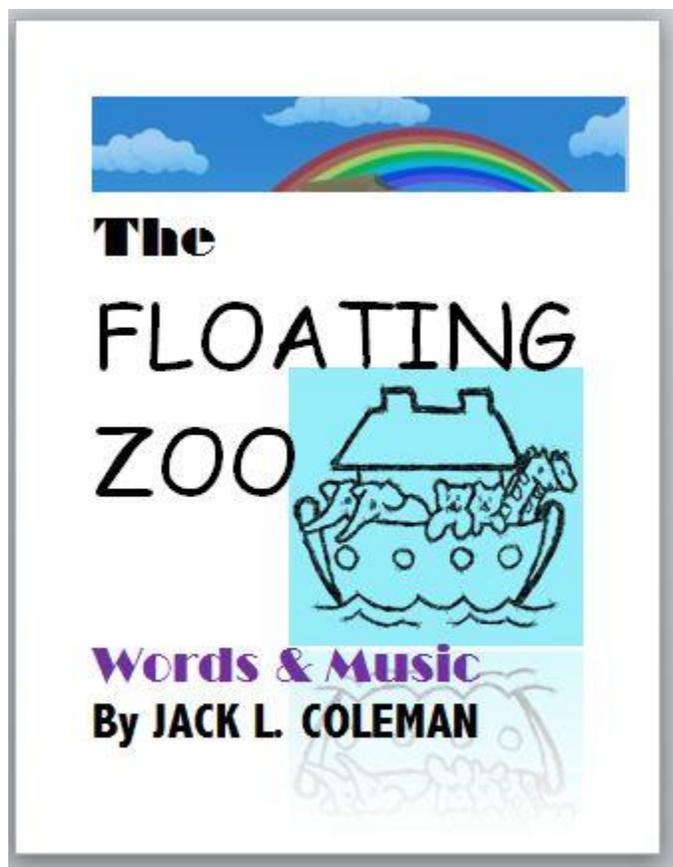


# THE FLOATING ZOO

Lyrics, Narration, Dialogue and Staging

Words & Music by Jack L. Coleman



# THE FLOATING ZOO

NARRATOR: Don't you know that there's a little bit of greatness  
that's put inside of every one?  
Everybody's got a whole lot of potential.  
If you think you can - you probably can!  
Everybody adds a little bit to hist'ry  
When they realize their goal.  
All down through the ages, God has used His people  
Ev'rybody's played their role!

Adam had his apple - Jonah had his whale  
Moses had his magic staff.  
Daniel had his lion - David had his sling shot  
Sarah had her child at last!  
Everybody knows the story of the Ark  
That waterlogged menagerie!  
Noah and his family led them two by two  
And changed the course of history.

## SONG - 1: TWO BY TWO

CHOIR: Two by two; that's me and you!  
Now this is the original Floating Zoo.  
Two by two  
That's me and you!  
Yeah, this is the original Floating Zoo.

Adam had his apple  
Jonah had his whale  
Noah built his giant ark  
And therein lies our tale!

Two by two; that's me and you!  
Now this is the original Floating Zoo.  
Two by two  
That's me and you!  
Yeah, this is the original Floating Zoo!

Optional lyric:

Two by two; that's me and you!  
Now we are all descendants from the Floating Zoo!  
Two by two  
That's me and you  
Now we are all a part of the original Floating Zoo!

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NARRATOR: In the days of Noah, a great population explosion had taken place upon the earth. The crime rate was rising rapidly and, as seen by God, the world was rotten to the core. When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness and that the trend and direction of men's lives were only towards evil, He was sorry He had created them.

But because Noah was the only righteous man on earth at that time, he was a pleasure to the Lord. So God told him to build a giant Ark so that he and his family could escape the coming mighty flood.

In order to protect and insure the future of His creatures, God told Noah to bring into the Ark a pair of all animals -- a male and female of every species living on the earth.

(the underlined portion of this last sentence should be spoken slowly and deliberately, emphasizing the point.)

Pause.

Now, you've gotta feel sorry for a guy in this position. I mean, as if building a giant boat wasn't hard enough, the poor fellow then had to round up a pair of all living animals. Well..... you can just imagine how he must have felt.

Staging directions: Stage is in darkness. Spotlight on Noah for solo, "Why Did You Pick on Me?" A multi-media slide presentation showing different kinds of animals could be very effective during the tune.

**SONG - 2: OH LORD WHY DID YOU PICK ON ME?**

NOAH, solo: The task that You have given me  
Is extremely hard to meet.  
Do You realize just what I'll have to do?  
To find each kind of animal is not so very neat  
When I have to lead them gently two by two.

CHOIR An aardvark and a camel, A chipmunk and a snake?  
And try to catch two ducks upon a lake!  
If even one would miss the boat, 'twould be a tragedy

NOAH Oh Lord why did You pick on me?

CHOIR A leopard and a tiger, A beetle and a snail?  
Just try to swing a rhino by the tail!  
It looks like he's the chaperon, For this whole menagerie

NOAH Oh Lord why did You pick on me?

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NOAH: The task that You have given me  
Is extremely hard to meet.  
Do You realize just what I'll have to do?  
To find each kind of animal is not so very neat  
When I have to lead them gently two by two.

CHOIR Now, Noah's got a problem, When he tries to catch a bull.  
He'll have to grab the horns and start to pull.  
But what if he decides to charge and Noah has to flee?

NOAH Oh Lord why did You pick on me?

CHOIR A monkey and a lion, A hopping kangaroo.  
Just try to lead two hippos two by two!  
It looks like he's the captain  
Of the world's first Floating Zoo

NOAH I wish the Lord had pick on you!

NOAH: The task that You have given me  
Is extremely hard to meet.  
Do You realize just what I'll have to do?  
To find each kind of animal is not so very neat  
When I have to lead them gently two by two.

Staging directions: End of tune. Stage blacked out. Pause. Spot on NARRATOR.

NARRATOR: Try to put yourself in Noah's sandals. How would you react if God had told you to build a giant Ark? First of all, would you do it? And, if you did, what would your neighbors think? And what would your wife have to say?

Staging directions: Blackout, complete. Stage dimly lit with spotlights on Noah and his wife.

## DIALOGUE

ZELDA: Alright, Noah! You've pulled some wild stunts in your day, but this takes the cake! Claiming that God told you to build that boat! This time you've really gone bananas!

NOAH: But Zelda it's true. You've gotta believe me!

ZELDA: The only thing I believe is that we're gonna be thrown out of our

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condominium! The manager wouldn't even let us keep our parakeet, so what makes you think he's gonna let you build that -- (acts flustered) that -- Ark! And in the middle of the street yet! The neighbors had been complaining to the manager and I don't blame them! The way you keep pounding on that hunk of timber day and night! It's driving me -- and everybody else around here -- up the wall!

NOAH: Yes, but --

ZELDA: And another thing! If you think I'm gonna play house-mother to those wretched animals you are collecting -- you're crazy! You bring one more animal around here and I'm going home to mother.

NOAH: Zelda! Where's your sense of loyalty? You promised to love me for better or worse.

ZELDA: Yeah, well I'd like a little more 'better' and a lot less 'worse'. For instance, here you are, six hundred years old and you haven't collected a dime of social security!

NOAH: Go ahead! Make your little jokes. But remember, I gave you three good sons!

ZELDA: And that's another thing! Those names! Shem, Japeth and Ham!

They sound like leftovers from yesterday's breakfast!

(looks over her shoulder as if signaling an imaginary waitress)

Miss, I'll have the shem and japeth, but hold the ham.

NOAH: All right, that's it! I've had it! I'm gonna get out of here before I really say something I'm sorry for! I'm sick of your negative attitude! I'd like to see you just once face the world with a smile instead of that glare of yours!

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You think about that while I'm gone!

(walks out, slamming the door behind him)

ZELDA: (Sighs, then starts talking to the audience during the intro to her solo)

He doesn't seem to realize that I get mad at him because I worry about him so much. And it's because I love him that I worry.

## SONG - 3: ZELDA'S LAMENT

ZELDA: How dare he expect me to sit back and smile  
While he goes out to chase all the beast of the wild.  
I feel so helpless - Lord, what can I do?  
He may be hors-d'ouvres for a lion or two!

He goes out each morning - does Heaven know what!  
Comes home, then starts building that oversized yacht.  
Oh God, please protect him, he's all that I've got  
Oh Lord give him strength 'cause he's all that I've got.

(spoken) How can I relax when he goes out each day

Combing the jungles to find beasts of prey?

He's out at all hours - I'm sure he'll catch cold.

But he does pretty well for six hundred years old!

(sung) He goes out each evening - finds Heaven knows what!  
Come home, then starts building that oversized yacht.  
He does have his faults but he's all that I've got.  
Oh God, please protect him, he's all that I've got.

Staging directions: Blackout, complete. Spotlight on NARRATOR.

NARRATOR: Noah's neighbors -- and even his friends -- turned against him, mocking him for his faith and trust in God. They themselves didn't believe in God, let alone that a flood was soon to cover the earth.

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Staging directions: Blackout. Out of the darkness the sounds of a mocking crowd are heard. Gradually bring up the stage lights. The choir portraying the mocking crowd, speaks the following.

## **SONG - 4: A MIGHTY FLOOD**

(spoken or sung) He's had a conversation with a God who claims to be  
Creator of the Universe, The mountains and the sea.  
He says this God will send a flood  
And wash us all away!

He's even built this fancy boat  
Preparing for the day  
His God will send a mighty flood  
To wash us all away!

Staging directions: Blackout. Spotlight on NARRATOR.

NARRATOR: Noah's sons were outraged when they saw their father mocked by his  
disbelieving neighbors and friends - they were determined to get even. With  
anger in their hearts, they offered this vengeful retort.

(Shem sing the first verse of: I Will Have the Last Laugh, and Ham and Japeth sing the second  
and third verses, respectively)

## **SONG - 5: I WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH**

SHEM: I WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH, I will have the last laugh.  
We'll be safe and sound  
while the rest of you have drowned.  
You'll be swallowing water by the pound.

HAM: I WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH, I will have the last laugh.  
I think that you should know  
That you'll soon be eating crow.  
So you better start learning how to row.

JEPETH: I WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH, I will have the last laugh.  
Dad warned you so you'd know  
But because you wouldn't go  
You'll be up to your necks in H 2 O !

La - la - la - la - la - la - la.

Staging directions: Blackout. Spotlight on NARRATOR.

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NARRATOR: Upon hearing this Noah became very sad, for he had always tried to teach his boys to be kind and forgiving.

Pause.

Noah knew that it was definitely time for a family conference.

## DIALOGUE

NOAH: Listen, fellahs, I appreciate your loyalty, but your attitude is all wrong.

Mrs JAPETH: Yeah, you guys really laid it on 'em!

Mrs SHEM: Well, if you ask me, they had it coming!

Mrs HAM: Yep! We should be pretty proud of our husbands.

(Simultaneously, the sons and their wives verbally agree. Suddenly, Noah interrupts)

NOAH: Don't you see - this is why I called you all together. You really need to change your attitude. God doesn't want His children to be vengeful, He wants us to love everybody -- even those who turn against us.

SHEM: You mean (slight pause) He wants us to love our enemies?

NOAH: Exactly! As true believers, God wants us to love others just as He loves us.

(As the intro to "God is a God of Love" begins, the stage lights fade with the spot remaining on Noah as he sings)

## SONG - 6: GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE

NOAH: God is a God of love,  
God is a God of love.  
His arms are extended; He wants to forgive  
That's because He's a God of love.

(As the CHOIR joins in the repeat, the stage lights gradually brighten. At the end of the song, the stage lights darken and the spot is once again on the NARRATOR)

NARRATOR: The time had finally come for Noah, his family and all the animals to march into the giant ship. With Noah as the Grand Marshall, the greatest and most unique parade in history was about to begin.

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Staging directions: The house lights gradually brighten as the intro to “We Are the Animals” begins. The second choir, dressed in animal costumes, standing two by two in the center aisle, remains stationary during the intro. As they begin to sing, they march up the center aisle and into the Ark.

## SONG - 7: WE ARE THE ANIMALS

CHOIR: We are the animals - we’re going for a trip  
We are the animals - we’re boarding Noah’s ship.  
For forty days and forty nights we’ll all be safe and dry.  
We are the animals - and we must say goodbye.

Chorus:

We are the animals  
We are the animals  
We are the animals  
And we must say goodbye.

(the animals keep singing until all of them are in the Ark)

Staging directions: (House lights fade out. Spotlight on NARRATOR.)

NARRATOR: Soon after Noah, his family and all the animals had gone into the boat, the rain came down in mighty torrents. (Slight pause) For forty days the roaring floods prevailed, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth.

Pause. Needless to say, this was not exactly a pleasure cruise for Noah and his family -- and his dear wife did NOT make it any easier.

Staging directions: (Spot on NARRATOR fades out. Stage lights brighten gradually with spots on NOAH and ZELDA)

## DIALOGUE

ZELDA: (Bellowing in exasperated tones) BOY, this is a long trip! Just think -- thirty more days of (motions with her hands) UP and down, UP and down, Up and --

NOAH: STOP that! You’re making me seasick!

ZELDA: I’M making YOU seasick! YOU’RE the one that said this would be like a second honeymoon. SOME honeymoon! Forty days and GLORIOUS nights cooped up in this sea-going wonder with an endless parade of stinking

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animals! And you haven't LIVED until you've tried to force-feed a baby porcupine at two in the morning!

NOAH: Well, I must admit -- it HAS been rather trying; but, consider the alternative.

ZELDA: Yeah, I suppose frowning beats drowning!

NOAH: That's right! And, who know, somebody may write book about this one day - - but I'm afraid no one's gonna believe it!

(the animals keep singing until all of them are in the Ark. Segue to Noah's next solo)

## SONG - 8: OH LORD I'M GLAD YOU PICKED ON ME

CHOIR: An aardvark and a camel, A chipmunk and two snakes  
On top of that, I must endure while Zelda bellyaches!  
We've only been at sea ten days, but it seems like ninety-three.  
Despite is all, I'm glad You picked on me!

It sounds like I'm complaining, but that just isn't true.  
Your orders I will follow Lord, just tell me what to do.  
I'll gladly be the chaperon, for this whole menagerie.  
So Lord, I'm glad You picked on me!

ZELDA: A monkey and a lion - -  
A screaming cockatoo!  
I'd like to see you try to nurse a baby kangaroo!

Points to NOAH It looks like he's the captain  
Of the world's first Floating Zoo.  
Oh Lord, what am I gonna do?

## DIALOGUE

NOAH: Do you really want to know what to do?

ZELDA: Yeah!

NOAH: Alright then.

NOAH: sings You've got to start believing --  
The Lord's a God of love.  
He's leading and He's guiding us  
From His great throne above.  
We're all here for a purpose  
Oh Zelda can't you see?  
That's why I'm glad He picked on me!

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## DIALOGUE

ZELDA: I think I'm beginning to see what you mean. You're not the captain of this ship at all. (Points upward with her index finger) He is!

NOAH: That's right! And all we have to do is put our faith in Him.

(Segue to next tune)

## SONG - 9: HE'S THE CAPTAIN – WE'RE THE CREW

CHOIR: As we sail along on the ship of life  
Big waves com and big waves go.  
But if we're living the righteous life  
There's no need to worry, because we know that

He's the Captain -- we're the crew  
He's the One Who's gonna see us through.  
If we'll live just one day at a time,  
Everything will turn out fine.

If it seems our troubles are here to stay  
There's only one thing to do.  
If we'll humble ourselves and get down to pray,  
We can rest assured He'll see us through, because

He's the Captain -- we're the crew  
He's the One Who's gonna see us through.  
If we'll live just one day at a time,  
Everything will turn out fine.

As we look beyond to the days ahead  
As the years turn into goals,  
We'd better keep in mind that we've always been led  
By the One up above Who saved our souls - remember

He's the Captain -- we're the crew  
He's the One Who's gonna see us through.  
If we'll live just one day at a time  
Everything will turn out fine.

(Spot on NARRATOR)

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NARRATOR: God didn't forget about Noah and all the animals in the boat. Soon, He sent a wind to blow across the waters, and the floods began to disappear, for the subterranean water sources ceased their gushing, and the torrential rains subsided. The flood gradually receded until, 150 days after it began, the boat came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. (Slight pause)

Three months later, as the waters continued to recede, other mountain peaks appeared. (Slight pause)

Seven days later Noah released the dove again, and this time, towards evening, the bird returned to him with an olive leaf in her beak. A week later he released the dove again, and this time she didn't come back. Noah then knew that the flood finally had ceased. (Slight pause)

God then promised Noah that He would never again cover the earth with a flood and, as a sign of this eternal promise, He placed a rainbow in the sky.

(Spotlight out. During the intro to "Smiling Through the Raindrops", the stage lights gradually brighten)

## **SONG - 10: SMILING THROUGH THE RAINDROPS**

CHOIR: Forty days with each a night,  
and the earth is out of sight;  
And we haven't seen the light we through we would!  
But God promised us a sign,  
and He'll cause the sun to shine;  
And His love will bring us everything that's good!

So we'll keep

Smiling through the raindrops,  
Looking for the rainbow,  
Waiting for the promise that He gave.

(These last three lines are repeated throughout the rest of the song)

(Spot on NARRATOR)

NARRATOR: The day soon came when Noah's family and all the animals could, once again, step out on dry land. It was a time for rejoicing, for Creation's Parade was about to resume -- a parade in which all of God's creatures would march until the end of time!

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(Staging: The door of the Ark opens, the gangplank lowers, and out steps Noah followed by his family. The animals then strut out of the Ark and don the center aisle two by two, singing the reprise to "We Are the Animals")

**SONG - 11: WE ARE THE ANIMALS**

CHOIR: We are the animals - we've all been on a trip  
We are the animals - we're leaving Noah's ship.  
For forty days and forty nights we've all been safe and dry.  
We are the animals - and we must say goodbye.

Chorus:

We are the animals  
We are the animals  
We are the animals  
And we must say goodbye.

The animals keep singing until they – the animals – have taken their seats / or left the sanctuary

(Spot on the NARRATOR)

NARRATOR: In the minds of many, Bible accounts - such as the story of Noah's Ark -- are thought of as nothing more than legends and fairy tales. And yet, many of these well-meaning people have never even opened a Bible - let alone read one. My question is, How can people disbelieve something they have never even read? The Bible clearly states that man's existence on planet Earth is definitely part of God's great plan -- a plan that includes each and every one of us.

**SONG - 12: WE ARE THE ANIMALS**

CHOIR: Floating through oceans of unending space  
Controlled by His strong and His almighty hand.  
Spinning in orbit with beauty and grace.  
Oh help me to understand.

Our course has been chartered in heavens beyond,  
Just as the prophets of old have foretold.  
Whirling through space while His plan is fulfilled  
The future His hands will mold.

Spinning in orbit while hist'ry repeats,  
As if in some great awesome plan.  
Now, as in Noah's day, spirits conflict  
It's all in His mighty plan.

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He said He would come as a thief in the night,  
Leaving the godless and evil behind.  
Taking His children to heavens beyond,  
To places not yet explored.

(Spot on the NARRATOR)

**NARRATOR:** During the most torrential flood in man's history, God provided an Ark which served as a place of safety and refuge for Noah and his family. God has also provided an Ark for us - the Lord Jesus Christ - One who will guide and protect us all through our lives.

**SONG - 13: LIVE YOUR LIFE IN HIM**

**CHOIR:** Live your life in Him, my friend  
Live your life in Him.  
You can make it through each storm, my friend  
If you'll live your life in Him.

Like the family who lived inside the Ark,  
To escape the raging flood.  
You can live your life in Jesus Christ  
And be covered by His blood.

Live your life in Him, my friend  
Live your life in Him.  
You can make it through each storm, my friend  
If you'll live your life in Him.

Like the Ark that sailed so long ago,  
Protecting all inside;  
The Lord could be your Ark today,  
And forever be your Guide.

Live your life in Him, my friend.  
Live your life in Him.  
You can make it through each storm, my friend  
If you'll live your life in Him.

**NARRATOR:** Living your life in Him will be a totally new and exciting adventure. The time is now to say "yes" to the Lord Jesus, for He alone is our Everlasting Ark of Safety.

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**SONG - 14: THE TIME IS NOW**

CHOIR: The time is now to give your heart,  
The time is now to do your part;  
For Jesus Christ the Lord of life,  
The time is now.

The time is now you should decide,  
The time is now, nothing to hide  
From Jesus Christ the Lord of life,  
The time is now.

During the final, the entire cast – including the animals – reunite on the stage, accepting the thunderous ovation.

**SONG - 15: TWO BY TWO – Reprise**

CHOIR: Two by two; that's me and you!  
Now this is the original Floating Zoo.  
Two by two  
That's me and you!  
Yeah, this is the original Floating Zoo.

Adam had his apple  
Jonah had his whale  
Noah built his giant ark  
And therein lies our tale!

Two by two; that's me and you!  
Now this is the original Floating Zoo.  
Two by two  
That's me and you!  
Yeah, this is the original Floating Zoo!

Final suggestion: have your church leader give a brief message (5 minutes) to the congregation to wrap up the meeting: As well as remind those attending that our Lord said, as in the Days of Noah, so shall it be when He comes again.