, so the boat was huge. But do you think that there would be enough room for [*listing*] two elephants, two giraffes, two rhinoceroses, two lions, two tigers, two cheetahs, two cougars, two horses, two cows, two of every kind of snake, two of every kind of bird, two of every kind of rodent, two of every kind of monkey, two of every kind of bear, penguins, rabbits, dogs, cats, and worms? Plus enough room for eight human beings and enough food for them and all of the animals to eat while they were on the boat? I mean, when you go to the zoo the animals are always spaced way apart. Even if you put them all close together do you still think that they would be able to fit on the ark.

Chris: I sure do. You may be thinking about the size of an adult elephant, but how big is a baby elephant? Or a baby rhino? Do you think that there would be enough room if all of the animals that were on the ark were babies?

Peter: I don't think that the Bible says that they were all babies.

Chris: But it doesn't say that they were all adults either. I believe that there were two of every animal on the ark no matter how old they were. I just want to prove to you that it is possible that two of every animal could fit on the ark.

Peter: Okay, so you proved that the animals could fit on to the ark. Do you think that all of the animals could get along with each other for the entire time that they were on the ark?

Chris: Well, I'm sure that they did, but I don't know. The Bible doesn't talk about how well the animals behaved while they were on the ark. The Bible never goes into all of the details of a story. If the Bible did, then it would take an entire lifetime to read it.

Paul: [*Looking at his watch.*] Well, it's time for us to go in. We can talk about this later.

- CURTAIN -



Scene II

Scene: Chris, Peter, and Paul are standing outside of church just after another day of DVBS.

Peter: Hey, Paul.

Paul: Yes Peter.

Peter: What did Shem say to Noah as he was fishing off of the side of the ark?

Paul: I don't know. What?

Peter: This is the only other worm father. You had better catch something this time.

[*They all laugh.*]

Paul: If I had been in Noah's position I would have taken advantage of the situation.

Chris: What do you mean?

Paul: I would have killed off a bunch of the animals that I just hate. Animals like mosquitoes, snakes, and spiders.

Chris: You have to realize that Noah had to be obedient to everything that God asked of him. You do realize that if you take any particular link out of the food chain that you can severely damage any of the links further up the chain.

Peter: What do you mean?

Chris: I mean that if there aren't any more mosquitoes, for instance, then there wouldn't be much for the bats to eat. And if there weren't any snakes, then any of the birds that live off of snakes would die.

Paul: I never thought of that.

Chris: Think of what kind of an ecological impact Noah would have caused if he wasn't 100% obedient to God's commands. You have to realize that this story is all about how we should be obedient to God.

Peter: Where do you see obedience in that story?


Chris: Come on Peter. Obedience is all over that story. Noah had to obey God's command to build the ark, then he had to obey God's command to gather the animals, then he had to obey the commandment to pack all of the animals into the ark and wait for the rain to begin, and finally he had to be patient and obey the Lord's commands after the water had begun to subside. We should try to become more like Noah. We should always be thinking of whether or not we are being obedient to God's commandments.

Paul: Hey, there's my mother. I have to go. I'll see you guys tomorrow.  
*[Chris and Peter both say good-bye as he leaves.]*

Chris: Yeah. I have to go to. Think about the story tonight. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

Peter: See ya.  
*[They exit on opposite sides of the stage.]*

- CURTAIN -



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