

TEN MINUTES IN THE BIBLE SERIES

BUT IT HASN'T RAINED IN MONTHS

Reflection:

Sometimes we judge what is possible by what we see today. But faith asks us to consider what might be coming tomorrow.

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BUT IT HASN'T RAINED IN MONTHS

By J.S. Jacklin

10-minute play inspired by Genesis 6: 9-22

Everyone thought Noah was crazy... until it DID rain.

CHARACTERS: (1m, 1f, 2m/f)

NOAH	Male (tunic with workshop apron - <i>faithful, skilled and kind.</i>)
NEIGHBOUR 1	Male or Female (tunic - <i>curious, easily influenced, increasingly frightened.</i>)
NEIGHBOUR 2	Male or Female (tunic - <i>certain, dismissive, sarcastic, convinced he knows better.</i>)
NOAH'S WIFE	Female (tunic - <i>exasperated, faithful, doing her best</i>)

SETTING:

On a dry acreage of land.

SOUND & LIGHTING: There are several sound and lighting cues. They can be provided manually using a metal sheet off stage and flickering the lights or use rain and thunder sound effects played through a speaker.

NOAH *is at a bench, hammering a large piece of wood.* NEIGHBOUR 1 ENTERS.)

NEIGHBOUR 1 Good morning, Noah.

NOAH Good morning.

NEIGHBOUR 1 What are you up too?

NOAH Just finishing a bench for my wife.

NEIGHBOUR 1 Oh, is it your anniversary?

NOAH No. Nothing like that. It's for her to sit on... on the ark.

NEIGHBOUR 1 What ark?

NOAH The one over there. (*Points out to audience.*)

NEIGHBOUR 1 That's an ark? I thought it was a new subdivision.

NOAH Well, in a way it is.

NEIGHBOUR 1 Where did it come from?

NOAH I built it.

NEIGHBOUR 1 You!

NOAH I know. I'm pretty amazed myself.

NEIGHBOUR 1 I didn't know you had the skill set to built something... well, like that.

NOAH Neither did I, to be honest.

ENTER NEIGHBOUR 2

NEIGHBOUR 2 Have you two seen the monstrosity over there? (*Points out to audience.*) I've seen better looking animal shelters than—

NEIGHBOUR 1 Noah calls it an ark.

NEIGHBOUR 2 What's an ark?

NOAH A boat.

NEIGHBOUR 2 That is no boat. That's a...

NEIGHBOUR 1 New subdivision.

NOAH It's a *big* boat.

NEIGHBOUR 1 Noah said he built it.

NEIGHBOUR 2 Who authorized that?

NOAH God.

NEIGHBOUR 2 Of course He did. (*Chuckles.*)

NOAH He did!

NEIGHBOUR 2 Did you get a permit?

NEIGHBOUR 1 He's right, Noah. You can't build something that big without a permit.

NEIGHBOUR 2 No matter how *ugly*.

NOAH I would call, what I received, as... more permission, than a permit.

NEIGHBOUR 2 From who?

NOAH God.

NEIGHBOUR 2 (*Sarcastic.*) Naturally.

NEIGHBOUR 1 God talks to you?

NOAH He sure does.

NEIGHBOUR 2 Yeah, right. How did you know how to build one of these?

NOAH God told me.

NEIGHBOUR 1 He gave you blueprints?

NOAH He provided very detailed instructions.

NEIGHBOUR 2 You're crazy! Hearing voices that... well, you're just crazy!

NOAH We'll see.

NEIGHBOUR 2 Where did you get the wood?

NOAH God told me.

NEIGHBOUR 1 For free?

NEIGHBOUR 2 And he told you to build a boat... HERE?

NEIGHBOUR 1 He has a point, Noah. We are nowhere near water.

NOAH Apparently, it is going to rain.

NEIGHBOUR 1 It hasn't rained here in months.

NEIGHBOUR 2 How do you know about the rain?

NOAH/NEIGHBOUR 2 God told me!

NEIGHBOUR 2 (*Laughs.*) I think you may have gone a little overboard with an ark.
(*Laughs.*) An umbrella would suffice for the amount of rain we get.

NOAH (*Smiles.*) I best finish up here.

NEIGHBOUR 1 I best go get an umbrella.

NEIGHBOUR 2 (*To NEIGHBOUR 1.*) Don't be ridiculous!

NOAH An umbrella won't be enough - not for *this* amount of rain.

NEIGHBOUR 2 Oh, so not just a drizzle or shower - we're talking TORRENTIAL are we? Is that the word He used, Noah? Torrential? (*Chuckles.*) In our non-rainy season?

NOAH Not *that* word, exactly. But, yes, that is what He inferred.

NEIGHBOUR 2 So all this, because of some... inference you received... via...

NOAH I think I'm in good hands.

NEIGHBOUR 1 So, like, when these *torrential* rains come, Noah, who all is going on your boat? Looks like there's lots of room.

NOAH My wife and I, of course.

NEIGHBOUR 1 Of course.

NEIGHBOUR 2 Oh, so all this is about a little romantic get-away for you and the Mrs.? Don't let that get out.

NOAH Our three sons and their wives will be joining us.

NEIGHBOUR 2 You're all going to cruise together? Under one roof? With all those women?

NEIGHBOUR 1 If nothing else, you're a brave man, Noah!

NOAH We will be fine.

NEIGHBOUR 1 It's a big boat for just eight people.

NOAH That's who God said I was to build it for.

NEIGHBOUR 2 So you were hand-picked by... the man upstairs?

NOAH It's God's will.

NEIGHBOUR 1 So nobody else is going with you? Neighbours? Friends?

NOAH Well, there'll be all the animals.

NEIGHBOUR 2 What animals?

NOAH The ones which God has provided.

NEIGHBOUR 1 Even lions?

NOAH Yes.