

September 19, 2012

Noah

Genesis 6-9

LESSON FOCUS***"If you love me, you will obey what I command."*** (John 14:15)

The account of the flood in the Bible is very plain and straightforward. The story is not only told because it is startling or interesting but also because it is an incident in the history of redemption.

After the fall, God gave the world a new beginning, but soon wickedness increased until there remained but one righteous man, Noah. Adam and Eve had yielded to an outward temptation, but now people had yielded to temptation which was within. "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time." (Genesis 6:5). Evil had threatened to destroy everything that was good. God had been long-suffering in His patience with people. Noah had warned his peers for 120 years while he was building the ark, but God's mercies were refused and so the wicked people had to perish. God was going to separate the righteous from the wicked. He was taking the first step toward a chosen nation.

Who was Noah? He was not a sailor or a carpenter but a farmer, a man of the soil (Genesis 9:20). God did not choose him for his boat-building skills! But in the New Testament Peter tells us this farmer was also a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). And Genesis 6:9 says that he was blameless and the he walked with God. God used Noah for this very reason: he was obedient. Noah never tried to second-guess God's instructions; he simply did everything just as God commanded as a reflection of his love and faith in the Lord of life.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

Supplies:
Golf tees
Styrofoam blocks
Plastic hammers

Set out the golf tees, hammers and Styrofoam blocks for children to hammer into.

Say: Today's Bible lesson is about a man who spent many years hammering nails into wood to build something. God had a special plan for him.

OPENING

Supplies:
Play dough for showing only

Mold a strange shape from play dough. Then say, **something is very wrong with what I made. I want to start over. I could smash it. (Do so). Or I could throw it away. (Do so).**

This makes me think of what happened with the world God made. Something went very wrong. That something was sin. The world had many bad people. So God wanted to start over, but He didn't smash it, and He didn't throw it away. God found a way to save what He made and saved the people who loved Him.

Let's hear how God gave the world a new start.

BIBLE STORY

Noah Genesis 6-9

Open your Bible so children can see you "reading" God's Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you're saying is coming from God's Word. Use Tell the Story idea below. Use The Beginners Bible page 28-35 to help children see the story.

God loved the people of the world, but they began loving things and people first, instead of God. God was sad. So He decided to destroy the whole world. God looked down and saw Noah.

Noah was a man who loved God. God decided to let Noah and his family live. He told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. He obeyed.

Noah gathered lots of wood and started building the ark. (Make hammering sounds and motions.)

Then, God told Noah to bring two of each animal and put them on the ark. Can you name some animals that Noah must have found? *(Wait for answers)*

God said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because you have followed Me." Then God shut the door. And everyone waited.

Suddenly, drop, drop, drippity drop, the rain began to fall. *(Make motions of rain falling)*

God sent the rain nonstop for 40 days and 40 nights (that's over a month!) It covered the whole earth. Then God sent a wind over the earth. After 280 days, Noah opened the window and sent a black bird, called a raven. The bird flew around, but could not find a place to land, so the bird returned to Noah. *(Wrap your thumbs together and make a bird flying in the air)*

Noah sent a white dove next, but it also returned to him.

Noah waited a week and sent out another dove. This time the dove came back with an olive branch in its beak. Noah knew that trees were growing on the earth. Finally, Noah sent out another dove a week later, and it didn't come back. Now Noah knew it was about time to leave the ark.

God told Noah to come out of the ark. When they opened the ark, the world was beautiful. Everything was pretty and green. The animals must have been so excited to finally get back on land!

When Noah stepped on dry land, he made a special monument to God. He thanked God for saving him and his family.

God made a promise with Noah. He told Noah that he would never destroy the world again with a flood. To make sure all people remembered that promise, God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. It is a sign from God to promise that He will never flood the world again.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15)

Read this passage from your Bible. Help children learn this verse.

GAME

Two-by-Two Relay

Noah showed his love for God by obeying Him and building the ark. The animals even obeyed by getting on board! Let's play a game about the animals getting on board the ark.

What kinds of animals came on the ark with Noah? Write each animal children suggest on a piece of paper. Show the names of the animals they suggested.

The animals came onto the ark in pairs. Children line up in pairs. (If you have an uneven number of students, form one or more trios.)

Tell pairs of children an animal they are going to move like, and sound like.

At your signal, each pair links arms and moves across the playing area in the manner chosen. When they get to the other side of the playing area, pair stands up and makes the noise of their animal and then returns to line in the same manner.

If you have time, play again so each pair gets a chance to imitate more than one kind of animal.

CREATING

Rainbow Art

Supplies:

Small containers for colored water
Four colors of liquid water color
Coffee filters – 1 per student
Newspapers or table cloths to cover tables

Pour water into containers, filling about $\frac{1}{2}$ way. Put drops of liquid water color into containers – making sure the water is saturated with color. Cover tables.

Lead the activity:

Students fold coffee filters in half and then in half again.
Each student takes a turn to dip a corner or section of the filter into a container of color, holding it for just a few seconds....(you don't want wet, soggy filters!)
Repeat process several more times, allowing the colors to mix.
Students open filters and set aside to dry.

You can use eye droppers instead of dipping.

SINGING ACTIVITY

Sing **"The Animals on the Ark"** to the tune of *"The Wheels on the Bus"*

The cows on the ark go moo, moo, moo,
Moo, moo, moo,
Moo, moo, moo.
The cows on the ark go moo, moo, moo
Walking side by side

The bunnies on the ark go hop, hop, hop
Hop, hop, hop
Hop, hop, hop
The bunnies on the ark go hop, hop, hop,
Hopping side by side

The ducks on the ark go quack, quack, quack
Quack, quack, quack
Quack, quack, quack
The ducks on the ark go quack, quack, quack
Waddling side by side

The bees on the ark go buzz, buzz, buzz
Buzz, buzz, buzz
Buzz, buzz, buzz
The bees on the ark go buzz, buzz, buzz
Flying side by side

INVESTIGATING

Soap Rainbows

Here's how to make soap rainbows with your hands!
First get your hands good and soapy over the sink.
Then place your palms together.
Pull your hands slowly apart.
Make sure that your thumbs and index fingers don't lose contact with each other.
Check out the cool swirling colors!



CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather children around you.

Say: Noah made a big boat called an ark. Every animal went into the ark with another animal just like it. Let's play a two-by-two game.

First, we'll all walk around the room. When I say, "Two by two hold hands", find a partner and hold onto each other the way I say.

Line up behind me and we'll march. As we march I'll tell you a new way to hold onto your partner. Be sure to pause between directions and encourage children to keep marching as you say:

We march, we march

Two by two

That's what our God

Told the animals to do.

Two by two hold hands

Two by two link arms

Two by two jump

Two by two crawl

Two by two walk

Two by two sit down

Two by two fold your hands and pray

Pray: Dear God, thank you for protecting Noah and his family. Thank you for protecting me and my family too. Thank you for sending Jesus to take away our sins, the things we do wrong. Thank you for loving me! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.