

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.

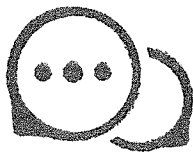
KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

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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: “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 an agreement, or covenant, 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. As kids arrive, ask them if they have ever seen a toilet or sink overflow. How did they feel as the water rose and began to flood out?

SAY • It can be kind of scary to see even a tiny flood, like water overflowing a sink. Bigger floods can cause incredible damage and hurt or kill people. Today, we will learn about the biggest flood that has ever happened.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Find the Pictures” activity page. Kids will find and circle the images from the key hidden throughout the picture

SAY • Great job finding those hidden pictures. They were around the whole picture, but hidden. Today we will hear a story about how sin spread around the whole world, but it was not hidden. It was out in the open. How do you think God reacted to seeing sin spread around the whole world? We’ll find out.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Animal charades

Form two teams of kids. Allow the teams to take turns acting out herds of animals to see if the other team can guess which animal they are pretending to be. If kids are struggling to guess, allow them to make animal noises as well as mimic the movements of the animal.

Suggestions:

- lions
- crows
- cows
- snakes

SAY • In our story today, we will hear about a time when sin had spread so much, and people had grown so evil, that God decided to flood the whole world. But God chose to save one family and many kinds of animals. How do you think God would save creatures from a flood?

OPTION 2: Water play

Fill a few large tubs or buckets with water. Allow the kids to use water toys to play in the water. You may use a tarp to protect your floors from spills. Keep towels on hand to clean up when you are finished.

SAY • A little bit of water is pretty fun, but a lot can be dangerous. Today, we will hear about a time when God sent enough water to flood the whole earth, and how God saved one family from the flood.

Transition to teach the story

**LOW
PREP**

- large tubs or buckets
- water
- water toys
- tarp to protect flooring (optional)
- towels for cleanup

• “Find the Pictures”
activity page,
1 per kid
• pencils or markers

TEACH 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.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• Bible

[Leader enters wearing greasy overalls and a tool belt. He or she is carrying a Bible.]

LEADER • Hey, y'all! Welcome back to my repair shop.

You'll never guess what I got to work on last week. Go ahead and try. *[Allow responses.]* I'll give you a hint: it's used to cross bodies of water. *[Allow responses.]* Exactly! I got to work on a boat. Technically I was just working on the outboard motor for my friend's fishing boat, not the boat itself, but still. It was very cool. It's working much better than it was. I had to replace a few parts and clean out a lot of greasy gunk that was clogging it all up.

It's hurricane season, and my buddy wanted to have his boat ready to rescue people in case we get any flooding that could trap people in their homes. Anyway, I bring it up because it reminds me of our Bible story this week. Who wants to hear it?

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • We have only recently begun our journey through the Bible. We want to understand the big picture of what God's Word teaches, but to do that we need to answer some big picture questions. Who can tell us the question we've focused on for the past few weeks? *[Allow responses.]* Great memory! **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.** As we get into the next story, let's try to see how it helps us understand this question and answer.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline.

LEADER • Three weeks ago, we heard about the wonderful world God made. **God created everything, and everything He created was good.** The week after that we learned about a special part of God's creation that was different from anything else. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** Last week, we learned how this world got so messed up. **Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.** This week, we will see that sin had spread further and further, and that just about everyone in the whole world always chose to disobey God. Our story is called "Noah and the Ark."

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 • When I read this story, sometimes I feel pretty

• Giant Timeline

• Bibles
• "Noah and the Ark" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster
• Story Point Poster

confused. It's hard to learn that God used a flood to destroy creatures. But it helps when I remember what we learned last week. Sin does not glorify God, and God is right to punish sin. The amazing thing is that even while angry about sin, God still showed His love for people. **God punished sin, but chose to rescue Noah and his family.** God did not have to save Noah, but He loves people and wanted to show mercy.

The Bible describes Noah as righteous. A *righteous* person is someone who has faith and chooses to obey God. It's important to remember that Noah was not perfect. He was a sinner just like you and me. Noah understood that **God is our Creator and King.** Noah believed that when God said something, it was the truth. So when God warned Noah about the flood and instructed him to build an ark, Noah obeyed.

Noah, his family, and the animals God brought to Noah lived on the ark for over a year! Eventually the rain stopped, and then the water finally dried up. Noah and his family and all the animals left the ark. Noah made an altar and sacrificed an animal to worship God and give thanks to Him for saving them. Then God promised that He would never again flood the whole earth. God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His promise.

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.

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. He sent His Son, Jesus! God's plan for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is 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.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

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

Key passage (5 minutes)

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

LEADER • Jesus is God the Son. He has always existed. Our key passage for this unit teaches us that all creation was made through Him and for Him. He holds all things together! Let's sing a song to help us learn this truth by heart.

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

Sing (4 minutes)

• "My Father's World" song

LEADER • It is easy to look around at the brokenness and pain in the world and question where God is. But even though the world is filled with sin and evil, it is still God's world. He is still our Creator and King. One day, Jesus will return and set all things right. Sing together "My Father's World."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for being both just and merciful. Thank You for punishing sin and for providing a way for sinners to be saved. Help us to know You more and love You completely. Fill the earth with Your glory and use us as part of Your wonderful plans to save sinners and bring glory to Your name. 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.

APPLY the Story



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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.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- paper
- markers or crayons

Display the key passage poster where each kid can see. Read the key passage together as a group and then take volunteers to say the verses from memory. Provide a sheet of paper for each kid. Instruct the kids to write the key passage on their sheet of paper, alternating colors according to the colors in a rainbow. For example, kids can write it once in red, then in orange, then in yellow, and so forth.

SAY • Our key passage teaches us that God the Son was with God the Father at creation. Everything was created through Jesus and for Him. Jesus holds all things together. He is God the Son.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Provide each kid with a Bible and help them find Genesis 6–9. Remind kids how to use the table of contents at the front of a Bible to find the book and the large numbers to find the right chapter. Point out that the small numbers divide the chapter into verses to help find specific places.

Read the passage aloud or review the Bible story using the bolded words on the Bible story page. Then ask the

following questions, leading discussion as suggested:

1. Why did God flood the earth? (*Sin had spread and everyone was completely evil, Gen. 6:5-7*)
2. Whom did God choose to save? (*Noah, his family, and all kinds of animals; Gen. 6:18-19*)
3. What did God do to remind Noah of His promise to never flood the earth again? (*placed a rainbow in the sky, Gen. 9:12-13*)
4. Why is it good for God to punish sin? *Guide kids to understand that God is holy and perfect. If God did not punish sin, it would mean that He doesn't want what is best for us. God punishes sin because sin dishonors Him, and He created the world to glorify Him.*
5. The flood did not end sin forever. What has been God's plan to end sin all along? *Guide kids to discuss the truth that Jesus' death, resurrection, and promised return are all part of God's ultimate plan to deal with sin. Remind them that the story of Noah points us to Jesus, as God chose to save people although He did not have to.*
6. Why does God save people when He does not have to? *Guide kids to discuss the truth that God is just and will not let sin go unpunished, but He is also merciful and gracious. He loves people even though they do not deserve it. Help the kids in your group understand that God saves because He is love.*

SAY • God is holy and punishes sin. God is also merciful and gracious. He chooses to save people who do not deserve it. In the flood, God chose to save Noah. That pointed forward to Jesus saving us by dying on the cross to pay for our sins.

LOW PREP

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

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment (page 63).

- "Olive Branch" printable



Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: London landmarks

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 right now by praying that people will hear and receive the gospel.

OPTION 2: Find the branches

Print the "Olive Branch" printable and cut apart the olive branch pictures. Hide the "branches" around the room and invite the kids to search for them. Once kids find all the branches, re-hide them and play again as time allows.

SAY • When the waters had begun to dry up, Noah sent out birds to find dry land. A dove returned with an olive branch, so Noah knew that the water had gone down enough for trees to poke through. Seven days later, Noah sent out a dove that did not return at all, so Noah knew it had found a place to make a home, and the earth was dry enough to leave the ark.

This Bible story points forward to Jesus. Jesus, like the ark, is the only way for us to be saved from God's punishment for sin. Unlike the ark, we never leave Jesus and He never leaves us. Once we believe, we

gain forgiveness for our sin and new life with God forever!

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the activity page and any other pages home with the kids so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring 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.