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## stories

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### Genesis 6-9—The Flood

The story of the great flood has captivated readers since the earlier days. The fact that multiple cultures have flood stories lets us know that there must have been a huge event. But the Bible connects the story of the flood with human disobedience, God's wrath, and his ultimate mercy.

### Matthew 4—Jesus' temptations

This too was a pivotal event in human history. Jesus had barely begun his ministry when Satan came to tempt him to satisfy his physical needs, his pride, or his lust for power and wealth and give up on his heavenly mission. What if Jesus had succumbed to Satan's temptations? Would it have been a minor delay or would it have derailed his entire mission?

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## thought questions

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1. The story says that God "regretted" making humanity and our disobedience "grieved him to his heart". How does it affect you knowing that your disobedience not only violates a law, but breaks God's heart?
2. What do you learn about God from the story of his promise never to destroy the earth by water again?
3. Satan seemed to know exactly what might tempt Jesus most. Where does Satan tempt you the most?
4. How did Jesus fight off temptation? What other "weapons" can you use to overcome Satan's temptations?

### Children's Corner

- ◆ Find as many animals as you can in your toy box or go online and print out pictures of several unique animals. What do you think about a god who cared for animals so much that he saved them on a big boat?
- ◆ What are you tempted to do or say that is wrong? Next time, why don't you say what Jesus said, "Beat it Satan! (Matthew 4:10—The Message). You better practice a little first."