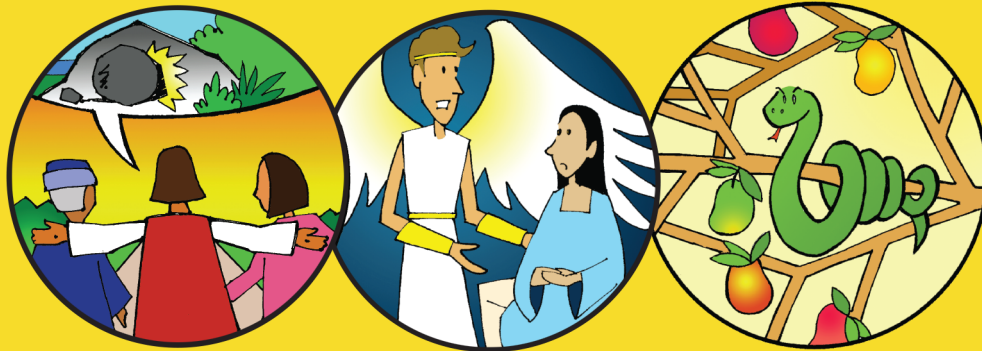


**KIDS (3RD-6TH) LESSON
#1-1**

**SAMPLE
DISPLAY COPY**

LIVING THE WORD

Narrative Lectionary



**Teaching Kids God's Story
KIDS (3RD-6TH)**

Teacher's Guide

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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

TRAVELLING BY BOAT

Prepare for a long trip.

10 MIN.

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

THE BIBLE: A LOVE STORY

Share stories of love.

10 MIN.

- † Bible
- † Family photo album or digital photos

LEARNING THE STORY

TWO BY TWO OR TWO BY FOUR?

Perform a silly mathematical skit.

15 MIN.

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #1-1.A
- † Highlighters

LIVING THE STORY

COLORS OF WORSHIP

Create a rainbow mosaic.

10 MIN.

- † Colored construction paper
- † Scissors
- † Pens or markers
- † Tape
- † Optional: mural paper

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

BUILDING AN ARK

Discover what will sink or float.

- 15 MIN.** † Objects to create a simple ark, such as aluminum foil, Styrofoam trays or cups, craft sticks, tape, string, paper clips, wax paper or straws.
 † Pennies, ten or more per student
 † Dish tub or bucket
 † Water

HOW BIG?

Research the ark online.

- 10 MIN.** † Internet-connected devices
 † Pens, pencils, or markers
 † Paper

ANIMAL CHARADES

Play an animal imitation game.

- 10 MIN.** † Paper
 † Pen or pencil
 † Hat or basket
 † Optional: white board and markers

BIBLE BOOK

Optional ongoing activity.

- 5 MIN.** † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
 † Card stock or plain paper
 † Pens or pencils
 † Markers or crayons
 † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

SENDING THE STORY

- 5 MIN.** † None

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Making Connections

Our God is a God who makes promises (covenants) with all of creation. Just as God created the entire world, God also established a covenant with “every living creature” to never again destroy the earth with a flood. The rainbow is God’s reminder of the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures.

Story Summary:

Noah and the Ark

God’s love for humankind leads to judgment as God watches human behavior. Ever since the time of the fall, human beings have not placed their trust in God. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Cain murdered Abel. Genesis 6:11 says that the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and filled with violence. God makes the decision to destroy everything that has been created. This can be a difficult and frightening concept for young children so should not be overemphasized. However, even young children can understand God’s displeasure with the world’s disobedience.

Noah trusted God and obeyed God’s instructions to build the ark and fill it. Noah was a righteous man who walked with God and found God’s favor. When God gave him specific instructions of how to build an ark of cypress wood, Noah did what was commanded of him. God sends the flood, and after either forty days (Genesis 7:17) or 150 days (Genesis 7:24), God “remembers” Noah and the story turns.

The Point

We can trust that God cares for creation and will never again destroy the earth. As we begin a new school year, we return to Genesis, the first book in the Bible. Genesis begins, of course, with the creation of the world. God created a good world without sin and without evil. However, from the beginning, people did not put their trust in God and relationships were marred by sin. Violence erupted among humans and wickedness prevailed. In response, God sent a flood.

Eventually, God dries the earth and invites the people and animals out of the ark, telling them to “be fruitful and multiply.” God establishes a covenant with all people to never again flood the earth. God is committed to preserving creation and places a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that covenant. This is a promise that is made to endure.

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 love to all living creatures through the gifts of creation and re-creation. We respond to that love through worship. This week, students will create a beaded rainbow backpack clip as they consider the reasons they worship and praise God.



LESSON PLAN



INTO THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

TRAVELLING BY BOAT

Prepare for a long trip.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

During class:

1. **Welcome to the first day of class! We are going to spend this year travelling all the way through the Bible, stopping to read and learn about Bible stories throughout the whole book and figuring out what God has to say to us through these stories. We will also spend time getting to know each other better.** (Note: This would be a good time to take care of any other business relevant to the first day of class, such as creating classroom rules or covenants, giving an orientation to the space you are using, or explaining the Narrative Lectionary.)
2. **Today we are going to think about what it might be like to go on a very long journey in a ship, spending a great deal of time far from land. Take a minute and think about what you would like to take with you if you were going on such a trip. It might be a pet (maybe one that can fly or swim), a person you would like with you, or even an item that is important to you or that would be helpful out on the sea.**
3. You can choose to go around the room and have students introduce themselves and let others know what they would take with them on their journey. Alternately, divide into groups of two or three students and have them take notes, jotting down the others' names and what they would bring along. Then, they can introduce each other to the large group.
4. **Has anyone actually taken a trip by ship?** Accept all answers. **In our Bible story today, we are going to talk about a family who spent a long time.**

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (10 MINUTES)

THE BIBLE: A LOVE STORY

Share stories of love.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Family photo album or digital photos

During class:

1. Hold up a Bible. **What is this?** [*A Bible.*] **What can you tell me about the Bible?** Accept all answers.
2. **The Bible is a collection of writings by many different authors, many of them unknown. It is divided into books. Do you know how many books are in the whole Bible?** [*66 books.*] **So, in some ways, the Bible is more like a small library written by different authors.**
3. **The most important thing about the Bible, though, is the message that it brings to us. It tells us about God's love for us in a lot of different ways. Take a minute and think about the people who love you. How do you know they love you?** [*They take care of me, buy me gifts, discipline me, tell me, hug and kiss me.*]
4. If possible, share a story about someone who loves you, perhaps a parent who showed love through discipline or a friend who cared for you during a rough time in your life. Then encourage students to share stories as well.
5. **This photo album (or digital photos) is full of pictures of some people who are really important to me. When I look at the pictures, I remember how we celebrated birthdays together. I remember people who have died. I remember when babies were born and all kinds of milestones and special times in our lives.**
6. **In the same way, the Bible shares stories of God's love for God's people. In the beginning is the story of God creating the world out of nothing. And before long, God's people do all kinds of things, some very good and exciting and some very difficult. Yet God continues to love and care for God's people throughout the entire book. The Bible shows and tells us how much God loves and cares for each of us as well. It is a love story that we will read over and over again.**

LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

TWO BY TWO OR TWO BY FOUR?

Perform a silly mathematical skit.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #1-1.A
- † Highlighters

Before class:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #1-1.A for each student.

During class:

1. **Today's story is one that is familiar to many of you. We are going to divide into parts and put on a skit about Noah, his sons, and the ark.** Divide into roles. You will need someone for each of the following parts:
 - Narrator
 - Noah
 - Ham
 - Shem
 - Japheth
 - God
 - Everyone else can play the part of the “people”
2. Hand out copies of Activity Sheet #1-1.A. Encourage students to highlight the part or parts they will be saying in the skit. Find an open area for students to perform.
3. Use the following questions to discuss the skit and the story:
 - a. **What was your favorite part of the skit?** Accept all answers. **While it is fun to be silly with skits, the best part of the story is the promise and covenant at the end. God made an important promise and God always keeps promises!**
 - b. **What was the hardest part of the story?** Accept all answers. **Many people struggle with the fact that God destroyed the earth and the people in it.**

This is a violent story that includes judgment. We like to think of God as always loving and kind. Sometimes it helps to think of our parents who love us even though sometimes they punish us. This story allows us to see that God makes and keeps promises. We can trust God!

- c. Read Genesis 8:22 aloud as a group. **Has God kept this promise?** [*Yes.*]
4. The story of Noah and the ark is a story of God's sorrow over the effects of sin and evil in the world. It is also a story of how God made a bad situation into a new creation. God made a promise to all people and kept it. We have a God that we can depend on, and that *is* good news!

LIVING THE STORY (20 MINUTES)

COLORS OF WORSHIP

Create a rainbow mosaic.

You will need:

- † Colored construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple)
- † Scissors
- † Pens or markers
- † Tape
- † Optional: mural paper

Before Class

1. Cut construction paper into 4 in. x 6 in. squares, one of each color for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out one square of each color to each student. **We are going to use these squares to create a Rainbow of Worship in our classroom. You already know that these six colors make up the rainbow (along with a seventh color—indigo—which is a cross between blue and purple). Rainbows are beautiful! Another beautiful thing is worship. Worship is when we respond to God’s love, goodness, and promises in a variety of ways. It may be through prayer or Bible readings, using songs or poetry. All of these things put together make up worship. Worship can happen anywhere: in your house, at church, outside, or wherever you might be. And it can also happen anytime: Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights, Tuesdays at noon, or even at midnight! I am going to ask you to write words or draw a simple picture on each colored square to represent an aspect of worship.**
2. Ask students to pick out the following colors of squares one at a time and write or draw:
 - **Red: Write or draw a simple picture of something you are thankful for.**
 - **Orange: Write or draw a word or action that praises God.** If this is difficult for students, offer suggestions such as “Alleluia!” or words that might describe God such as “Immanuel,” “Prince of Peace” or “mighty.”
 - **Yellow: Write or draw a short prayer. This could be a prayer of thanksgiving, confession or supplication. It could also be the title of a familiar prayer such as “The Lord’s Prayer.”**
 - **Green: Write the name of a favorite song that is sung during worship.**

- **Blue:** Write or draw a way each individual can give to God. This may include gifts of time, money, or talents.
 - **Purple:** When we know how much God loves us, we reach out and love others. Write or draw one way you can share God’s love with others.
3. **Now it is time to make a rainbow on the wall. Let’s start with our red squares. I am going to ask you to share what is on your square as you tape them to the wall in the shape of a rainbow.** You may also choose to make your rainbow on a large sheet of mural paper. After each student comes forward and shares what is on their square encourage all the other students to respond with the words, **“We have a God of Love!”**
 4. Repeat step three with each of the other colors of squares.
 5. **We made a beautiful rainbow. Our rainbow can remind us of the promise God made to Noah to never destroy the earth with a flood again and of the many ways that we can worship our God of love.**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

BUILDING AN ARK (15 MINUTES)

Discover what will sink or float.

You will need:

- † Objects to create a simple ark, such as aluminum foil, Styrofoam trays or cups, craft sticks, tape, string, paper clips, wax paper or straws.
- † Pennies, ten or more per student
- † Dish tub or bucket
- † Water

During class:

1. Create groups of two to four students. Set all the objects you collected to create the ark on the table. **Each group will construct an ark from the materials on the table. You will be given five minutes to create an ark that you think can hold the most animals safely. These pennies will represent the animals. When you finish your ark, you will each put it in the tub of water and we will see how many pennies each ark can hold.**
2. Give students five minutes to creatively use the materials to build their “arks.”
3. When the groups are all finished, have them take turns putting their creation into the tub of water. Have each group add two pennies at a time to their arks until they sink or until the pennies are used up.
4. **It is fun to see how we can use all the science we know to create seaworthy ships. It is hard to imagine creating an ark strong enough to withstand 40 days and nights of intense flooding, though. We know that God was actively protecting Noah and his family as the water flooded the earth.**
5. **We also know that God promises not to flood the earth again, and that we have a God who keeps all promises. We are blessed to have a God that we can trust.**



HOW BIG? (10 MINUTES)

Research the ark online.

You will need:

- † Internet-connected devices
- † Pens, pencils, or markers
- † Paper

Before class:

1. Make sure your building has wireless access and that you know the access code.

During class:

1. **It is hard for us to imagine how big the ark really was, so we are going to do a little research.**
2. **In pairs or small groups, you will use your phones or tablets to look online for information about Noah's ark. Discover as much unique information as you can. Try to find out how the ark would compare in size to something in our modern world.**
3. Give them time to gather their information.
4. **As you gather your information, take notes or draw a diagram using the paper and pencils or markers.**
5. When students are finished, have them share their results.

ANIMAL CHARADES (10 MINUTES)

Play an animal imitation game.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Pen or pencil
- † Hat or basket
- † Optional: white board and markers

Before class:

1. On small pieces of paper, write down a variety of animal names. Place in a hat or basket to be drawn during the game.

During class:

1. **We have talked a lot today about Noah and the ark. Just for fun, let's play a silly game about the animals.**
2. Divide into two teams and play a traditional game of charades. Have students draw slips from the hat or basket, or simply choose an animal that they will act out.
3. If your students would prefer, instead of acting out the animal, they could draw them on the white board.

BIBLE BOOK (10 MINUTES)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Card stock or plain paper
- † Pens
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on card stock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out one piece of card stock paper and markers or crayons to each student.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of your important things you have learned. Do not forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. You can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

SENDING THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

PRAYER

Dear God, you cared for Noah and his family on the ark even as the water flooded and destroyed the earth. We know we can also trust you to love us always and to keep your promises. We worship and adore your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TWO BY TWO OR TWO BY FOUR?

Perform a silly mathematical skit.

Narrator: The world was still pretty young when problems erupted. God's heart was saddened by what was happening on earth.

People: *(Argue and fight with one another.)*

God: *(Yelling)* ENOUGH ALREADY! I am going to get rid of all the human beings I have created on earth. I am sorry I made them. All except for one... *(Everyone looks expectantly at God.)*

God: Noah! *(Everyone else sighs and complains when they are not chosen.)* Quiet down! When I destroy the entire earth due to all this violence and evil, I am going to save YOU, Noah. There are just a few things I need you to do.

Noah: Sure, God. I've got a couple minutes. What would you like? I could get you a cold drink. I could go cut that awesome cypress tree you created. You name it!

God: Noah, you are so obedient. Here's what I need. Build a boat!

Noah: A boat? Like, a little fishing boat? I could take a couple two-by-fours and rig something up for you. How does that sound? My sons Ham, Shem and Japheth can help!

God: Well, I was thinking a little bigger. Use not only that cypress tree, but also the entire cypress forest. I want an ark. It needs to be 300 cubits long. A cubit is about 18 inches. 18 times 300 is 5400...and 5400 inches is about 150 yards. That's a football field and a half! And it will be fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. It will need a roof and a door on the side. Three decks as well. Got it?

Noah: Whoa! Wait a minute! If you want it 300 cubits long and 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high and made out of cypress, that's a LOT of two-by-fours. I'm tired already! Come on, Ham, Shem and Japheth, let's get going on this.

TWO BY TWO OR TWO BY FOUR?

Perform a silly mathematical skit.

Ham: Gee, Dad. Do we have to?

Shem: Of course, we have to! God said!

Noah: *(To Ham and Shem)* You two work on the ark. Japheth and I will work on gathering the animals. God said to take with us pairs of animals. I guess that means two-by-two.

Ham: I thought you said to use two-by-fours, not two-by-two's.

Japheth: No, Ham. No wonder you aren't Dad's favorite. You never listen. YOU are using two-by-fours. WE are collecting animals two-by-two. Here, kitty-kitty!

(Ham and Shem continuing creating the ark. Noah and Japheth round up animals.)

Noah: I think the four of us did great work creating with the two-by-fours and gathering the two-by-two's. Let's get inside with our families. *(Noah climbs into the ark.)*

Narrator: The rain falls... and falls... and falls. Everything not on the ark is washed away.

Noah: The rain is slowing down. I think it has stopped! It's been forty days that we have been on this ark made of two-by-fours with all these animals two-by-two. Is the flood finally over?

God: It is over, Noah. It's time for you to go out of the ark with all these creatures and live happily on the earth. Be fruitful and multiply.

Shem: *(sighing deeply)* Oh, no... NOT more multiplying! We already did two-by-fours and two-by-two's. We already figured out cubits and football fields. What MORE could we possibly multiply?

TWO BY TWO OR TWO BY FOUR?

Perform a silly mathematical skit.

Noah: Shem, Shem, Shem! God means we should live on the beautiful earth and have children and grandchildren.

God: Exactly right, Noah! You have always been such a good listener. In fact, I am establishing a covenant with you. I will make a promise to your family and to all the animals on the ark. This promise will be to every living creature on the earth. Never ever again shall I flood the earth and destroy it. Never! In fact, I am putting a rainbow in the clouds as a reminder of my promise to every living creature. I am here to preserve life and not to end it! And, Shem?

Shem: Oh, no, please no more math!

God: I am a God of promises and love. Just one question: If I had you make a 300 cubit by 50 cubit by 30 cubit ark out of two-by-fours from cypress trees and filled it with your family and animals coming two-by-two onto three decks through one door due to a flood that is lasting 40 days, then I open the doors and ask you to multiply and after that, I make you a covenant with a rainbow that has seven colors. What does all that add up to?

Shem: Oh, that one is easy. It adds up to a God who loves us and cares for us.

Ham: Finally, you are right, Shem! We praise you God for saving us.

Japheth: We thank you for the way you provide for our needs.

Noah: Forever we will love and praise your name, O God!

NOAH AND THE ARK

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

I LEARNED:



THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1 (2022-2023)

Lesson #1-1
Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

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

Noah was a righteous man who walked with God. When God gave him specific instructions of how to build an ark of cypress wood, Noah did what was commanded of him. God sends the flood, and after either forty days (Genesis 7:17) or 150 days (Genesis 7:24), God "remembers" Noah and the story turns. God establishes a covenant with all people to never again flood the earth. God is committed to preserving creation and places a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that covenant.

PRACTICE WORSHIP

God has shown love to all living creatures through the gifts of creation and re-creation. We respond to that love through worship. This week, students create a beaded rainbow backpack clip as they consider the reasons they worship and praise God. Using the card from the activity, share how you remember God in each color category.

THE POINT

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

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.

NEXT WEEK

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

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✝ In what way does this text speak to our theme of trusting in God's promises?
- ✝ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✝ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

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? How should we respond?

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

Noah and the ark.

Act out the story of Noah and the ark.

Monday—Read Genesis 9:18-29

Noah and his family after the ark.

What would you do first if you had been Noah and his family?

Tuesday—Read Psalm 93

A song of God's strength.

Put the words of this song to a popular melody. Sing it together.

Wednesday—Read Psalm 104:1-9

Praise for God's wonderful work.

Draw the images described in this Psalm.

Thursday—Read Psalm 104:24-35

God's wonderful work continued.

Go for a walk outside and describe God's wonderful creation.

Friday—Read Genesis 11:1-9

The Tower of Babel

Try to build a tall tower with blocks. If you get frustrated, take a break and tell each other "I love you!"

Saturday—Read Genesis 11:26-32

Abram and his family.

Draw your family tree.