

Patience: Noah: Genesis Chapter 8 Verses 6-13

Noah and his family were in lockdown – and we all know what that feels like, don't we?!

They had self-isolated to be safe from a world-wide flood, and now they'd been shut up together for longer than anyone really wanted to be. Noah and his family were grateful that they were all safe, but they were desperate to get out of the ark and get on with their normal lives...whatever the new normal was going to be. It had been a challenging time and they had to have patience with each other stuck as they were inside one ship ...with all those animals! And all that noise....! And all those SMELLS! They also had to have patience with God. They knew that God would bring this to an end but when....?!

After forty days of lockdown, Noah opened a window in the ark and sent out a raven, but it kept flying back and forth as the flood hadn't yet gone down and it could find nowhere to land. This was a disappointment, but Noah was just going to have to wait a little longer. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to land either and so it returned to the ark. They were all disappointed, but they knew they just had to continue being patient. So, Noah waited another seven days and sent out the dove again and when it returned the dove had a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak! This was great news as it meant the flood was going down and there were trees out there.

But Noah and his family still had to be patient, they needed to be sure that this wasn't just a blip, a one off... So Noah waited another seven days and then sent out the dove again. This time it did not return, and Noah was sure that it was safe.

Then God said to Noah 'Come out of the ark, all of you: you, your wife and your sons' wives'. Their patience had been rewarded. It had been a long wait; it had taken courage and resilience, but they were all safe and well. As they looked back it had all seemed worth it – and they knew that one day, it would be a distant memory. The first thing Noah did was to give thanks to God and then God set a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of his promise, that never again would a flood destroy the earth.

