

Noah and the Ark

Teacher Pep Talk: Noah and the Ark may be the best known Bible Story of all time! But, it's more than just a story about the world's first floating zoo... Noah and his family (8 souls in all) were saved from the judgment of God (The Flood) which destroyed the rest of mankind. Noah, his family, and all of the animals were safe in the ark. Later, after they left the Ark, God promised that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. He put His rainbow in the sky as a sign of the promise He made between Him and every creature on the earth.

Teacher's NOTE: This lesson may be divided into 2 lessons: "Noah and the Ark" & "God Keeps His Promises." Divide the story at the Flood (or roughly in half) use appropriate activities for each lesson.
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You will need: Bible (also various supplies depending on activities chosen)

Major Points: God Keeps His Promises
Noah was a Good Man/ Other People were Evil
God Decided to Send a Flood
Noah Built an Ark/ The Animals Came in 2 By 2
The Flood Came and Went
Noah, His Family, and the Animals were Safe in the Ark
God Sent His Rainbow as a Promise

Scripture Ref: Genesis: Chapters 6:9 – 9:17

Memory Verse: Genesis 9:13 "I have set my rainbow in the clouds..."

Lesson: **Introduction – God Keeps His Promises**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- Today we are going to talk about promises. What is a promise? *(Wait for answers, then give the definition.)* A promise is when you say you will do something, and then you do it.
- Have you ever made a promise? *(Wait for answers.)* Did you keep your promise? How long did you keep it?
- When God makes a promise, He keeps it FOREVER.

Noah was a Good Man/ Other People were Evil

- The Bible tells us that after Cain killed Abel, all the people on the earth got worse and worse and worse. Eventually all they did all day long was wrong and wicked.
- God looked down on the earth and saw all this wickedness.
- But God found one man who was good: Noah.

- Noah had a wife, and they had 3 sons. His 3 sons also had wives. So, altogether, there were 8 people in Noah's family. *(Show adding up all the people on your fingers. Have the children do the same and show you eight. Count to eight.)*

God Decided to Send a Flood

- Because of all the evil, God told Noah that He was going to send a flood to destroy everything on the earth that breathed.
- But God wanted to save Noah and his family.
- God also wanted to save 2 of each of the animals.
- So God told Noah to build an ark (a long wooden box-like boat)
- The Ark was to have rooms in it for the animals, and for Noah and his family. It was also supposed to carry all the food they would need during the time they would be in the ark.
- The Ark was going to be REALLY big! It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall *(That's 1 ½ football fields long, about half a football field wide, and about 4 stories tall.)*
- It was so big that it took Noah 100 years to build the Ark!

Noah Built the Ark/ The Animals Came in 2 By 2

- Noah built the ark, just like God had said
- When everything was ready, God told Noah and his family to go into the Ark.
- Then the animals came to Noah and went into the Ark.
- Two of each kind of animal came: One male and one female
- After Noah and the animals were in the Ark, God shut the door

The Flood Came and Went

- Then, the flood came... just like God had promised
- The Bible says that the springs of the deep broke open and water burst forth and that it rained for 40 days and 40 nights
- *[See Activity – Make rain sounds here.]*
- The water came higher and higher until finally it lifted up the Ark and carried it along on the top of the water
- Everyone and everything on the earth was covered with water
- But Noah and his family, and all the animals in the ark were safe
- After 40 days and nights the rains stopped
- Eventually the water began to go away and the Ark came to rest on the top of Mt. Ararat. Finally, the land became dry again.

Noah, His Family, and the Animals were All Safe

- God had kept Noah, his family and all the animals safe from the Flood in the Ark!
- At last it was safe for Noah and the animals to come out of the Ark. They had been inside the Ark for 1 year and 10 days!

(That's like from one birthday to the next... or from one Christmas to the next... That's a long time!)

- How happy they must have been to get out of the Ark! *(How do you think the animals would have acted as they got off the Ark? Would they have run out? Would they have made noises?)*

God Sent His Rainbow as a Promise

- Noah, his wife, his sons and all their wives came out of the Ark
- They were very happy! They were alive and they had the whole world to themselves! They had everything!
- Noah praised God and thanked Him for bringing them through the flood and saving them during His judgment of the world
- Then God made a promise. God promised that He would NEVER again destroy the world with a flood
- As a token of His promise, God put the rainbow in the sky
- Now, when we see the rainbow, we can always remember God's promise NEVER again to destroy the world with a flood
- God ALWAYS keeps His promises

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises.
Thank you that you love us!
We love you back!
Amen

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1-2 that will work with your group.)*

Big Picture Idea – *The children will recreate the Ark in your classroom*

Before Class: Gather up lots of stuffed animals and take them to the classroom. Clear an area of the classroom, except for some chairs.

During Class: Recreate the Ark with the children by setting up the chairs so that they create the shape of a boat. Point the seats towards the inside of the boat. (Leave the back end of the boat open.) Explain to the children that you are working with Noah, and that it is time to put the animals in the Ark. Have the children come and get the stuffed animals and bring them into the "Ark." (Quick, before it rains!) Place them on the floor or in the chairs. Now everyone get inside of the Ark! (Close up the back end.) Now you are all safe! Sing songs and have snacks as you weather the storm!

Snacks: Animal Crackers... (What else?)
Consider dipping them in little spoonfuls of frosting on a plate (Yummy!)

Exiting the Ark

Show how happy the animals would have been getting out of the Ark. Make believe you are an elephant, a tiger, a hippo... what sounds would you make?

Rain Noises – *The children will make sounds of a rainstorm. Do this during lesson!*

(Rain starts quietly and gets louder and louder)

At first, it is very quiet... then rub your hands together lightly; then begin to snap fingers; now pat hands on legs; finally, stomp feet really loudly!

(Rain dies down and stops)

The children are stomping their feet loudly, then change to patting hands on legs, next go to snapping fingers, and lastly rub hands together lightly... Gradually get quieter and quieter... Now silence....Shhh!

Song: **Oh, Noah, He Built Him an Arky-Arky-Arky***
(Sung to the tune of "Rise and Shine, and Give God the Glory")

Oh, the LORD said to Noah, "There's gonna be a flood-y, flood-y"
LORD said to Noah, "There's gonna be a flood-y, flood-y!"
"Get those children... out of the muddy, muddy!"
Children of the LORD.

So, Noah, He built him an ark-y, ark-y, ark-y.
Noah, He built him an ark-y, ark-y, ark-y
Built it out of... Hickory Bark-y, bark-y
Children of the LORD.

The animals they came in by 2's, by 2's, by 2's
The animals they came in by 2's, by 2's, by 2's
The elephants and... kangaroos-y, roo-sies
Children of the LORD.

It rained and rained for 40 days and days
It rained and rained for 40 days and days
It nearly drove those... animals crazy-crazy
Children of the LORD.

The sun came out and dried up the land-y, land-y,
Sun came out and dried up the land-y, land-y,
Everything was... fine and dandy, dandy
Children of the LORD.

So, rise and shine and give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine and... give God the glory, glory
Children of the LORD!

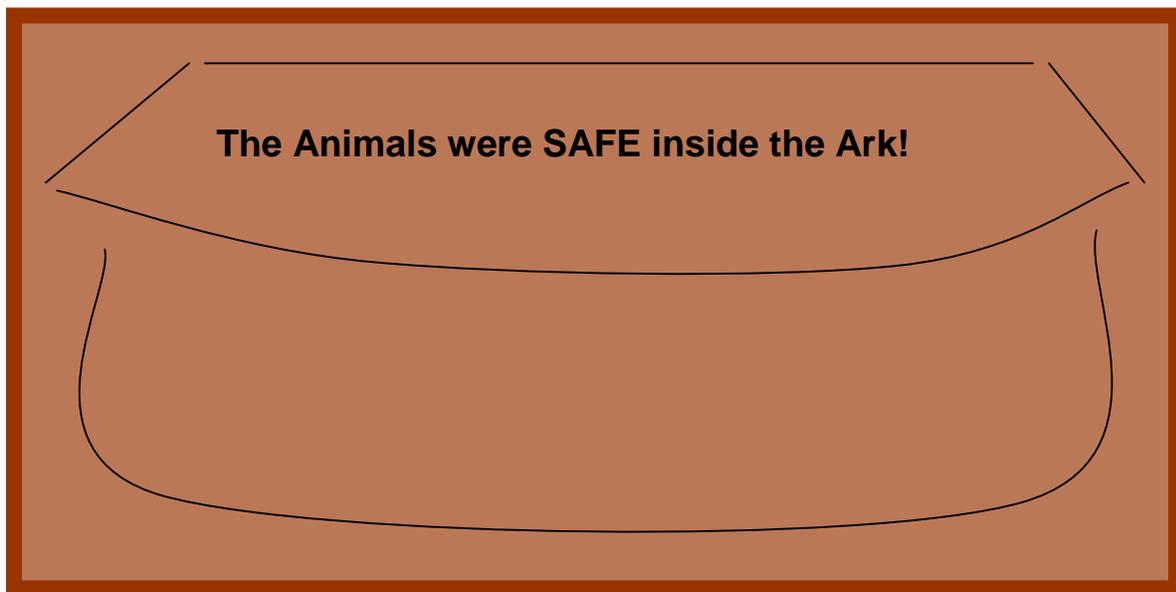
*There are various versions of this song... but this is the one I learned when I was little!

Make Animals – *The children will make various animals to put inside of the ark.*

Before Class: Obtain pictures of various animals; lions, and tigers, and bears (oh, my) as well as birds, deer, cows, horses, sheep, goats, cats, dogs, etc. Bring the pictures to class. Provide paper, cotton balls, glue, crayon, scissors, markers, feathers, and yarn. Consider providing a place in the room to display the finished animals.

During Class: Allow the children study the various pictures of animals. Identify them together. Let the children draw one of the animals they see, or one that they choose. Allow the option of using items to decorate their pictures: cotton balls for sheep, feathers for birds, yarn for lion's mane, etc. Cut out animals and display in the room.

IDEA: Create an "Ark" in your room by placing a large piece of brown paper on a bulletin board with the words "Inside the Ark" or "The Animals were Safe inside the Ark."



Make a Rainbow– *The children will color a rainbow using the activity sheet*

Before Class: Provide copies of the activity sheet for each child. Also provide colors, glue, and cotton balls. You might consider using watercolors for this activity.

NOTE: *If you are going to use watercolors, you will probably have to glue the cotton balls onto the paper after it has dried. If so, you might consider doing this activity over two different class periods: one to watercolor and one to glue on the cotton balls.*

During Class: Allow the children to color the rainbow and to glue cotton balls onto the cloud. Discuss how God always keeps His promises! (*Allow to dry and take home.*)

God Keeps His Promises!

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. - Genesis 9: 13

