

THE ARK - FULL CIRCLE
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Purpose:

God's Word doesn't change, regardless of its level of acceptance. We know judgment is coming, just like it did in Noah's time. We have a responsibility to prepare an ark of safety from that judgment for as many as will listen. Especially our loved ones.

Characters:

Noah, his wife, one of his sons and neighbor -the same people play

Husband, wife, their son, and a man

Props:

Wooden planks, back drop indicating inside face of boat with ribs exposed, hammer and nails, curved cardboard door, 2 pews. These will be placed facing the audience, down stage/right, one in front of the other but not lined up exactly. If dim lighting is used, frameless mirrors that close off the backs of the pews and extend down to the carpet make it seem as though the carpet continues on. Large item left on stage, such as an organ, dividing wall, speaker, etc. with enough space for the husband to easily hide behind.

Skit opens with stage dark. Voice begins reading off stage.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

A hammering sound begins, slowly builds in volume. Lights come up slowly. Noah kneels the middle of platform, pounds on plank on platform. On one side are two small pews back to back with "planks" stretched across them. On left side of stage is cardboard wall, rising in curve to represent inside face of boat. Arranging planks on pews is one of Noah's sons. All have robes over church clothes. Noah's wife enters

Wife: (Shouts) Noah! Noah!. Today of all days, would you stop that infernal racket? It's a feast day. I know you don't believe in the gods our neighbors serve. But they're trying to celebrate! They already know you're crazy. Must you also be rude?

Noah: Woman? After all these years, maybe one day to go and you want me to stop now? Are you crazy? It's coming! The judgment of God is coming! There's no time to waste. I sent Japeth and Shem to bring the animals we gathered. Get provisions together, get the women, get.....

Noah is interrupted by neighbor, who steps through door, looks around in disdain, finally shakes head.

Neighbor: (Mocking) Noah, my friend. So hard at work on a day of play? Building a boat where there's no water. And now your sons are out gathering two of every animal. For the preservation of

the species? Oh yes, I forgot. One of the gods will judge us. Drown us like rats. But you're so much better, you're going to be saved. Got room on board for a poor old sinner like me?

Noah (*Eager*) Yes, I do. At last. Someone believes! And just in time. When the door shuts, no man will be able to open it. Get your wife and children together! We must all be in the ark by tonight! Don't worry about food. We've got plenty.

Neighbor (*Disdainful*) You're even crazier than I thought. I was just having fun with you. I don't fear your god. Or you! Bad enough to humiliate your family with a century of raving. You really think I'm coming on board this crazy contraption? To join you as a laughingstock? What a riot. Wait till the others hear this. (*Neighbor leaves laughing*)

Noah (*Calls after him, while wife hides head in hands in embarrassment*) Come back! At least get in for a while. Don't you care about your kids?

Light goes down and the Bill Gaither song, "Build An Ark" begins to play. In the darkness, a curved cardboard door is moved outside opening of ark, planking is laid back against wall. Large items are already in position so actors can hide behind them. Mirrors behind pews will make disappearance of players seem miraculous. In dark, all actors pull off robes, drop them behind ark or pews. Stage is now a home mission's church. Mom and one son stand beside pews, not in front of them. As music comes to end, lights come up.

Wife; That was a really nice sermon, Honey. But was the time spent preparing it worthwhile? We've been here for so long, and have no converts. The other boys have been outside, trying to get someone to come in. You preach, but there's no one to listen. We're wasting our time. No one cares. And this is getting embarrassing.

Husband. Honey, I can't stop. Can't you feel it? God is coming, even as we speak. The end of the world is upon us. (*As he speaks, the same neighbor comes I, looks around, slowly, shaking head*) There's nothing left to prevent his return. And you're wrong about it being futile. My family's still safe in the bride... Hello! I didn't see you!

Man: Probably for all the crowd! Some dude outside said you had the message of a lifetime. About the end of time and judgment. Well, I think you've run out of time, Preacher. We don't like you here. This was a nice tavern till you turned it into a church for your kids. You make us uncomfortable. Find another place. Before something happens to you and I have to repent.

Husband: (*Eager*) You mean that? You feel the need to repent? Praise God!

Man: (*Backs up*) You nuts? Keep away from me. I don't apologize to anyone. Take more than you to scare me into joining your crazy religion. A flood? Maybe. But not this rinky-dink outfit. (*Turns and leaves through Ark door*)

Husband: Come back, Friend! Don't you understand?

(First notes of song "I Wish We'd All Been Ready" by DC Talk, begins to play. Husband moves by large item)

Husband: Doesn't anyone understand? (*Head comes up as though he hear something*) What's that?

(Wife and son also listen intently. All turn to look at doorway to ark as outside door slowly begins to rise and fill void. Doorway comes to rest with a loud thud. Instantly, all lights go off, lightning flashes across the

auditorium, a sustained trumpet blast is heard, lights comes back up to an empty stage . Lightning is made by aiming camera flash at small mirror, bouncing light across auditorium with series of small mirrors aimed at each other.

When lightening stops and lights are up, husband is gone behind large object, wife and son are concealed behind pews. Lights dim again as first words of song sound. Sound of hammering on door and screaming heard, first soft, then growing louder, and then fading away as the first words are sung. The song slowly fades away as light dims to nothing. In darkness, players exit stage.