



LIVING THE WORD

*Exploring God's Story Together
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1*



Leader's Guide

Sample Lesson

Lesson #1-1—September 11, 2022

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Lesson #1-1

NOAH AND THE ARK

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17



Key Verse:

[God said] “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

Genesis 9:11

The Point:

We can trust that God cares for creation and will never again destroy the earth.

Making Connections:

God’s Promises Bring Hope

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Bible?

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

INTO THE STORY

MAKING PROMISES

Write an acrostic to reflect upon promises.

- 10 MIN.**
- † Groupings Guide
 - † Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping
 - † White board or mural paper
 - † Markers

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible together.

- 15 MIN.**
- † Bibles
 - † Activity Sheet #1-1.A

MAKING CONNECTIONS

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

Identify the ways that God cares for creation.

- 10 MIN.**
- † Paper
 - † Pens or pencils
 - † Internet-connected device with projection

LEARNING THE STORY

GROUP ACTION

Act out the story in small groups.

- 15 MIN.**
- † Story Bible
 - † Costume supplies
 - † Craft supplies for props
 - † Slips of paper
 - † Pen or pencil

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

LIVING THE STORY

CREATION CELEBRATION

Give thanks for God's creation.

5 MIN. † None

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

RAINBOW CARE CARDS

Make cards to share God's care.

10 MIN. † Blank cards or construction paper
 † Envelopes
 † Pens or pencils
 † Markers or crayons
 † Marbles
 † Aluminum trays
 † Washable paint
 † Disposable plates
 † Paper towels
 † Plastic spoons

BUILDING CHALLENGE

Build an ark.

10 MIN. † Building materials such as blocks, wooden matches, sugar cubes, construction paper, scissors, masking tape, ice cubes, craft sticks
 † Optional: rulers

SENDING THE STORY

5 MIN. † Rainbow yarn
 † Scissors



LIVING THE WORD

*Exploring God's Story Together
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1*

Cross+Generational Ministry has at its core the concept that faith is formed through meaningful relationships. When we connect with people of a different generation, we are able to learn from them and share our own experiences, no matter what age we are. We find our place in God's story best by exploring that story as community.

Effective cross+generational experiences are:

- Experiential*
- Interactive*
- Engaging*
- Story-centered*
- Home-based*
- Equalizing*

all of which promote an **encounter with God**. All of the activities included in this leader guide are intended to engage these principles, through intentional cross+generational interaction and active, creative activities that bring the Bible story to life in our lives.

We pass on the faith through every action, experience, or relationship that nurtures a transformative relationship of trust with God and shapes the way we see and interact with God's world. When we do this in meaningful, intergenerational relationships, our faith is enriched from the diversity of the experiences we share with each other. Our communities are strengthened, and we have confidence in our sense of belonging to God and with each other.

BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Making Connections

We begin our lectionary year with the story of Noah. Throughout this first unit, we will focus on the promises of God and the hope that they bring. We will hear these great promises through the stories of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses.

Story Summary:

Noah and the Ark

The beginning of the Noah story starts in a place of pain. God created, and it was good. Yet somewhere along the line, humankind falls so far from the original plan for creation that God decides to destroy everything and begin again. In the midst of this desolation, God finds only one man, Noah, who is blameless and who walks with God. God was heartbroken by the beliefs and actions of humanity, and determined to destroy all living things.

Yet God promises to always save God's people. God would spare Noah, a moral and exemplary human, and his family. Even in the midst of sin and heartbreak, God would not give up on humankind. God instructs Noah to build an ark and include upon it a pair of each creature and every kind of food. Noah and his family remained on the ark until the waters subsided. As the story ends, they return to land and begin a new life.

The Point

We can trust that God cares for creation and will never again destroy the earth. God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again. The rainbow is a symbol of this covenant promise with humanity. When things seem desperate and frightening in this world, God promises to be with us. When the world seems torn by pain and horror, God promises to be with us. What God did once, God has promised to never do again—and we can trust God's promises.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Bible?

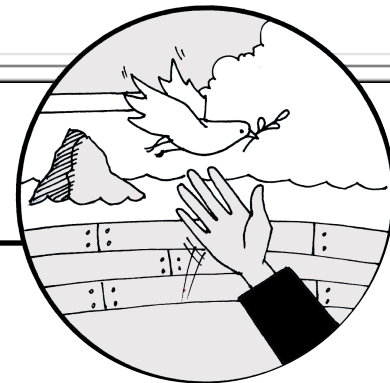
The Bible is a collection of 66 books full of stories, commands, and good news. One of the best things about the Bible is the message of love it brings to God's people. Just as a family photo album tells the story of that family's relationships and depicts the love found within that family, the Bible tells the story of God's love for God's people through stories and promises.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

God has shown God's love to all living creatures through the gifts of creation and re-creation. We respond to that love through worship. Worship is our response to the love and gifts of God, as God promises to be with us in all circumstances.



LESSON PLAN



INTO THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

MAKING PROMISES

Write an acrostic to reflect upon promises.

You will need:

- † Groupings Guide
- † Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping
- † White board or mural paper
- † Markers

Before class:

1. Determine how you would like to group participants at their tables (in a cross+generational grouping), using the Groupings Guide.
2. Prepare the materials indicated in the Guide.
3. Write the word “promise” vertically on the white board or mural paper.

During class:

1. Welcome the class and instruct them to group themselves cross+generationally according to the method you have selected from the Groupings Guide.
2. **If someone is sitting alone, please introduce yourself, and invite them to join you. Young children who are not comfortable leaving their families should sit at a table with someone in their family.**
3. **Today we are going to talk about promises. Our story is the story of Noah—a story that is familiar to many people. And the key element of this story—a rainbow as a sign of God’s promise—is also familiar. Let’s begin by digging a little deeper into promises.** Discuss the following questions with the group:
 - **What are promises?**
 - **When have you made promises?**
 - **When have you kept promises?**
 - **When have you broken promises?**

4. In our story today, we are reminded that God never breaks a promise. Let's work together using the word "promise" to create a group acrostic poem. Using each letter in the word "promise" as the first letter of our words, we will think of words that talk about God's love for creation.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (15 MINUTES)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible together.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #1-1.A

During class:

1. Give each small group a copy of Activity Sheet #1-1.A.
2. **We will use our Activity Sheets to help give us an overview of the Bible so we can learn a little more about it. The Bible can be complex and confusing, but as we use it more, it gets easier to understand.**
3. Direct participants to use their Bibles and diagram at the bottom of the Activity Sheet to answer the questions on the top of the sheet. Talk through the Activity Sheet as a large group, or let groups work at their own pace and come back together to share and discuss the answers.
4. **Let's end this activity by finding our story for today. We need to find the book of Genesis; that is the first book of the Bible. Then we need to find chapter six, so page through Genesis until you see the large number six. Next, we find the verse by using the smaller numbers. Our story begins at verse five.** Encourage groups to help each other find the story, especially younger participants. Read these verses, and continue this process as you look up the rest of the passage.

MAKING CONNECTIONS (10 MINUTES)

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

Identify the ways that God cares for creation.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Internet-connected device with projection

Before class:

1. Preview and cue a short video of Mr. Fred Rogers on “[Look for the Helpers.](#)” Website hyperlinks are provided for your convenience and are correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

During class:

1. **Sometimes the world can be a scary and bad place. The story of Noah begins when the world is a scary and bad place, too. But the story ends when God sets the rainbow in the clouds as a symbol of promise and a sign of the covenant between God and all living creatures. This story can feel difficult to read when we are living in a world where extreme events seem to be a regular occurrence. In natural or human-made disasters, we might find ourselves asking, “Where is God in this event?” Minister and children’s television star Fred Rogers said in times of crisis his grandmother would tell him to “look for the helpers.” Helpers take part in God’s covenant promise to care for creation.**
2. Watch the video together.
3. **Beginning with the youngest participants at your table, name some things going on in your community, country, or world that are a little scary. Then, share stories of the people who are helpers in these situations.**
4. **End by making a list of how you can be a helper for someone else who is scared. When you are done, we will share the lists with the rest of the group.**
5. After groups are finished sharing, close with prayer: **God, sometimes the world can be a scary place. But we know that you are always with us. In the Bible, we read over and over about your promise to save us, and we remember your promise every time we see a rainbow. Thank you for being stronger than the scary things. Amen.**

LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

GROUP ACTION

Act out the story in small groups.

You will need:

- † Story Bible
- † Costume supplies
- † Craft supplies for props
- † Slips of paper
- † Pen or pencil

Before class:

1. Based on the number of small groups, prepare slips of paper listing a scene from the story. Scenes may include: God is unhappy with the world; God tells Noah to build an ark; Noah gathers the animals; the ark floats for 40 days and nights; the ark lands and God sends a rainbow.

During class:

1. Using a story Bible, read the story out loud to the group. If you do not have access to a story Bible, you can tell the story yourself dramatically with language understandable to the younger participants.
2. **Today we are going to work together in our small groups to act out this story. Each group will have one part of the story to act out. We have costumes and craft supplies, so be creative!**
3. Invite a member of each small group to draw one of the slips of paper with the scenes listed. Give groups ten minutes to work, and then present the scenes in order.

LIVING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

CREATION CELEBRATION

Give thanks for God's creation.

You will need:

- † Nothing

During class:

1. **We are going to celebrate God's wonderful creation! Today we will worship and praise God with our bodies, giving thanks with our movements.**
2. Invite participants to stand as they are able.
3. **I will start, and then we will take turns naming parts of God's creation. When each thing is named, we will act it out, and conclude by saying together, "Thank you, God, for ... whatever was named." Let's practice. I will say, "God cares for elephants." Let's all act like an elephant by stomping around, making loud elephant trumpeting sounds, and swinging our arms like trunks. Then we all respond together: "Thank you, God, for elephants!"**
4. **Let's try another one. "God cares for trees!" Stretch your arms high into the sky and sway back and forth. Now all together: "Thank you, God, for trees!"**
5. Allow volunteers to name other things in creation.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

RAINBOW CARE CARDS (10 MINUTES)

Make cards to share God's care.

You will need:

- † Blank cards or construction paper
- † Envelopes
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Marbles
- † Aluminum trays
- † Washable paint
- † Disposable plates
- † Paper towels
- † Plastic spoons

Before class:

1. Pour one color of paint onto different disposable plates.
2. Put a couple of marbles into each paint color.
3. Decide if participants will bring the finished cards home to distribute or if they should be distributed to parishioners. If you would like them to go to parishioners, get a list from the pastor of persons who would enjoy receiving a card and include their name on the envelope.

During class:

1. We are going to make rainbow-colored cards to share with people who need to remember that God cares for them.
2. Give each participant a blank card or folded sheet of construction paper.
3. **You can write a message on the inside reminding the person you are giving the card to that God cares about them and God sent the rainbow as a reminder of that promise.**
4. Place the card or paper into an aluminum tray.
5. Participants will choose a marble and use the spoon to roll it in the paint. Continuing to use the spoon, bring the marble to their card in their tray. Tilt the tray, causing the marble to roll around on the cover of the card.
6. Continue with multiple colors.
7. Set aside to dry.

BUILDING CHALLENGE (10 MINUTES)

Build an ark.

You will need:

- † Building materials such as blocks, wooden matches, sugar cubes, construction paper, scissors, masking tape, ice cubes, craft sticks
- † Optional: rulers

During class:

1. **God told Noah to build an ark—a really big ark! This was no easy task! Today we are going to build a miniature version of Noah’s ark.**
2. **Let’s turn to God’s instructions for the ark in Genesis 6:14-16, 18-21.** Read these passages aloud. **Basically, the ark was roughly one unit tall, six units long, and one and a half units wide. Using that math, the challenge is for your group to build an ark using the materials provided.**
3. Encourage groups to share their creations at the end.

SENDING THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

If your congregation is using the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” insert, remember to hand them out at this point in the lesson.

Invite participants into a circle, standing as they are able. Pass around a ball of rainbow yarn and have everyone hold on to the string so that they are all connected.

This long piece of rainbow yarn reminds us that we are a part of God’s promise and covenant community. When we go home today, you will take your section of yarn with you as a reminder of God’s promise connecting you to all of God’s creation. Let’s pray:

God, thank you for our time together learning about your covenant with Noah and with your people. Thank you for your promise to be with us always. Amen.

Pass around scissors so that participants can cut their portion of the yarn to wrap around and tie to their wrist to remind them of God’s promise.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible together.

1. **The Bible is divided into two sections. What are the names of these two sections?**
2. **How many books are in the Old Testament?**
3. **How many books are in the New Testament?**
4. **How many books are in the Bible?**
5. **The Old Testament is divided into five smaller sections. What are the names of those sections?**
6. **The New Testament is also divided into five smaller sections. What are the names of those sections ?**

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible together.

Old Testament

LAW
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

MAJOR PROPHETS
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

HISTORY
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

MINOR PROPHETS
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

POETRY
Jobs
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon (Songs)

New Testament

HISTORY – LIFE OF JESUS
Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

PAUL'S LETTERS TO INDIVIDUALS
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

HISTORY – THE CHURCH
Acts

LETTERS BY OTHERS
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians