God is in charge and we are his helpers.

Bible Verse:
“If you love me, obey my commandments” (John 14:15).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- learn that we can obey God by helping him,
- recognize that God uses us to carry out his plans,
- help Pockets with an “impossible” problem, and
- understand that God helps us.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- Noah helps the animals enter the ark.

Genesis 6:18–7:16

What a task God gave to 500-year-old Noah! Imagine building a wooden boat one and a half football fields long (450 feet), wide enough to park 12 average cars side by side (75 feet), and five stories tall—with tools less sophisticated than your handsaw and hammer! And on top of that, God asked Noah to build the ark on dry land! Noah and his sons and neighbors had no idea what a flood was. Yet Noah obeyed God. With the help of his sons, he had it finished by the time he was 600.

Sometimes people joke about the task Noah must have had rounding up all those animals to get them on the ark. However, notice that that wasn’t his job. Once the ark was ready, God sent the animals to him (Genesis 7:8-9; 6:20).

There’s a lot we don’t know for sure about the flood. Was it really worldwide? Was it as recent as 4,000 years ago or as long ago as 10,000 years—or longer? Where did all the water come from? Are the remains of the ark still frozen in the ice atop Mount Ararat? God knows all the answers, and we need to trust him and serve as his helpers, just as Noah did!

Prayer
- How does Jesus’ statement here influence your thinking about the ark? about Jesus’ return to earth?
- Pray: God, help me to serve you fully as I teach my class to serve you, too, by…

Before the Lesson
- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.
## This Lesson at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Classroom Supplies</th>
<th>Learning Lab Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong></td>
<td>Welcome!—Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.</td>
<td>“World Name Tags” handout (p. 27), markers, tape or safety pins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Get Started</strong></td>
<td>Option 1: Headband animals—Create animals to wear.</td>
<td>Paper grocery sacks, markers, construction paper, tape, glue, feathers, felt scraps, “Ark Animals” handout (p. 74), scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option 2: Makin’ Tracks—Make animal tracks in the sand, and talk about the different animals God sent to the ark.</td>
<td>Plastic tub, damp sand, plastic bowls and spoons, paper cups, newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option 3: Noah’s Zoo—Use modeling dough to make whimsical animals.</td>
<td>Modeling dough, vinyl place mats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pick Up Our Toys—Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
<td>Setting the Stage—Try to accomplish an impossible task.</td>
<td>4x6 index card, scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Song and Prayer Time—Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.</td>
<td>Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Board a pretend ark as they listen to the Bible story from Genesis 6:18–7:16.</td>
<td>Bible, CD player, headbandanimals from Option 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do the Bible Story—Play a fun game, and experience how crowded the ark might have been.</td>
<td>Large box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
<td>Tuff-Stuff—Help Pockets with a difficult task, and teach her about being a helper.</td>
<td>Small toys to fit in Pockets’ pouch, rubber band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sing and Share—Sing a song, and discuss being God’s special helpers.</td>
<td>CD player, headbandanimals from Option 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “World Name Tags” handout (p. 27), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down to make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “What makes God sad?” and “What did Noah do to please God?”
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that God is in charge and we are his helpers.
- Hand out the world name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct the children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What big job did God give Noah to do?” or “How can you be God’s helper?”

Option 1: Headbandanimals

SUPPLIES: paper grocery sacks, markers, construction paper, tape, glue, feathers, felt scraps, “Ark Animals” handout (p. 74), scissors

Before class, make enlarged photocopies of the “Ark Animals” handout, and cut out an animal picture for each child. Cut off the bottom and up one side of a paper grocery sack. Then cut strips the length of the paper sack and about 2 inches wide. You’ll need one paper strip for each child.

Set out the animal pictures, felt scraps, tape, glue, feathers, markers, and construction paper scraps. Give each child a paper strip, and invite children to decorate the strips using markers. Fit the paper strips to the children’s heads, and then tape the ends together to make headbands. Have each child choose an animal picture to color and embellish with construction paper, felt, or feathers. Tape the finished animals to the headbands, and help kids write their names inside the headband.

As children work, point out how Noah helped God by building the ark to keep the animals safe during the flood. Ask questions such as “Why did God choose Noah to be his helper?” and “Why is it important to help God?” Explain that God is in charge and we are his helpers. Let children wear their “headbandanimals.”

Bible Point

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6
Option 2: Makin’ Tracks

**SUPPLIES:** plastic tub, damp sand, plastic bowls and spoons, paper cups, newspapers

Spread newspapers on the floor in one corner of the room. Set a plastic tub of damp sand on the papers. Provide plastic spoons, small bowls, and paper cups. As children arrive, invite them to make animal tracks in the sand. Suggest using their fingers to make bird and claw prints, plastic bowls for bear prints, and spoons and paper cups for rabbit tracks. You may wish to provide a book with pictures of animal tracks for children to look at.

As children work, ask questions such as “What animals came to the ark?” and “What can you tell about an animal from its tracks?” Talk about how many animal tracks there must have been leading to the ark! Explain that Noah helped God by helping the animals onto the ark and caring for them, and that God is in charge and we are his helpers, too.

Option 3: Noah’s Zoo

**SUPPLIES:** modeling dough, vinyl place mats

Set out modeling dough and vinyl place mats. Invite children to make pretend creatures by combining features from various animals, such as a creature with a rabbit’s ears, a monkey’s tail, and a giraffe’s neck. As children make their shapes, encourage them to name different animals that were on the ark. Point out how the ark was like a floating zoo! Remind children that Noah obeyed God, and God used Noah as his special helper. Because Noah obeyed God, we have all the different kinds of animals today. Tell children that in today’s Bible story, they’ll hear how God is in charge and we are his helpers.

Let children tell about the unusual animals they made. Encourage them to use their imaginations to tell about the foods their animals eat, what color the animals are, and how they move around.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou” as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
And put them all away.

There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)
Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** 4x6 index card, scissors

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they’re doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Have children sit in pairs.

Ask: • **Who can share about something you’ve done that seemed impossible to do at first?** (Raked all the leaves in the yard; picked up my room when it was really a mess; took a long trip in the car.)

• **What did God tell Noah to do that seemed impossible?** (Build the ark; save all the animals in the world; stay safe during the flood.)

Say: **Yes! Noah may have thought that building such a huge boat was impossible! And he must have wondered how he would find and take care of all those animals! But Noah knew that God is in charge, and Noah wanted to help God even when building the ark seemed impossible. Now it’s our turn to try a task that seems impossible!** Hold up a 4x6 index card. **I’m going to try to stretch this card and pull it over my head and around my neck. How many of you believe I can do that?**

Fold the index card in half, and cut it according to the diagram in the margin. Then unfold the card and cut along the fold, as indicated by the dotted line in the diagram. Be careful not to cut the far ends of the card all the way through. Be sure to practice cutting the card before class so you can do it easily. After you’ve stretched the card and pulled it over your head, ask:

• **How many of you were surprised that I could do this? Explain.** (I didn’t think you could do it because nobody can stretch a card; I thought you could because I saw somebody do it before.)

• **Do you think Noah believed he could build the ark the way God wanted it and then fit all the animals inside? Why or why not?** (No, there wasn’t enough room; no, there were too many animals; yes, because God can do anything.)

Say: **Building the ark and saving all the animals might have seemed like an impossible job to someone else, but Noah trusted God and God helped Noah do it. Sometimes jobs that seem impossible are possible when we work together; helping each other. God wants us to be his helpers, just like Noah was.**

The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:9a that we are “God’s workers.” The Bible also tells us in Matthew 19:26b that “with God everything is possible.” Noah might have thought that building the ark was impossible, but he learned that with God all things are possible!

Do you know what else seems impossible? When Jesus came to earth, he had to die on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. But you know what? Jesus came back to life, and now he lives in heaven! If we believe in Jesus, we can be friends with him here on earth and one
day we can live with him in heaven. That may sound impossible, but it’s true!

When Noah built an ark big enough for all those animals, it seemed like an impossible job to do. In our Bible story today, we’ll learn how Noah helped God with another job that seemed impossible. Noah knew that God is in charge and we are his helpers.

**Bible Song and Prayer Time**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the ark stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark Genesis 6:18–7:16 in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: *Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your card until the song is over.*

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD, to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

**SING**

Now it's time to read God's Book,
Read God’s Book, read God's Book.
Now it's time to read God's Book.
Let's hear a Bible story.
(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: *You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the ark stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.*

Identify the Bible person, and have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: *[Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week we’ll have only one Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that God is in charge and we are his helpers.*

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to teach us to be his helpers. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, teach me to be your helper!”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: *God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that you are in charge and we are your helpers.* In Jesus’ name, amen.
Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player, headbandanimals from Option 1

Before this activity, place a table or group of chairs in one area of the room for an “ark.” If you have the ark that children built last week, you may use it.

Have children sit in a circle. Hold up the Bible. Say: Our Bible story today comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Hold up the Bible Big Book: Noah. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the Bible story. Have children form pairs. The person in each pair who’s wearing the most blue today will be the Pointer; and the other partner will be the Reporter. I’ll ask questions about last week’s story, and then I’ll choose a pair to come to the Bible Big Book. The Pointer can point to the picture that shows the answer, and the Reporter can answer the story question.

Open the Bible Big Book to page 1.

Ask: • Why was God sad and angry about the people of the world? (People were doing wrong things; people acted mean; they didn’t love God.)
• Who was the only one who loved God? (Noah.)

Hold up pages 2 and 3 in the Bible Big Book.

Ask: • What did God command Noah to do? (Build the ark.)
• Why did God tell Noah to build an ark? (God planned to send a flood; God wanted to keep Noah and his family and all the animals safe.)
• How did Noah know what the ark was supposed to look like? (God told Noah just how to make it; God helped him.)
• What did Noah’s neighbors think when they saw the ark? (They wondered what Noah was doing; they didn’t believe a flood was coming.)
• Why did Noah build the ark anyway? (Noah loved God; Noah always obeyed God.)

Say: You all did a great job of remembering the story! And it’s good that Noah remembered who’s in charge—God! Our Bible story today is about an impossible job that God made possible. You can help tell our story today. Are you wearing your headbandanimals? Be sure each child has an animal headband to wear. When I count to three, make the sound of the animal you’re wearing. Ready? 1, 2, 3. Pause while children respond. Then clap your hands and wait until children are focused on you.

I’ll play the Bible story on the CD. When you hear the name of your animal, walk or creep or crawl over to the ark and climb quietly aboard.

Then open the Bible Big Book to pages 4 and 5 and show children the picture. Start the CD and listen to the “Noah, Part 2” segment (track 12). Stop the CD at the end of the segment. Have the children regroup in your story circle.

Ask: • What animals did God send to Noah? (All the animals; groups of two animals; boy and girl animals.)

• How do you think Noah felt when he saw all the animals coming to the ark? (Excited; glad to be God’s helper; a little scared; worried about how they’d all fit.)
• Do you think it was hard to fit the animals in the ark? Explain. (Yes, there were so many animals; yes, some of the animals were very big; no, God was in charge.)
Lesson 6

Say: It must have been exciting—and a little scary—to see all those animals coming to the ark! Noah may have wondered if all those animals would fit. But Noah knew that God is in charge and we are his helpers. With God’s help, Noah fit those animals into the ark. Now let’s play a fun game about fitting into a tight squeeze!

Close the Bible Big Book and return it to the Learning Lab. Have children take off their headband animals.

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: large box

Place a large box in the center of the room. Make sure the box is large enough for at least three children to step in at once.

Say: Noah may have thought it was an impossibly tight squeeze to get all those animals inside the ark, but God helped him do it! Let’s see if we can squeeze together in a game called Tight Squeeze!

Have children sit in a circle around the box and count off by threes. Choose one child to be Noah, and have Noah stand by the box “ark.” Point to the box and say: This is our pretend ark. Noah will call out a number from one to three. If that’s your number; waddle like a duck to the ark and step inside. You may have to squeeze together to fit in the ark all at once! When you’re all in the ark, say, “All aboard, all in the boat—Noah’s ark was a zoo that could float!” Then return to the circle, and we’ll choose a new Noah.

Continue playing until each child has been Noah. For extra fun, vary the way children come to the ark, such as doing the elephant walk or crab crawl.

When everyone has had a turn to be Noah, say: Those were some tight squeezes! Sometimes God asks us to do things that seem hard, but he always helps us do them. Our Bible verse is from John 14:15, and it says, “If you love me, obey my commandments.” Have children repeat the verse with you. A commandment is something important God wants us to do.

Ask: • What are things God wants you to do? (Always obey; be kind to others; tell others about God.)

• Who helps you do those things? (God.)

Say: That’s right. God helps us do hard jobs when we listen and obey him. It’s fun to know and love God! We can be God’s special helpers and do the things God wants us to do.

Ask: • What are some ways people know that we love God? (We tell them about God; we are nice to them.)

• What are some ways we can be God’s helpers this week? (We can help at home; we can obey our parents.)

Say: Those are good ways to be God’s helpers. Let’s be like Noah and remember that “with God everything is possible!” No job is too big when God helps us. That’s because God is in charge and we are his helpers. You know, I saw Pockets having a few problems earlier. Maybe we can be God’s helpers by helping our friend Pockets!

If you have more than 10 children in your class, count off by a larger number so you don’t have too many kids trying to fit into the box at once.
**Noah Helps the Animals Enter the Ark**

**Closing**

**SUPPLIES: small toys to fit in Pockets’ pouch, rubber band**

Before class, stuff a few small toys into Pockets’ pouch. Attach another item to Pockets’ paw with a rubber band. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.

**Pockets:** *(Has items hanging out of her pouch and is trying to put more inside.)* Oh! I can’t do this! It won’t fit—uggghh, ummph—it’s impossible!

**Teacher:** Hi, Pockets. What’s impossible?

**Pockets:** I’ve got to get all this stuff in my pocket so I can go visit my friend. And it won’t all fit!

**Teacher:** That’s a lot of stuff, all right. Do you really need all this?

**Pockets:** Yes, I wanted to bring even more toys, but I couldn’t carry them. Mommy said I could only take what I could carry. And I thought since I have this built-in suitcase *(patting her pouch)*, I’d be able to bring all my toys. But it’s too hard!

**Teacher:** This reminds me of our Bible story today. Noah had to fit all the animals inside the ark. Children, let’s tell Pockets about Noah and the animals and how we’re God’s special helpers. *(Encourage children to retell the story of how Noah was God’s helper and how God helped Noah get the animals onto the ark.)*

**Pockets:** *(Shaking her head)* I don’t get it. Was Noah God’s helper, or was God Noah’s helper?

**Teacher:** Both! God asked Noah to build the ark, and he did. So Noah was God’s helper. God helped Noah by telling him just how to build the ark and sending all the animals to him. Isn’t that neat? Noah knew that **God is in charge and we are his helpers.**

**Pockets:** I bet Noah was glad God sent the animals to him. But I don’t know how Noah got all those animals in the ark! I can’t even get a few things in my pouch!

**Teacher:** Maybe we can help you, Pockets. One good way to be God’s helper is to help others! *(Help Pockets get the last item in her pouch.)* There! It’s fun to be God’s special helper!

**Pockets:** Thanks for being God’s helpers! I think I’ll go tell my friend all about Noah and how we can be God’s helpers, too. ‘Bye, everyone!’

*(Have children say goodbye.)*

Permission to photocopy this script from Group’s Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Pre-K & K granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. HandsOnBible.com
Sing and Share

SUPPLIES: CD player, headband animals from Option 1

Have children form pairs, and ask:

- Who’s in charge of everything and wants us as his special helpers? (God.)
- Why is it good to be God’s special helpers? (Because we love him; because we should obey God; because God helps us, too.)

Say: It’s good to be God’s helpers! We can be God’s helpers just like Noah. Let’s sing a fun partner song to help us remember today’s Bible story and how Noah was God’s helper:

Hand out the children’s headband animals, and have them put them on. Then lead children in singing “All Aboard!” (track 13) to the tune of “This Old Man.” Sing the song with the CD, and do the accompanying motions.

**SING**

Two by two (pairs link arms, take two steps),
Two by two (take two more steps),
Look—here comes a walking zoo! (Shield your eyes and point.)
Hear the STOMP, STOMP (stomp your feet),
Flitter, flitter, flip! (Hop and flutter your arms.)
All aboard on Noah’s ship! (Motion with arm to “come on!”)

In we go (take two steps),
Nice and slow (take two more steps),
Careful not to step on toes! (Jump back.)
Hear the STOMP, STOMP (stomp your feet),
Flitter, flitter, flip! (Hop and flutter your arms.)
All aboard on Noah’s ship! (Motion with arm to “come on!”)

Have children sit down. Say: Today we’ve been learning that God is in charge and we are his helpers. Let’s say a short prayer and thank God for the chance to be his special helpers. Pray: Dear God, thank you for letting us be your helpers. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Have children wear their headband animals home.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
Lively Learning: Helping Hands to the Ark!

Place the large box from the “Do the Bible Story” activity in the center of the floor. Choose one child to sit in the box and pretend to be a small animal on the ark. Tap one child and have him or her try to push the “ark” across the floor. Keep tapping additional children to lend helping hands until everyone is pushing the “ark” over the “sea.” Talk about how much easier a job is when many people help. Remind children that God is in charge and we are his helpers. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn to “sail” in the ark.

Make to Take: Animal Catch!

Before this activity, cut 12-inch lengths of string. Poke a hole in the bottom of a foam cup, and then thread the string up through the hole. Knot the end so the string won’t pull through the hole. Make one stringed cup for each child.

Set out markers, animal crackers, and the paper cups. Invite children to make a fun game that reminds them of how God sent the animals to the ark. Have children decorate their cups using markers. Then have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink, and let each child choose two animal crackers—one to eat and one for the game. Demonstrate how to tie an animal cracker to the end of a string, and then swing the animal and try to catch it in the paper cup “ark.”

Treat to Eat: Animal Arks

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Set out graham cracker “arks,” buttercream frosting “hay,” plastic knives, and animal crackers. Show children how to spread the “hay” around the floor of the “ark.” Then place two animal cracker animals or chewy, fruit-flavored bears in the ark. As children munch their edible arks, encourage them to retell how Noah became God’s helper by building the ark and caring for all the animals. Remind children that God is in charge and we are his helpers.

Story Picture: All Aboard!

Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Set out glue, crayons, felt pieces, and feather bits. Let children color their pictures and then glue felt “fur” on the animals and feathers on the birds.
Verse to Learn
“If you love me, obey my commandments.” (John 14:15).

Ask Me...
- How did Noah get the animals aboard the ark?
- Why is it important to be God’s helper?
- What’s one way our family can be God’s special helpers this week?

Family Fun
- Take a family outing to the zoo. Talk about how many kinds of animals there are and what it must have been like on the ark!
- Make fun animals using animal pictures from magazines. Cut the animals apart and put them together in unusual ways, such as gluing a fish’s head with rabbit’s ears to a lion’s body. As you work, have your child retell the story of Noah and the animals.

All Aboard! (Genesis 6:18–7:16)