

Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 4 Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 6–9

STORY POINT: God rescued Noah and his family.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 46



TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 48



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 50



Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit 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: "Man's wickedness was widespread on the earth ... every scheme his mind thought of 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 children and grandchildren. Soon there were many people in the world. All of them did just what Adam and Eve had done: they made wrong choices. They chose to not do what God said.

God saw that the people did mean things and thought bad thoughts. God was very sad. He decided to send a big flood to clean up the world.

God showed favor to a man named Noah. Noah was a righteous man. God told Noah about His plan, and He told him to build an ark—a really big boat—where Noah's family and all kinds of birds and animals would be safe from the flood.

Noah obeyed God. He began to build the ark just like God told him to. Noah worked for many years until the ark was finished. Then he filled it with food for his family and for the animals, just as God had told him to. Every kind of animal came to the ark, males and females.

Rain began to fall. Noah, his family, and the animals went into the ark and God closed the door. Rain came for 40 days and 40 nights. Water covered all the earth, even the highest mountains. The ark floated on the water, and everyone inside the ark was safe.

Finally, the rain stopped. God sent a wind to dry out the earth.

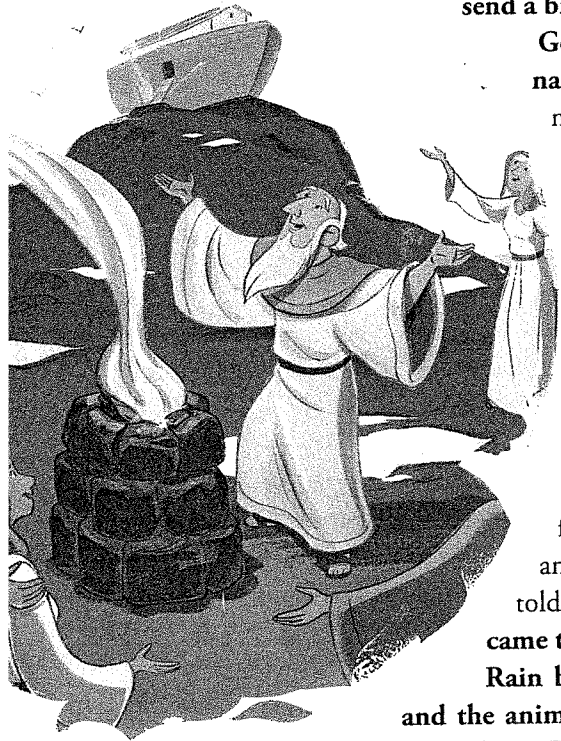
The water went down, and the ark rested on a mountaintop. Then God told Noah to bring his family and all the animals out of the ark. Noah gave an offering to thank God. God had saved Noah, his family, and the animals from the flood.

God told Noah's family to spread out and live in different places, to have children, and to take care of the world. God promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God put a rainbow in the clouds to be a reminder of His promise.

Christ Connection: God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but God rescued Noah and his family. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Sit in a boat:** Use tape to form the shape of a boat on the floor. Invite preschoolers to sit in the "boat" as you tell the Bible story.
- **Play out parts of the story:** Invite preschoolers to pantomime during parts of the Bible story: 1) hammering and sawing as Noah builds the ark; 2) moving fingertips on knees as the ark is entered; 3) making "rain" fingers coming down from the sky as the rain falls.



INTRODUCE the Story



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

Welcome time

- "My Father's World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Two of Every Kind" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to draw a line connecting the boy animal to the girl animal of the same kind.

SAY • Remember that God made many kinds of animals. In today's Bible story, God planned to send a big flood, but God had a plan to rescue one family and some of all the animals He made.

Build a boat with blocks

Encourage preschoolers to build a large boat using blocks.

SAY • In today's Bible story, God told a man named Noah to build an ark. An ark is a really big boat. We will discover why God wanted Noah to build an ark in our Bible story. Do you have any guesses?

Play with ice boats

Before the session, cut 1-inch triangles from foam sheets. Glue triangles to plastic straws cut to 3-inch lengths to form a sail. Fill an ice tray with water. Drip a few drops of food color in each compartment. Avoid using red food color as it is more likely to stain. Cover the ice tray tightly with plastic wrap. Add a sail to each compartment by punching the straw through the plastic wrap. Freeze the tray.

Cover a table and the floor below with newspaper or old towels. Set a large plastic tub with a few inches of water on the table. Set out the ice tray a few minutes before preschoolers arrive so the boats will dislodge with ease. Put a waterproof smock on each preschooler. Give each preschooler an ice boat to float on the water. Point out how the water in the tub changes colors as the ice boats melt.

SAY • In our Bible story today, God told a man named Noah to build ark—a really big boat. The ark God wanted Noah to build was not made of ice. It was made of wood. It needed to last a long time. God planned to use the boat to rescue Noah and his family from a flood. We will hear about that in our Bible story today.

- foam sheets
- scissors (adult use)
- plastic straws
- glue
- ice tray
- food color
- plastic wrap
- newspaper or old towels
- plastic tub
- water
- waterproof smock

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Suggest preschoolers pretend to jump in puddles of water as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Genesis 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • What book is this? The Bible! Whose words are in the Bible? God's! Is the whole Bible true? Yes! Today's story comes from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family.** Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the "Key Passage Marker" and place it at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to come up and open

your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Say the key passage leaving out a word and challenge preschoolers to say the word that is missing.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that all things have been created through Jesus and for Jesus. Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Sing the key passage song, "All Things," and the theme song, "My Father's World."

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Do you remember our big picture question? *Who is God? God is our Creator and King.* God created us to honor Him. When we do mean things and think bad thoughts, we do not honor Him like He created us to do. But God sent Jesus to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we do not have to be afraid of God's punishment. We are safe with God forever.



Missions moment

SAY • God rescues people from sin today by the gospel, and He uses us to tell the gospel to others. We can share the gospel wherever we live. Missionaries often do this in places that are not their home, like the Rigney family living in London, England. This is a map of London. We can support the Rigney family by praying they will meet and share the gospel with the many people living here. Let's pray for the people of London, England.

Pray and transition to experience the story

• Bible
• bookmark
• Giant Timeline

• Story Point Poster
• "Noah and the Ark" video (optional)
• Bible Story Picture Poster

• "Key Passage Marker" printable
• Key Passage Poster
• "All Things" song
• "My Father's World" song

• Big Picture Question Poster

• "Map of London" printable

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

- books depicting various animals

Look at books about animals

Set out an assortment of books depicting various animals for preschoolers to browse. Read a book to a child as he shows interest.

SAY • **God rescued Noah and his family** from the flood. God rescued every kind of animal He made too. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Experiment with prisms

- acrylic prisms
- large white sheet of paper
- colored pencils
- CDs (optional)
- flashlights (optional)

Gather several acrylic prisms. If prisms are not available, you may use CDs. This activity is best explored by a sunny window, but can also be performed with a flashlight. Cover a table with a large sheet of white paper. Show preschoolers how to adjust the prism to make the colors of the rainbow show up on the paper. Allow time for preschoolers to experiment with the prisms. Invite preschoolers to color over the rainbow on their paper with matching colored pencils.

SAY • Rainbows remind us of God's promise to never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family**. Later, there was an

even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Make rain sticks

Give each preschooler an empty paper towel tube. Cover one end of the tube with duct tape. Invite a preschooler to fill his tube with wadded pieces of scrap construction paper. Help a preschooler spoon several spoonfuls of dry rice into his tube. Close off the open end of the tube with duct tape. Show a preschooler how to turn their rain stick over to make the sound of rain. Invite each preschooler to decorate his rain stick with colorful tape and stickers.

SAY • In our Bible story, rain came for 40 days and 40 nights. Can you imagine what that sounded like? Water covered all the earth, even the highest mountains, but **God rescued Noah and his family**. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

- empty paper towel tube, 1 per child
- colorful duct tape
- scrap pieces of construction paper
- bowl
- dry rice
- plastic spoon

Make cereal rainbows

Print a copy of the "Rainbow" printable for each preschooler. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Distribute one paper to each preschooler along with a bowl of multi-colored fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal. Invite a preschooler to fill each row of his rainbow printable with a different color of cereal to create a rainbow.

SAY • God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family**. God promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God put a rainbow in the

- "Rainbow" printable
- multi-colored, fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal
- bowls
- hand sanitizer

clouds to be a reminder of His promise. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.



Take a boat through London

Place chairs in rows of three or more to create a "boat." Invite preschoolers to sit in the boat and pretend to take a ride down the Thames River. Explain that the Thames River flows through the city of London, where the Rigney family are missionaries. Hold up the different "London Landmark Cards" as preschoolers "ride." Read the provided description for each landmark.

SAY • Our boat was much smaller than the ark Noah built. God used the ark Noah built to rescue Noah and his family. God is using the Rigney family in London to rescue people too. The Rigneys share the good news of how Jesus came to rescue people from sin with the people of London. Maybe someday God will ask you to go to London or another country to be a missionary. Remember you can be a part of God's mission all around the world now by praying people will hear the gospel. Let's pray now!

- chairs
- "London Landmarks Cards" printable

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve multi-colored fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal for snack. Point out the rainbow of colors. Talk about how **God rescued Noah and his family**. God put a rainbow in the clouds to be a reminder of His promise to never again send a flood to cover the entire earth.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. How did God feel about people doing mean things and thinking bad thoughts? (*He was very sad.*)
2. What did God tell Noah to build? (*an ark—a really big boat*)
3. Who closed the door to the ark? (*God*)
4. Who all stayed on the ark during the flood? (*Noah, his family, and every kind of animal*)
5. What did Noah do to thank God for rescuing them? (*gave an offering*)
6. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or unit theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- multi-colored fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers