

Use Week of:

## Unit 1 • Session 4 Noah and the Ark

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 6–9

### STORY POINT:

God punished sin but chose to rescue Noah and his family.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b-17

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

Adam and Eve left the garden to start a life out in the world. Despite the grief of their sins, imagine their joy as their family grew. With each birth, maybe Eve hoped this son would be the one to end the curse of sin, to crush the head of the snake. (Gen. 3:15) But Adam and Eve witnessed sin's effects on their own children: Cain murdered Abel. Cain was not the Promised One, and neither was Abel.

Some time later, Eve gave birth to another son, Seth. Seth lived 912 years. He saw the earth's population grow as God sustained generation after generation. Less than 20 years after his death, Seth's sixth-great-grandson, Noah was born.

By this time—10 generations after Adam—people had stopped following God. Scripture describes a deplorable situation: "Human wickedness was widespread on the earth ... every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time" (Gen. 6:5).

God decided to send a flood to cleanse the earth. He was right to punish this sin. The waters would cover the earth and destroy everything. God graciously chose to save one man and his family, so He warned Noah about the flood and told him to build an ark.

Noah believed God's warning about the coming judgment. He obediently worked to build the ark. But the work took years, and Noah likely faced ridicule from his friends and neighbors. Was Noah crazy, building a boat where there was no water?

Finally, God's judgment came. Floodwaters covered the earth. Every living thing was destroyed, but Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. God rescued Noah's family—the family His own Son would be born into. Jesus would warn of God's coming judgment too, but instead of condemning the world, Jesus would give up His life to rescue sinners.

# The BIBLE Story

## Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6–9

Adam and Eve had many children and grandchildren. One day, God looked at all the people on earth and saw that they were choosing to sin. Every person's thoughts were evil, and God was sad that He made people. God decided to send a flood to destroy all the creatures on the earth and to clean up the world.

God showed favor to a man named Noah. Noah was a righteous man; he followed God. God warned Noah about the flood. He told Noah to make an ark to save himself, his family, and all kinds of animals.

God told Noah exactly how to make the ark. God said that He would make a *covenant*, or agreement, with Noah and his family. Noah did everything that God commanded.

When the ark was finished, God told Noah to go inside. Noah went inside with his family and the animals, and God shut the door. Rain came for 40 days and 40 nights, and water rose from the ground. Noah was 600 years old when

this happened.

Now the ark floated on top of the water. The water rose higher and higher until all of the mountains were covered. Every living thing on

the earth died; only Noah and those with him survived.

Finally, the rain stopped and the water started to go down. Noah waited inside the ark until the ground was dry. Then God told Noah to bring all the people and animals out of the ark. So Noah did. Noah built an altar and gave an offering to the Lord. God promised Noah that He would never completely flood the earth again.

God told Noah and his family to spread out over the earth and fill it with people. God placed a rainbow in the sky as a special sign of the covenant He made with Noah. Every time Noah and his family saw the rainbow, they would know God remembered the promise He made with all the living creatures on earth.

*Christ Connection: God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. The story of Noah points ahead to a greater rescue. God's Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.*

### Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Draw pictures:** As you tell the story, draw simple sketches on a chalkboard or dry erase board for Noah, his family, the ark, the animals, and so on.
- **Call for active listening:** Challenge kids to count how many times they hear the name *Noah* in the story.

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Noah and the Ark

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 6–9

**STORY POINT:** God punished sin but chose to rescue Noah and his family.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Colossians 1:16b-17

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about a time that they did what was right, even when everyone else was choosing to disobey.

**SAY** • Long ago, a man named Noah was righteous at a time when everyone else was doing evil things.

### Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “The Ark” on the activity page.

**SAY** • Today’s Bible story is about a great rescue that happened thousands of years ago. It teaches us something very important about God and points to an even greater rescue. We’re about to find out more.

### Session starter (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Follow instructions

Give each kid a pencil and a piece of paper. Explain that this activity will require kids to follow instructions. You will read each instruction twice, but not a third time, so they should listen carefully. Read the first instruction, pause,

and then repeat the instruction. Read through all of the instructions. Then let kids compare their papers.

1. Write your first name at the bottom left corner.
2. Write the numbers 1 through 9 on the first line of the paper. Leave a space between each number.
3. Circle the number 4.
4. Fold your paper in half the long way. Then open your paper and fold it in half the short way.
5. Open your paper and use the tip of your pencil to poke a hole where the two folds meet.
6. Draw a star around the hole you made in your paper.
7. Write the first letter of your last name in the top right corner of the paper.
8. On the last line of the paper, write the word finished near the right edge.

**SAY** • How closely did you follow the instructions? In today’s Bible story, God gave a man named Noah some instructions, and Noah did just what God said.

### OPTION 2: Float a boat

Provide play dough, foil, and craft sticks for kids to construct their own boats. Discuss what features might help a boat float. Allow kids to predict whether or not a boat will float, and then test each boat in the shallow water.

**SAY** • Imagine making a boat that would actually hold people and animals! Today’s Bible story is about a man who obeyed God. He built a large boat, called an ark, because God had a plan to clean up the earth. Let’s find out what happened.

### Transition to teach the story

- shallow tub of water
- clay or play dough
- aluminum foil
- craft sticks
- towels (for cleanup)

• “The Ark” activity page, 1 per kid  
• pencils or markers

### LOW PREP

- lined paper
- pencils

## TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Noah and the Ark

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### Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

### Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire  
• safety glasses  
• work gloves  
• Bible

*[Leader enters wearing a mechanic's apron, safety glasses, and work gloves. He or she looks over a bicycle positioned at the front of the room before addressing kids.]*

**LEADER** • Hello! Welcome to The Cyclery, where we keep people's bikes working like they are supposed to. I'm *[your name]*, lead bicycle technician.

*[Gesture toward the displayed bicycle as you remove your safety glasses and work gloves.]* I recently finished up some maintenance on this bike. It took a lot of work, but we got it back into good shape. You should have seen a bike we had in here a few weeks ago. It was in very bad shape; almost everything that could have been wrong with it was wrong with it! Its owner left it out in the rain for several days, and it got pretty rusty. Bikes are good for riding down a street, on a dirt trail, or even down a mountain; but we advise you keep them out of the rain.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

*[Pick up your Bible.]* You know, there was a time when God decided to send a flood. (A bike sure wouldn't be useful in a flood!) God graciously chose to save one man and his family. God told him to build a boat! I can't wait to tell you more.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Our big picture question is, *Who is God?* I'll ask the question again, and you say the answer together: *Who is God? God is our Creator and King.* God made everything, and He is in charge of everything. God is all-powerful, knows everything, and is everywhere all the time. Nothing that happens surprises Him. Think about that when you hear our Bible story today.

### Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to previous Bible stories as you review.

• Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • We started at the beginning, when God created the world and people. The first two people were Adam and Eve, but they chose to sin against God. They did not trust Him and obey Him. **Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.**

Adam and Eve left the garden to start a life out in the world, but God did not leave them without hope. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. So when Adam and Eve had children, they probably wondered if any of them was the Rescuer. But none was. As their family grew, sin spread—generation after generation.

Today's Bible story describes a family who lived ten generations after Adam. By this time, people had stopped following God. What did God do about this? Listen to this Bible story to find out.

### Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 6–9. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Noah and the Ark.”

**LEADER** • Do you remember our big picture question and answer? *Who is God? God is our Creator and King.* God made everything, and He is in charge of everything. When God saw that people everywhere were sinning, He was very sad and decided to send a great flood. **God punished sin but chose to rescue Noah and his family.**

The Bible says that Noah was a righteous man. This doesn't mean that Noah never sinned; rather, Noah followed God. He had faith. Noah believed that God is who He says He is and that He would do what He says He will do. So when God warned Noah about the flood and told Noah to build an ark, Noah obeyed God. God did not rescue Noah because he deserved to be rescued. Noah deserved punishment like everyone else, but God showed mercy to Noah and his family.

God did send the flood! Now imagine being stuck inside a boat while it rained for 40 days and 40 nights and the whole earth was flooded. What do you think it was like inside the ark? [*Prompt kids to raise their hands and respond.*] How do you think Noah and his family members felt? [*Allow responses.*]

### Christ connection

**LEADER** • God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. People continued to sin, but God did not want to destroy people; He wanted to rescue them! The story of Noah points ahead to a greater rescue. God's Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 65 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 1, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why God has to punish sin. Guide them to discuss how God provided the payment for sin. How is God both loving and just?

• “Unit 1, Session 4” questions from kids video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Display a map of London where kids can easily see it.

• “Map of London” printable

**LEADER** • God wants everyone to be rescued from the power of sin and death, but He didn't send an ark for us. Instead, He sent His Son, Jesus! Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are good news for sinners. God wants everyone who believes in Jesus to share this good news with others.

We can share the gospel wherever we live. Missionaries often share the gospel in places that are not their home, like the Rigney family living in London, England. The Rigneys spent time getting to know their new city. Take a look at this map of London. Do you recognize any of these popular landmarks? [*Allow kids to look.*] You can't see them on this map, but millions of people live in London. We can support the Rigney family by praying they will

meet and share the gospel with many people. Pray that the people of London will trust in Jesus.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Colossians 1:16b-17.

**LEADER** • God created a perfect world through His Son. He created everything for His glory. Sin does not bring glory to God. It hurts what God has created, but God the Son holds everything together. The Bible tells us about God's plan to undo the curse of sin through His Son, Jesus. Let's sing.

Lead boys and girls in singing "All Things Hold Together."

### Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 145:20-21.

**LEADER** • God created people to know Him and love Him, but sin separates people from God. God is right to punish sin, but He loves us! He sent His Son to rescue people from sin so we can live with Him forever. Let's sing.

Sing "My Father's World," "Our Creator and King," or another song of your choice.

### Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Father God, thank You for sending a Rescuer! We deserve to die for our sin, but You loved us and sent Your Son. Thank You for Your grace. Help us to trust You and obey You, for Your glory. Amen.

### Dismiss to apply the story

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

• Key Passage Poster  
• "All Things Hold Together" song

• "My Father's World,"  
"Our Creator and King," or another  
song of your choice

## APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Noah and the Ark

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 6–9

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**KEY PASSAGE:** Colossians 1:16b-17

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or marker

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Then write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board, making some changes by adding extra words, substituting alternate words, or removing words. Challenge boys and girls to raise their hands if they see a mistake.

Allow kids to take turns correcting one mistake at a time until the key passage is written correctly. Then lead everyone to read it aloud together. If time allows, play another round.

**SAY** • If you haven't yet memorized our key passage, keep working at it! Memorizing God's Word helps us remember what is true about God and about ourselves.

### Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 6. Ask kids to tell you what division of the Bible Genesis is in. (*Law*) Remind boys and girls that the books following Genesis (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) contain commands God

gave His people. Explain that the story of Noah is found in chapters 6–9 of Genesis. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 6:5-6. Call for another volunteer to read verses 7-8.

**SAY** • As the earth filled with more and more people, the people stopped following God. They sinned; they did not trust Him and obey Him. The people did what was wicked and evil. **God punished sin but chose to rescue Noah and his family.**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why do you think God punished sin? *Guide kids to recognize that God's anger toward sin and punishment of sin is a right reaction to evil and wickedness. To sin is to turn against God.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 5:4.)

2. What was God's greater plan to deal with sin? *Lead boys and girls to recall that God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:17.)

3. Where do you see God's mercy in this Bible story? Where do you see God's mercy today? *Explain that the word mercy means "kindness or forgiveness when punishment is deserved." Point out that Noah trusted God, but he was still a sinner who needed mercy.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)

**SAY** • God did not send the flood to get rid of sin. Noah, his family, and everyone after them still sinned. The flood pointed ahead to a greater rescue when God would send His Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Tip: Write the optional references on index cards and allow volunteers to bookmark their place in the Bible before you call on them to read.

## LOW PREP

- "London Landmark Cards" printable
- "Map of London" printable

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

- unscented baby wipes
- rubber bands
- washable markers
- paper towels
- scissors (optional)

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Missions messages

Before the session, hide the London landmark cards around the room. Challenge kids to find them. Guide each kid who found a card to read its title and, if it appears on the London map, to point it out. Explain that these are many of the famous sites the Rigneys see every day as they share the gospel in London.

Use the guide on the landmark printable to share some trivia about each landmark.

**SAY** • Maybe someday you will go to London and see these sites in person—maybe even as a missionary! Remember, you can be a part of God's mission all around the world now by praying people will hear and receive the gospel.

#### OPTION 2: Easy tie-dye art

Demonstrate the following steps and then assist kids in making tie-dye art:

1. Pinch the center of a baby wipe and twist the wipe into a short rope.
2. Carefully wrap a few rubber bands around different sections of the wipe.
3. Use a marker to color the sections of the wipe. Color different sections different colors.
4. Remove the rubber bands (you can snip them off with scissors) and gently unfold the wipe. Lay the wipe on a paper towel until it is dry.

Consider displaying kids' art by using clothespins to fasten it to a string across a wall. As kids work, remind them that after the flood, God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign that God would remember His covenant with all living

creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature. (Gen. 9:14-15)

**SAY** • **God punished sin but chose to rescue Noah and his family.** Only the people in the ark were saved. The Bible says that one day, God will judge and punish sin. (2 Cor. 5:10) In our sin, we have turned away from God, but God loves us! He provided a Rescuer—Jesus—to come to earth and take the punishment we deserve for our sin. Everyone who is "in Christ"—those who have trusted in Jesus as Lord—will be saved.

### Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for His grace and provision. Pray that boys and girls would believe God and His Word. Ask God to give kids courage to tell others about Jesus, the Rescuer.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Adventures of Noah" on the activity page. Kids should draw pictures of the events in Noah's story to show what happened.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "The Adventures of Noah" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.