

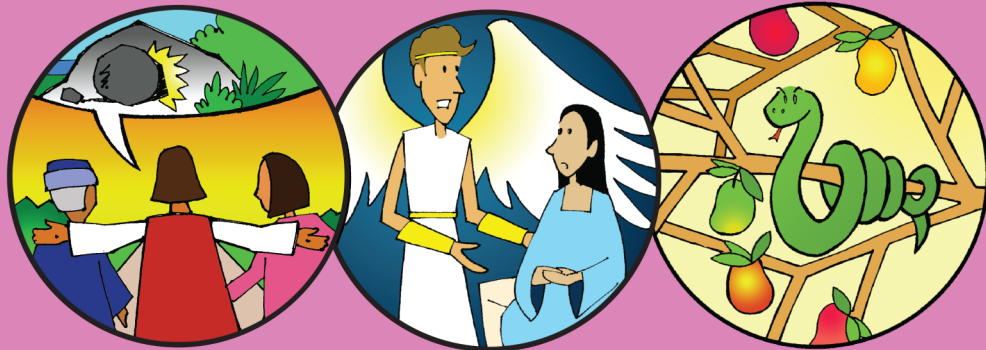
YOUTH

**LESSON
#1-1**

**SAMPLE
DISPLAY COPY**

LIVING THE WORD

Narrative Lectionary



Youth

Leader's Guide

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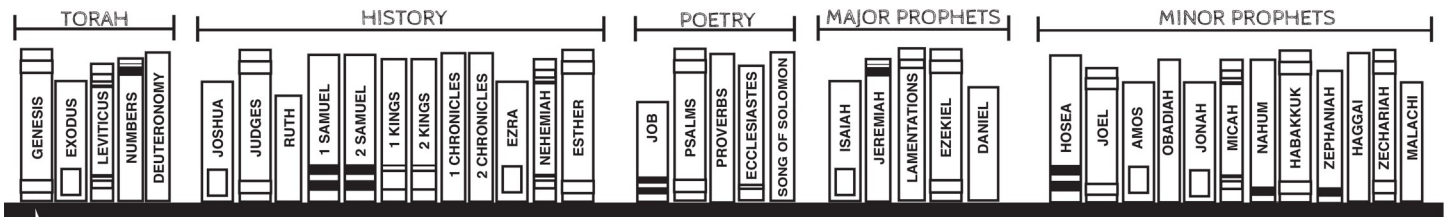
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OLD TESTAMENT



GENESIS

Noah and the Ark

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

All your friends think you are crazy. Every last one of them. The world has yet to see a raindrop, and you are building something called an “ark.” Why such a boat? Because God has told you that the world is going to be flooded. Everyone is laughing. You are busy building. Welcome to Noah’s story.

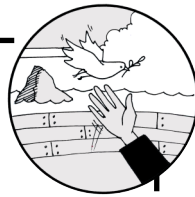
Making Connections

The Narrative Lectionary, and our study this year, begins in Genesis. Genesis is the first book in the Bible. The name means “beginnings.” Genesis begins with the creation of the world, which God declares as good. However, the goodness of the world did not last long. Sin entered the world. The relationship people were created to have with God and with one another was broken. Violence erupted among humans, and wickedness destroyed creation.

Sin caused such grief that God decided to flood the earth (Genesis 6:6-7).

Lesson @ A Glance

#1-1: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17



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

Making Connections: God’s Promises Bring Hope

Spiritual Practice Emphasis: Worship

Bible Nuts & Bolts: A Brief History of the Bible (Part 1, Old Testament)

Story Summary

Noah and the Ark

God asked Noah to build an ark so that his family and some of each kind of animal would not be destroyed in the flood. Through them, creation could begin again. This is the first in a series of efforts that God made to restore the world to the right relationship intended for creation. Even though this did not resolve the problem of sin, God promised never again to destroy the earth with a flood. God made this promise visible in a rainbow hung in the sky.

The Point

We can trust that God cares for creation and will never again destroy the earth. God is a promise keeper. The rainbow is a sign of the promise never again to address sin through the destruction of the earth. Instead, God became flesh so that all nations and all of creation can be redeemed and restored.

Bible Nuts & Bolts: Bible History. Part 1: Old Testament

The Bible is often considered to be one big book, but it is actually a collection of 66 different books. The Christian Bible is divided into an Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and New Testament. The Old Testament consists of 39 books, most of which were written in Hebrew over a period of 500 years. The first five books of the Old Testament are known as the Torah or the Pentateuch. These are followed by books containing history, poems, wisdom, and the words and works of prophets. Some of the

*[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*

psalms were written as far back as seventh century BCE, but their words are just as applicable today.

For Your Reflection:

Have you ever had to do something because of your faith that others did not understand? What was it?

Think of a time when you were rescued. Who did the rescuing? What was your response?

Once he was on dry ground, Noah built an altar and gave an offering. How might you assist the youth in thinking of personal offerings they could make?

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Worship is any way we show God our love. Taking time to read and study Scriptures to learn more about God is a form of worship. Viewing creation and thanking God for it is an act of worship. Gazing at a beautiful rainbow and reflecting on God's promise and faithfulness is worship.

Overview, Objectives, and Materials You'll Need

Core Elements

Into the Story

Stick your Neck Out

Create objects out of toothpicks.

10 min.

- › Toothpicks
- › Glue sticks or tape

Learning the Story

From Slivers to Sunshine

Identify the path of Noah's story.

15 min.

- › Bibles
- › Toothpicks
- › Clear tape
- › Watercolor pencils
- › Cups of water
- › Mural paper
- › Optional: printed copies of the Bible text

+Living the Story

Praise in Color

Offer words of praise.

15 min.

- › Colored paper
- › Scissors
- › Markers
- › Tape

+Sending the Story

5 min.

- › None

Short on time?
Items marked +
can be adjusted to be done with
what you probably already
have in your pocket or
classroom.

Extending the Learning:

<p>Hands On 15 min.</p> <p><i>The Promise in Hand</i> Create reminders of God's promise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Water > Shallow baking dish > Cup > White paper > Flashlight > Masking tape > Glass of water > Hand mirror > Optional: Internet-connected devices
<p>Mixed Media 10 min.</p> <p><i>Today's Noah</i> Identify the challenges of following God's direction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > DVD copy of <i>Evan Almighty</i> (2007) > Video player or Internet-connected device
<p>The Competitive Edge 15 min.</p> <p><i>Sink and Sing</i> Keep small glass marbles from sinking or end up singing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bible > Activity Sheet #1-1.A > Bowl of water > Craft sticks > Small, flat glass marbles > Optional: hat or second bowl
<p>+Simply Serving 15 min.</p> <p><i>Creature Care</i> Identify a service project to care for animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bibles > Optional: pens, paper
<p>+Worship Connection 15 min.</p> <p><i>Water, Water, Everywhere</i> Explore the liturgy of baptism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Optional: hymnal, guest speaker, glass jars, rainbow-colored glass marbles, pitchers of water
<p>+Discussion Guide 15 min.</p> <p><i>Noah and the Ark</i> Discuss today's story.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Youth Discussion Guide

Into the Story:

Stick Your Neck Out (10 minutes)

Create objects out of toothpicks.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Spread toothpicks out on the table. Use multiple tables if your class is large.
2. If this is the first time that your group will be together, allow some time to talk about your expectations for your time together. What behaviors do you expect to see from the youth? What can they expect of you? Spend some time before class thinking through your own responses to these questions.

Supplies:

- > Toothpicks
- > Glue sticks or tape

DURING CLASS:

1. Greet each person warmly as they enter. Be sure you ask and learn the names of any youth that may be new to you. Gather youth around a table where you have spread out toothpicks.
2. **As you can see, the table is covered in toothpicks. Use them to build something that tells us about you. For example, if you are a football player, you might build a goal post. You only have a couple of minutes to do this, so do the best you can.**
3. Give the students glue sticks or tape, and let them build for a few minutes. The creations will likely fall apart at times or be difficult to place. Encourage laughter instead of perfection in this activity.
4. **Let's share what you made and why.** Be sure to share names too if your group is not already well acquainted with one another.
5. **Today as we begin reading the Bible, we are going to hear the story of someone who was asked to build something that he became famous for. It was a boat, or to be precise, an ark. Do you know the story I am talking about? [Noah's Ark.] God commanded the building of the ark. In this story, Noah's life—and the future of life on earth—depended on Noah getting the job done right.**
6. If you are going to be talking about expectations for the year, pause and do that now before continuing on to Learning the Story. You can talk about this in terms of how you are going to build, or structure, your group time together.

Learning the Story:

From Slivers to Sunshine (15 minutes)

Identify the path of Noah's story.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. For youth to get the most out of this lesson and become comfortable using their Bibles, it is recommended that youth have personal Bibles to mark in for this activity. If this is not possible for one or more youth, please provide printed copies of the day's Bible text.
2. Label one sheet of mural paper "What/Why?" Label another sheet "Wonderings."

Supplies:

- > Bibles
- > Toothpicks
- > Clear tape
- > Watercolor pencils
- > Cups of water
- > Mural paper
- > Optional: printed copies of the Bible text

DURING CLASS:

1. Hold up one of the Bibles. **This Bible looks like a big book, but it is actually a lot of little books put together into one. We are going to read the Bible this year.**
2. **What do you know about the Bible? Are there stories or lessons that you remember hearing? Maybe you have never read the Bible. What are your thoughts about this big book of books? Write your thoughts on the mural paper titled "What/Why?"** This is an opportunity to get to know more about your group's knowledge, attitudes, and opinions.
3. **There are some things that we know and we think about the Bible. What do you wonder about the Bible or hope that we will learn this year?** Encourage students to ask questions about the Bible. Do not try to answer them now. Just write them down on the mural paper marked "Wonderings." After encouraging, hearing, and recording the questions, hang both papers on the wall, or put them someplace that can be referred to as needed in the coming weeks. Assure the youth that you can add more questions to the chart as they think of them.
4. Add this question to the "Wonderings" chart: "Why the flood?"
5. You might wish to summarize the creation story briefly before starting Genesis 6.
6. **We're going to start reading in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Let's all find Genesis 6:11.** Take time now to review how to use a biblical reference (book, chapter, and verse). Make sure everyone has found the page before continuing.
7. Ask for volunteers to read a verse or two of Genesis 6:11-22, so a number of youth have the opportunity to read. Do not force anyone to read aloud, but be sure to let them know that you are thankful for their willingness to do so.
8. **So why the flood?** [*The earth was wicked or God was angry.*] Affirm each answer.

9. **Let's put a marker in our Bibles here where Noah builds the ark.** Demonstrate laying a toothpick in the margin of the Bible near where Noah builds the ark and sealing it in with a piece of clear tape over the top.
10. **The part of the story we are reading this week skips ahead a little from here, but who knows what happens next? Does it rain or is Noah just left high and dry? [It rains.] Does anyone know how many days and nights it rained? Let's look it up in Genesis 7:12. Who would read that verse for us?**
11. Set out on the table a blue watercolor pencil and cup of water. **Dip your watercolor pencil into the water and then underline "forty days and forty nights" in your Bible.**
12. **The story continues in chapter 9. Let's read Genesis 9:8-15.**
13. Get out the rest of the colored pencils and encourage your class to draw rainbows in the margins of their Bibles.
14. **Everyone and everything that was not on the ark was destroyed. What changed after the flood? Was the earth better off? Did the flood get rid of the problem of sin?** Encourage discussion.
15. **Look at Genesis 8:20-22. God knows that the human heart is evil from youth. The flood did not change people. It was God who promised to change the way God works in the world. God made the promise to never again deal with the problem of sin through the destruction of the earth by flood. Instead, God would come up with another way to deal with sin. Instead of through destruction, it will be through love. That is what we will be learning about this year as we journey through the Bible together.**

Living the Story:

Praise in Color (15 min.)

Offer words of praise.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Cut colored paper in to 3 in. x 5 in. cards.

DURING CLASS:

1. **Worship is any way that we show God our love. This includes learning, singing, praising, thanking, giving, praying, confessing, forgiving, and so much more. We worshipped God when we read from Genesis. Now we are going to worship God through art and language.**
2. **Using a marker and as many pieces of colored paper as you need, write words of praise that come to mind after hearing today's story. To get you started, here are some questions to consider:**
 - **How does hearing today's story make you think about worship?**
 - **Did you learn something new about God to be thankful for?**
 - **Is there something that you want to praise God for after hearing about God's love for creation and God's promise?**
3. When the cards are full, ask the youth to work together to combine their papers into a rainbow. This can be done on the table, or the papers can be taped on the wall.
4. Stand together around the word-rainbow, reading it aloud. End with a hearty "Amen."

Supplies:

- > Colored paper
- > Scissors
- > Markers
- > Tape

Hands On:

Promise in Hand (15 minutes)

Create reminders of God's promise.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. If you have time, practice this activity prior to class.
2. The nature of this experiment is that sometimes it works better than others. This is truly an opportunity for your group to experiment and to become the experts.

DURING CLASS:

1. Have the youth search the Internet for “How to make a rainbow,” and use the provided supplies to attempt to create their own indoor rainbow. There are a variety of ways to do this; some work better at different times than others. Let the youth take the lead in deciding which way to do this experiment. Here are a couple of suggested methods:
 - Place strips of masking tape over the face of a flashlight so that only a small slit of light shines through. Aim this beam of light diagonally through a glass of water set on the edge of a table. Place a piece of white paper on the floor where the light hits the floor. Turn off the lights in your room in order to have better visibility of your rainbow.
 - Fill a shallow pan 3/4 of the way full with water. Place a hand mirror into the water at one end of the pan and shine the flashlight into the mirror. Hold the white paper above the pan where the light from the flashlight is reflected. Adjust the light and the mirror until the rainbow appears on the white paper.
 - If all else fails and a rainbow cannot be created, look for where one already exists. Often the edge of a window pane or glass decoration catching the light will create a small rainbow. Look for this in your classroom or worship space.
2. Optional: Have the youth take out their cell phones and snap a picture of the rainbow they created. Encourage them to make the picture their home screenshot on their cell phones this week as a reminder of the promise that God will not destroy but will act with love for the world and for them.

Supplies:

- › Water
- › Shallow baking pan
- › White paper
- › Flashlight
- › Masking tape
- › Glass of water
- › Hand mirror
- › Optional: Internet-connected devices

Mixed Media:

Today's Noah (10 to 50 minutes)

Identify the challenges of following God's direction.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Locate a DVD copy of the 2007 movie, *Evan Almighty*. Decide how much of the movie you will be showing: starting at chapter 9 (50 minutes); at chapter 12 (30 minutes); or at chapter 16 (10 minutes or less). Cue to the starting point.
2. Think about your own answers to the discussion questions.
3. About the movie: Evan Baxter (Steve Carell) is a newly elected U.S. congressman whose first day on the job is interrupted by God (Morgan Freeman) asking him to build an ark. In this modern day twist on the story of Noah, Evan and his family endure the criticism and taunting of his co-workers and everyone in town for the sake of carrying out the mission that God has requested of him. His unexplained transformation into a Noah-like figure makes everyone think Evan has gone crazy. But by following God's strange instructions, Evan ultimately accomplishes good.

Supplies

- › DVD copy of *Evan Almighty* (2007)
- › Video player or Internet-connected device

DURING CLASS:

1. Show all or some of the movie: *Evan Almighty* (2007). It may help to set up the scene and to fill the group in on details such as: Morgan Freeman is playing God. Evan's campaign slogan was "Change the World." Evan's wife's prayer at the beginning of the movie is for God to bring their family closer together.
2. Discuss with your group what you just saw using these or your own discussion starters:
 - **Evan started out not wanting to build the ark. Building the ark meant giving up the successful life he had worked so hard for. What did Noah from the Bible have to give up to follow God's instructions? Is there anything you have had to give up to follow God?**
 - **What is a situation you imagine could happen today in which other people might make fun of a person for doing something God has commanded? Has that ever happened to you? When? Who stood by you?**
 - **In the movie, Prestige Crest is flooded and it is revealed that the congressmen cut corners and disregarded the environment in the building and policy making. In the Bible story, we hear that God's covenant and care is for all of creation. What is a policy or practice in your own church, home, or school that could be changed to take better care of God's good creation?**

The Competitive Edge:

Sink and Sing (15 minutes)

Keep small glass marbles from sinking or end up singing.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Determine if you will read the “Sink and Sing” questions aloud or if the youth will randomly pick their own. If you are going to use them at random, make a copy of the question list below and cut each question apart. Be sure to also cut off the answers. Fold the paper slips and put them in a hat or bowl for the youth to draw at their turn.
2. Fill a bowl with water. If you have a large group, you may want one bowl for each table or group of six to eight youth. You may use any size bowl, but the task of balancing the marbles becomes more difficult when using a larger bowl.
3. A small to medium-sized bowl will be right for most groups. Note: If the bowl fills up with craft sticks making it too easy to balance, simply remove the sticks at the end of a round and begin again.

Supplies:

- > Bible
- > Activity Sheet #1-1.A
- > Bowl of water
- > Craft sticks
- > Small, flat glass marbles
- > Optional: hat or second bowl

DURING CLASS:

1. Give each youth the same number of craft sticks and marbles. (Each stick and marble pair represents one round of the game, so choose the number to distribute based on how much time you have to spend on this activity.)
2. **Take turns placing your craft sticks on the water, trying to get your glass marble to balance on top of it without sinking.** If they are able to accomplish this feat, their turn successfully ends and play goes on to the next person. If the marble sinks, however, the person is asked a question from Activity Sheet #1-1.A and must sing their answer. Note: The point of the singing is simply to be silly and have fun. If your group needs to have the option of speaking their answers, that works too. Just be sure that the rules are the same for everyone in the group.
3. If you choose to play with points, assign each player to a team and award one point to the team for every balanced marble and every question answered. Any questions answered incorrectly or not answered at all fail to get a point. The game ends when the last stick has been placed and marble balance attempted.

Simply Serving:

Creature Care (15 minutes)

Identify a service project to care for animals.

DURING CLASS:

1. Read Genesis 9:8-10, 15-17 aloud.
2. **God's covenant is between God and humanity and every living creature. Just as God cared for Noah and kept him and his family safe and has promised the protection of the covenant to future generations, so all of creation is the recipient of God's gracious promise. All of creation is under God's care.**
3. Use these or your own conversation starters to get your group thinking about the needs in your community and how God might be calling the youth to use their talents:
 - **Since all of creation is a part of this covenant, how might we join God's work in caring for the earth and its inhabitants?**
 - **Are there animals in our community that are in need of care and protection?**
 - **What are the needs in our community?**
 - **What are the gifts and abilities of our group that might help meet those needs?**
 - **How might God be calling us to use our talents and abilities together or as individuals?**
4. Create and carry out a group service project that matches the needs of your community with the gifts of your youth group.

Supplies

- › Bibles
- › Optional: pens, paper

Worship Connection:

Water, Water, Everywhere (15 minutes)

Explore the liturgy of baptism.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Consider inviting someone who has recently been baptized (or who remembers their baptism well even if it was a while ago) to visit your group as a special guest. If you need help identifying such a person, talk to your pastor.
2. If you are unfamiliar with how baptisms are conducted at your church, or why things are done the way they are, spend some time visiting with your pastor in preparation for today's lesson.

Supplies

› Optional: hymnal, guest speaker, glass jars, rainbow-colored glass marbles, pitchers of water

DURING CLASS:

1. Explore with your group the words that are spoken in your church when a person is baptized. You may do this by looking in your hymnal, hearing from someone who remembers what was said at their own baptism, or hearing from a pastor. Often the liturgy will make use of a listing of stories in the Bible in which water is an important element in the story—including Noah's story.
2. **What are some of the qualities of water?** [*Water cleanses. Water can flood and destroy. Water can wash. Water is a symbol of new birth. Water is necessary for life. Water is everywhere.*] **How are each of these meaningful as we think about what happens in baptism?** [*The old self is drowned. Sin is washed away. We are cleansed and given new life.*] **In baptism, water becomes the sign of a promise. It is the promise that God's word of forgiveness, love, and new life is for us.**
3. Option A: Some congregations begin their worship service with a "Thanksgiving for Baptism" in which portions of the baptismal liturgy are read so that worshippers will remember their baptisms and be reminded that the promises of baptism are meant to be called upon every day. If this is part of your congregation's practice, have youth prepare to lead this portion of the worship service. (You might even get permission from your worship leaders to have youth sprinkle worshippers with water.)
4. Option B: Rather than leading a Thanksgiving for Baptism, the youth can make reminders of the baptismal promise that can be used in the worship or fellowship space.
 - Group the youth in pairs. Give each pair a glass jar and handful of colorful glass marbles. Have the youth put the marbles in the bottom of the jar.

- Gather the youth, with their jars, into a circle. Give each pair a pitcher full of water.
- Designate one youth from each pair as the water pourer and one as the reader. As the readers are reading the baptismal liturgy, have the pourer fill the jar with water. (If you would like to make the same number of jars as youth, repeat this process again, having youth switch roles.)
- Place the jars in your worship or fellowship space as a visual reminder of the promises God keeps. If desired, invite the youth to take the jars home with them after worship.

Sending the Story (5 minutes)

In Genesis 9:11 we read an account of God’s promise: [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.” We can trust that God cares for creation, and will never again destroy the earth.

As we wind down our time together, let’s spend some time giving thanks to God for creation and for the promise not to destroy the earth again.

After I begin the prayer with “Thank you, God, for…” call out all the parts of creation for which you are thankful. It is okay if more than one person calls out at the same time.

End the prayer with thanks for God’s promise.

Remember to send “The Story @ Home” take home sheet with students before dismissing them.



Noah and the Ark

Unit 1: God's Promises Bring Hope

Youth Discussion Guide

If you break into small groups (or are a small group), use the following questions to discuss the day's Bible passage and how it relates to your lives. Make a copy of this sheet for each member of the group and provide pencils or pens. Encourage each other to take a moment to write your response in words or doodles before discussing out loud.

Start your time by going around your group and asking each member (adults included!) to share a high point and a low point from the past week.

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for creation and for your love for creation, and please guide us—your creation—as we discuss your promise to us. Amen.

Understand

- ❓ Why did God spare a family and some of creation from the destructive flood?
- ❓ After the flood, what promise did God make?

Wrestle

- ❓ Why did God destroy what God had created and even called “good”?
- ❓ Could God have kept the people from becoming sinful, wicked, and violent before they got so bad that they grieved God? Why did God allow people to do the things they did?

Share

- ❓ In what ways have you experienced God's faithfulness?

Apply

- ❓ God promised not to destroy the earth by flood again. The rainbow is a reminder that God will be faithful to that promise. What do you usually think or feel when you see a rainbow? After today's lesson, how will your reaction to seeing a rainbow be different?

Sink and Sing

Keep small glass marbles from sinking or end up singing.

The story of Noah is found in which book of the Bible? *[Genesis.]*

The word "Genesis" means what? *[Beginning.]*

What did God tell Noah to build? *[An ark, boat.]*

Have you ever ridden on a boat? *[Accept any answer.]*

What were the names of Noah's sons? *[Shem, Ham, and Japheth.]*

Hint: Genesis 6:9

How many of each animal did God command be brought on the boat? *[Two or seven.]*

Hint: Genesis 6:21 and Genesis 7:1

What is your favorite animal? *[Accept any answer.]*

How many days and nights did rain fall on the earth? *[40 days and 40 nights.]*

Hint: Genesis 7:12

Do you know how to swim? *[Accept any answer.]*

Where did Noah's boat eventually land? *[On the mountains of Ararat.]*

Hint: Genesis 8:4

If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you visit? *[Accept any answer.]*

When the rain ended, Noah opened the window and sent out what kind of bird? *[First a raven, then a dove.]*

Hint: Genesis 8:6-9

Sink and Sing

Keep small glass marbles from sinking or end up singing.

If you were a bird, what kind would you be?

[Accept any answer.]

On its second trip out what did the dove bring back?

[An olive leaf.]

Hint: Genesis 8:11

What did Noah do after he got off the ark?

[Built an altar, gave an offering.]

Hint: Genesis 8:20

What does God promise?

[God will never again send a flood to destroy the earth.]

Hint: Genesis 9:11

What is the sign of the covenant?

[The rainbow in the sky.]

Hint: Genesis 9:13

What is your favorite color of the rainbow?

[Accept any answer.]

The covenant is between God and who?

[Every living creature on earth.]

Hint: Genesis 9:16

What is your favorite water activity?

[Accept any answer.]

Need more questions? Begin the list again. This time, do not allow the youth to look up the passages. How much do they remember?



Noah and the Ark

Unit 1: God's Promises Bring Hope

THIS WEEK

Because of humanity's sins, God decides to destroy the world with a flood. God calls Noah to build an ark to save his family and many animals (Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17).

Story Summary

God asked Noah to build an ark so that his family and some of each kind of animal would not be destroyed in the flood. Through them, creation could begin again. This is the first in a series of efforts that God made to restore the world to the right relationship intended for creation. Even though this did not resolve the problem of sin, God promised never again to destroy the earth with a flood. God made this promise visible with a rainbow in the sky.

The Point

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

Practice: Worship

Worship is any way we show God our love. Praise is a form of worship that can be done anywhere and in many ways. For example, you can speak one word to God about who God is, and that is worship. Your family can worship together this way. Give each member a sheet of colored paper. Ask each person to write one word about God. Hang the papers in your house, and call out the words when you pass by them. This colorful praise is a form of worship.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Bible History, Part 1: Old Testament

The Bible is often considered to be one big book, but it is actually a collection of 66 different books. The Christian Bible is divided into an Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and New Testament. The Old Testament consists of 39 books, most of which were written in Hebrew over a period of 500 years. The first five books of the Old Testament are known as the Torah or the Pentateuch. These are followed by books containing history, poems, wisdom, and the words and works of prophets. Some of the psalms were written as far back as seventh century BCE, but their words are just as applicable today.

NEXT WEEK

God chooses a man named Abram and his wife Sarai. God promises to bless all people through them (Genesis 12:1-9).

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✠ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✠ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✠ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✠ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday –

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

God uses an ark to rescue Noah, his family, and some animals when the entire earth floods.

- Why was the flood necessary?
- In what ways does God rescue us today?

Monday – Read Genesis 9:18-29

After they exit the ark, Noah and his family build an altar to the LORD.

- What was the purpose of Noah's altar to the LORD?
- Why do you think God promised not to destroy the earth again?

Tuesday – Read Psalm 93

The psalmist writes a song of God's strength and eternal reign.

- List what this psalm tells us about God.
- You have probably seen pictures of the devastation caused by a flood. Consider those images and share what Psalm 93:4 means to you.

Wednesday – Read Psalm 104:1-9

The psalmist writes a song of praise for God's wonderful work.

- Where are some places you can worship that do not involve a church building?
- Where do you serve God in your everyday life outside of church?

Thursday – Read Psalm 104:24-35

The psalmist writes a song of praise for God's wonderful work.

- What is the glory of the Lord?
- What parts of nature scare you? What does this passage tell you about their power?

Friday – Read Genesis 11:1-9

God scatters the people when they build a tower to reach the heavens.

- What was wrong with building the tower of Babel?
- Does God intervene in the lives of people this way today?

Saturday – Read Genesis 11:26-32

Abram and Sarai marry but are unable to bear children.

- What did you learn about Abram's wife?
- Why are genealogies helpful when reading the Bible?