

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.

TEACH THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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REVIEW THE STORY
(10+ MINUTES)
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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: “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.

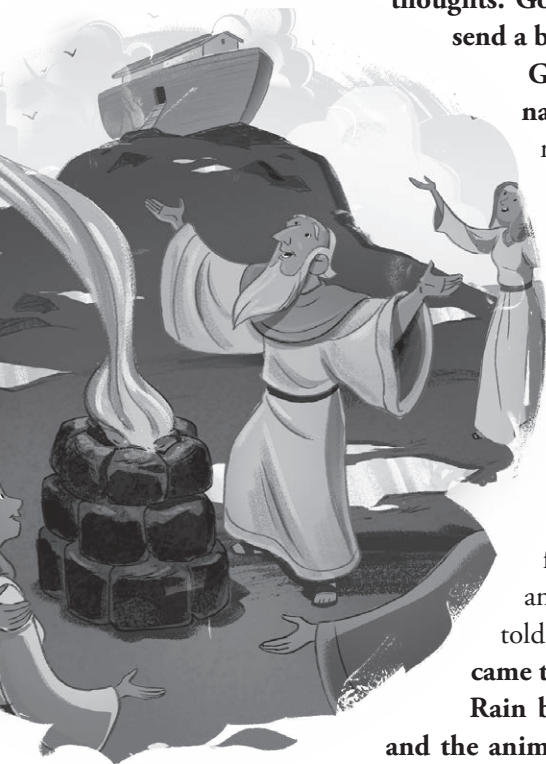
God saw that the people did mean things and thought bad thoughts. God was very sad. He decided to send a big flood to clean up the world.

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.

TEACH the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

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

Welcome and worship with song

- “Firm Foundation” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Firm Foundation” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- hammer and nails (adult use only)
- wood
- “Noah and the Ark” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster
- Giant Timeline

Before the session, hammer two pieces of wood together. Display the nailed wood for preschoolers to see. Consider nailing the wood together in front of preschoolers if space and safety allow. Warn preschoolers to cover their ears if the noise of the hammer will be unsettling.

SAY • Building things is cool, isn’t it? In our Bible story, a man named Noah spent years building a big giant boat that would keep his family and many animals safe during a flood.

Open your Bible to Genesis 6–9. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- “All Things” song

Place the key passage marker at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • All things were created through Jesus and for Jesus, but sometimes we forget that. The people living in Noah's time had forgotten God completely. They did only terrible things and thought only bad thoughts. This is why God sent a flood to clean up the world and start over with Noah and his family.

Sing the key passage song "All Things" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question asks, ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** God was powerful enough to make the whole world, and He was powerful enough to send a flood to clean it up. Noah believed God was our Creator and King, so he obeyed God's instructions about the ark. **God rescued Noah and his family.**

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

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

Sing "My Father's World" and "God Gives Us Everything We Need" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "I Am With You." Collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for being a powerful God who rescues us. After the flood, You made a promise never to flood the whole earth again. We believe this promise and every other promise in the Bible. Amen.

• Story Point Poster
• "My Father's World" song
• "God Gives Us Everything We Need" song
• "I Am With You" song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

Sing a song

Sing the song, “Arky, Arky” and perform the hand motions for preschoolers to repeat with you. If you are unfamiliar with the song or the hand motions, check them out online before the session.

SAY • Adam and Eve had many children, and their children had children, and their children had children. Soon the earth was full of people, but those people did not obey God. God sent a flood, but **God rescued Noah and his family** and every kind of animal on land.

LOW PREP

• blocks

Sit in the ark

Make an outline of a boat with blocks to serve as an “ark.”

Invite preschoolers to come inside the ark and make raindrop sounds while you count aloud to 40.

SAY • It rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and then, Noah and his family had to stay in the ark until everything dried out. **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.

Walk two-by-two

• “Animals” printable
• basket

Print two copies of the “Animals” printable. Use enough

cards so each preschooler will be able to find a pair. Place the cards in a basket. Guide each preschooler to draw a card. When all cards have been drawn, direct preschoolers to find who has their same animal. Guide each pair to walk two-by-two toward the other side of the room while moving like their animal and making their animal's sound. Collect the cards and play again.

SAY • God wanted every kind of animal to come into the ark, both male and female. There was a boy elephant and girl elephant, and so on. **God rescued Noah and his family** and the animals.

Paint rainbows

Invite preschoolers to paint all the colors of the rainbow with watercolor paint. Play music as children paint.

SAY • God put a rainbow in the sky to remind Noah of His promise to never flood the earth again. God has kept this promise. Every time you see a rainbow, remember that God keeps all His promises. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

- paper
- watercolor paints
- paintbrushes
- small cups of water
- painting smocks
- towels (for cleanup)
- "My Father's World" song (optional)
- "All Things" song (optional)

Look at an animal

Arrange for a small animal to visit your class such as a goldfish, lizard, hamster, or bird. Post an allergy alert at the door and alert parents. Be sure the animal is in a cage or carrier so it can be removed from class when the activity is over. Supervise children closely as they admire the animal.

SAY • God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family** and two of each kind of animal.

- Allergy Alert download
- animal with cage or container
- hand sanitizer for children to use before and after handling the animal

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

REVIEW the Story



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

Review

Point to the giant timeline as you review today's Bible story.

Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline
- Story Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "My Father's World" song (optional)
- "All Things" song (optional)

1. What is an ark? (*a very big boat*)
2. Who did God tell to build the ark? (*Noah*)
3. What did Noah fill the ark with? (*food for his family and animals*)
4. How long did it rain? (*40 days and 40 nights*)
5. Why did God put a rainbow in the sky? (*to show His promise to never flood the whole earth again*)
6. ***Who is God? God is Creator and King.***

SAY • People on earth did not love God, follow God, or think about God. They did bad things. This made God sad, so He sent a flood to clean up the world. Before He did that, God told Noah to build an ark to save his family and every kind of animal. Noah trusted God and obeyed His instructions. When the earth flooded, the people and animals inside were safe. **God rescued Noah and his family.** Many years later, there was an even greater rescue. Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He rescues us from the punishment for our sin.

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

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for this story, which reminds us that You are Creator, King, and Savior. You rescued Noah, his family, and animals from punishment with the ark. Today, You rescue us from punishment through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for keeping Your promise to never flood the earth again. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send Jesus. Thank You for keeping all of Your promises. Amen.



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.

• "Map of London" printable

Perform actions 40 times

Invite the children to jump 40 times in a row. Then clap 40 times. Then stomp 40 times. Count to 40 out loud for each repetition. For younger preschoolers, do four activities 10 times each for a total of 40.

SAY • It rained for 40 days and 40 nights during the flood. That's a long time! Then they had to wait for the earth to dry! **God rescued Noah and his family.** Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin.