

God's Covenant with Noah

Overview of all workshops in this Rotation:

- **Video**- Watch the video "Creation & the Flood" Testament the Bible in Animation
- **Art**- Painting with Rainbows (soap bubbles)
- **Cooking**- Make dog biscuits. Discuss ways to be faithful and obedient to God.
- **Music & Science**- Make rain sticks. Explore the images of God presented in this story. **Science**- Explore using the science of floating boats, measurement, and prisms to teach the story of Noah. Focus on the obedience & God's covenant.

Scripture Reference: Genesis 6:5 - 8:22, 9:8-17

Key Verse: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13 (NIV)

Rotation Objectives — After completing this Rotation, participants will be able to:

- (Older students) Locate the story in the Bible; (Younger students) Name that the story is found in the first book of the Old Testament, Genesis.
- Tell in his/her own words the story of Noah, the ark, the flood and that the sign for remembering God's covenant is a rainbow.
- Define a covenant as a promise or agreement.
- Identify the covenant God made with Noah (and with all of us).
- Recognize that God saved Noah because of his faithfulness and obedience to God.
- Explore the images of God that are created in this story — sorrowful, judging, punishing, rescuing, promising, filled with grace.

Story Overview

People turned-away.
God grieved.
God spoke.
Noah listened.
God promised.
Noah obeyed (and built).
Animals boarded.
Flood rose.
Noah waited.
God remembered.
Wind blew. Earth dried-up.
Birds flew.
Everyone disembarked.
Noah worshipped.
God promised...and a rainbow was revealed.

People turned-away/God grieved

Our story is found early in the book of Genesis. At chapter six, it is not that far away from the colossal creation stories of chapters one and two. However the situation has changed since the idyllic Garden of Eden. The Lord looks upon the earth and sees violence and inequity. The thought of people's hearts "was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5). What is God to do about his creation? Interestingly God is not angry but is rather is sad. "The Lord was grieved... his heart was filled with pain" (Genesis 6:6). God decides to eliminate humans by using a flood. However there are some people he decides to spare – Noah and his family.

"Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8). The Bible also tells us that: "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). Things must have been really bad if Noah was the only "blameless" man living on earth at the time! Here blameless does not necessarily mean without sin. In fact the Bible

records one of Noah's sins in the verses following 9:20. Rather it implies that Noah loved and obeyed God. The words in Hebrew, which are used to describe Noah, suggest a proper attitude rather than a proper behavior (Gibson). Certainly Noah had faith in God, a faith that would be needed considering what God was about to tell Noah.

God spoke/Noah listened

God tells Noah to build a huge ark. Much has been written about Noah's boat; first let's look at what the Bible tells us. God told Noah to build the ark 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high. A cubit was a unit of measure – the distance from a person's elbow to the tip of the middle finger, which is approximately 18 inches. This makes the ark 450 feet long (about one and a half American football fields), 75 feet wide (equivalent to seven parking spaces), and 45 feet tall (a four-story building). Noah was to build three decks and to put rooms in it and to cover it with pitch inside and out (Genesis 6:14-17).

There has been much theorizing about what the ark could have looked like. The word "ark" means a box or chest, and not strictly a boat (Fox). It could have looked more like a rectangular box; after all, it didn't have to steer it just had to float. It is interesting to note that this boat was built according to the standards used by modern ship builders: a size six times longer than it is wide. The remnants of Noah's ark have been searched for over the years. Eyewitnesses claim to have seen a boat-like structure sticking out of the ice on Mount Ararat. There is however, no hard data to back up these claims.

God promised/ Noah obeyed/ Noah built

God told Noah that he was "going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens" (Genesis 6:17). But at the same time God also made a promise – the first of two promises. "But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat" (Genesis 6:18, CEV) Here, even in the middle of judgment, is the first hint in this story of God's grace. God promises that Noah's family

will be safe. Noah's family included his wife, their three sons, and the wives of his sons.

Bible doesn't talk about Noah's neighbor's response to his boat – but we can imagine that they mocked him. This is an example of real faith – building a boat on dry ground especially while being harassed! It is unclear as to at what point in the building process that God told Noah that he planned to destroy the earth. Perhaps Noah had finished building the ark when God told him this. That would surely be an example of blind faith! Regardless of when he knew, Noah was obedient to God: "Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (Genesis 6:22).

How long did it take to build the ark? The answer is not obvious in the Bible; it takes digging. Actually it is in a verse outside of our recommended reading: Genesis 6:3.

Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

Scholars interpret this, as being the length of time it would take Noah to build the ark: 120 years. That's a long time to work on a project! It is even more significant considering Noah's age at the time – 480 years old. (Genesis 7:6 says Noah was 600 years old when the flood started.)

It is interesting to compare this story to stories where other Biblical characters meet God, such as Moses meeting God in the burning bush. In that story Moses had a conversation with God. There are no words recorded that Noah spoke! But Noah obviously decided to obey God. He trusted God that a flood was coming, even when there were no clouds in the sky.

Animals boarded

The ark is now complete, and ready for boarding. But wait – how many of each kind of animal? Genesis 6:19 speaks of two pairs of animals:

You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

But Genesis 7:2-3 speaks of a different number of animals:

Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.

This disparity in numbering of the animals is but one disagreement found in our story. (The other major difference is how long the flood lasted.) The answer can be found in that scholars propose that this portion of Genesis is actually a compilation of two written sources. (Gibson) The first voice is that designated the "J document" (the Jahwist or Jerusalem source, whose writers were from Judah, the Southern Kingdom). The second is the voice of priests, designated as "P" or the Priestly source. One subtle difference points out these two different sources – the word they use to denote God. The P source uses the name Elohim or "God"; the J document uses Yahweh or "the LORD". (Gibson)

Regardless of the number of animals that boarded, how they got to the ark is interesting. Many children's stories indicate that Noah went out to get the animals. The Bible tells a different story – the animals came to Noah. God was in on their collection.

Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. (Genesis 7:15)

God also played a part in the final boarding process:

Then the LORD shut him in. (Genesis 7:16b)

Flood rose

Had the people ever seen a flood before? How about rain? It's not clear but the Bible suggests that it hadn't ever rained. Genesis 2:5-6 makes reference to a subterranean watering system. Genesis 7 is the first time that rain is mentioned.

All the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. (Genesis 7:11)

God decided to destroy all living creatures. So how do we teach this story without focusing on destruction? Carefully! Actually there is little attention given in this story to the devastating affects of the flood – just three verses including 7:22

Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.

What about children who question floods, which occur today in our communities? Reassure the students that floods are not a result of God's judgment but are a naturally occurring part of our world. Don't get "hung up" on this part of the story. The important point is God's mercy and love (Lindsley) and that Noah's faithfulness and obedience to God are what saved him.

Before moving on in our story it is important to point out that there are numerous flood stories in many different cultures, telling of a destructive flood that wiped out nearly all civilization. American Indians even have a flood story! Much discussion has focused on the striking similarity between these many flood stories. Which one story came first? Surf the Internet for much discussion and disagreement on this topic.

Noah waited

Rain had fallen for 40 days and nights. The earth was flooded; even the mountains were covered to a depth of more than twenty feet (Genesis 7:20). Imagine what life would have been like on the ark – dark, crowded,

noisy, and stinky! Did God talk to Noah during this time or was it a time of soundless waiting? It could have potentially been a frightening time. God had promised that Noah would be safe but he hadn't told him how the story would end. Why is it that in our lives there are always periods of silent waiting? What can we learn in our waiting?

God remembered/ Wind blew/ Earth dried-up/ Birds flew

After one hundred and fifty days God "remembered" Noah. This has been called the turning point in the story. (Fox) God made a wind to blow over the earth, which began to dry up the water. Five months after the flood started the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. (Pronounced: AIR-uh-rat').

After waiting some more, Noah sends out a succession of birds to test the status of earth. First he sent a raven, then a dove three times. The second trip for the dove yielded an olive branch, signifying that land had been found. An olive branch has long been considered a symbol of peace.

Everyone disembarked/ Noah worshipped

God told Noah that everyone should leave the ark. How long was Noah on the ark all together? 12 and ½ months! Noah's first act is to build an altar and to worship God with burnt offerings. (The extra animals for a sacrifice are accounted for in the J document version of this story.) "It was a further evidence of his faith, and surely an expression of his gratitude for the salvation that God had provided." (Deffinbaugh)

God promised/ A rainbow is revealed

God responds to Noah's sacrifice by "thinking" to himself:

Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood (Genesis 8:21b).

Now that the flood is over, God acknowledges, "that humans haven't changed! They still deserve judgment." (Williams) What was originally the reason for a flood becomes the reason for not sending a flood. (Fretheim)

This is saying that God realizes that we will continue to screw up, but he will reach out for us anyway! This is good news! God is a God of grace rather than just a God of justice.

Next God establishes a covenant with Noah; never again will a flood destroy earth. What is a covenant? A covenant is a solemn promise or agreement. This vow is made not just with Noah but also with all of us: “a covenant for all generations to come” (Genesis 9:12b). Moreover God provides a sign of his covenant:

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:13).

This rainbow sign is primarily to remind God! Yet a rainbow can become a secondary sign for people, one in which they may take comfort and hope. (Fretheim) It is evidence that God keeps his promises. God is faithful to his word.

One other word about Genesis 9:13: This is our key Bible verse; the one in which we encourage the students to learn by heart – which is different than memorizing. Memorizing is like learning facts for a test; this is a different sort of learning. We say we are keeping God’s word in our heart. There may come a time when you are feeling low, like you’re nobody special, and then from your heart come these words. And you’ll say, oh, yeah – God made a promise with me!

Images of God found in this story

As with every Rotation story we teach we need to ask ourselves: what does this story teach us about God? We have already looked at the grace of God exposed in this story. But look also at the images of God that are created in this story:

- o A God feeling sorrowful,
- o A God who judges, but doesn’t want to,
- o A God who goes beyond justice and determines to save every animal and

bird,

- o A God who commits to the future of a less than perfect world,

- o A God who promises never to do this again (Frothier).

A God who sealed his promise with a rainbow.

Noah and the Ark

Art Workshop

Project: Painting with rainbows! (soap bubbles)

Soap bubbles have the colors of the rainbow in them, and the rainbow is the symbol of the Covenant God made with Noah and the people of the earth -- a colorful hope and reminder that our lives are in God's merciful hands. This is a project that any age can do as a group or as individuals. The idea isn't limited to "drawing the ark" using bubbles, but rather, to **create a rainbow-colored illustration of our hope in God's promise.**

There are a number of "painting with bubbles" techniques. The video clip below shows some of the best for this Noah project.

Painting with bubbles is meant to be experimental, creative, and inventive. Let your artists explore different bubble painting techniques to express their "impressions" of the story's message --something that speaks to them. (i.e. this isn't a coloring page activity). Some will want to draw with the paints then apply bubbles by blowing them. Others may want to blow certain paints in different directions and then lay collections of bubbles on top and let them "pop" to create their unique appearance. Have lots of paper ready!

Scripture Reference:

Genesis 6-9

Memory Verses:

Nahum 1:7, Genesis 6:22, and Genesis 9:13.

Leader Preparation:

- Set up the room (Set up Tables with drop cloths underneath. Supplies provided at each table for the Activity.)
- Read the scripture ahead of time.
- Gather the materials.

Supplies List:

- Dish Soap
- Cups of Water, one for each color
- Food Coloring or acrylic paints (see the videos)
- Watercolor Markers
- Heavy White Paper (use watercolor paper if you can which won't warp as it dries), two or three sheet per student.
- Various types of straws, bubble wands to blow and place bubbles onto the paper.
- Paint brushes to draw with the soap-paint if desired.
- Cover for table (this project can be messy)
- Smocks

See this video tutorial at <https://youtu.be/G88rU8cdTQg> about making soap bubble paintings:

Here's [another "Soap Bubble" tutorial](#) that shows some different ways to apply the soap paint to your canvas.

Lesson Plan

Opening

Welcome the children and explain what they'll be doing today and what you hope they'll learn.

Ask the children to share a time when they were caught in a really big storm (wind, rain, hail, lightning). How did it make them feel? What made them feel safe?

Open with a prayer.

Dig into the Scripture

Bible Passage: Tell the story of Noah from your preferred Bible resource.

Include pictures of the rainbow and Noah's ark.

Talk about the rainbow --which is a sign of God's "covenant." Ask them if they know what a "covenant" is. "Covenant" means "promise" and refers to the many times throughout scripture that God promised to lead and care for his people. Noah's story imagines that the rainbow was created by God as a sign of his promise to all generations and people. Especially after storms, the rainbows remind us that God is in control and we are eternally safe in his hands. This is the most important part of the lesson (and why as teachers we don't want to over-focus on all the cute animals).

See the notes about "Explaining the Story of Noah to Older Children" at the end of this lesson.

Discussion Focus:

1. What do you think of a person who does not keep his promises? Will you believe him the next time he promises something?
2. Why is it important to keep a promise?
3. Does God ever break a promise?
4. How is Jesus like the sign of the rainbow? -- a promise about God's mercy and love?
5. **What things can you DO to "be a rainbow"** -- a sign of God's mercy and love to others??

Activity:

1. Have students write the memory verse in big letters on their paper using water-color markers. The water from the bubbles will "smudge" the memory verse colors making them look quite artistic! (Just don't apply too much water.)
2. Then mix the soap, paints, and water in various cups.
3. Demonstrate how to dip your bubble wands and straw(s) into the soapy color and blow it onto your paper. You can also blow bubbles in the cup and lift the bubbles out of the cup and onto the paper. When they pop they'll leave a ring. They can also dip the end of the straw in the soap-paint and "stamp" a ring of paint to make an image. They can also "brush" the soap-paint onto the paper or brush the applied bubbles to create shapes. **Encourage them to try different techniques on a scrap piece of paper.**
4. Discuss the shapes and colors of a rainbow. Discuss what other things you can include in the bubble painting, such as the presence of God, yourself on an Ark.

Perhaps you will want to paint a drawing of yourself "being a rainbow" -- showing God's message of mercy and love to others. How would you look?

Things to think about painting with bubbles: rainbows, the world, an ark with you standing on it, dots for lots of people.

5. Now let the students begin to create their painting on a new sheet of paper. Let them try two or more if they have time. Encourage them to paint in such a way that conveys the meaning of the rainbow, God's promise to them and to all people.

Reflection Time:

Give students a 3 minute warning to finish up their paintings, then have

them step back from the table and follow you around the table as you stop at each painting and have the artist explain what they've created. Use this time to appreciate each student and reinforce the hope and promise (Covenant) of mercy and care that is the truth which the Noah story --and many others in the Bible share with us.

Closing:

End with a prayer that our paintings and every rainbow we see will remind us forever of God's mercy and caring love, and that we too should be "rainbows" = merciful and caring toward others.

A lesson written by members Steve and Brenda Klusmeyer with additional content added by Rotation.org volunteers!

Explaining the Story of Noah to Older Children

Depending on the age of your students and your church's understanding of scripture, you may want share some of the following insights into how we "understand" the story of Noah as modern believers.

Noah's story is one of the early stories in Genesis that most Bible scholars call "pre-history," ancient "origin stories, or "legendary stories." A legend is a story that's told to explain where things came from and to teach people important ideas or truths. In this case, the truth that Noah's story tells is that God is in charge and we are eternally safe in his hands. The story teaches us in a super-memorable way that God makes promises and doesn't break them.

Prior to the 20th Century, most people believed Noah's story was actual history -- that it really happened, that there really was a boat full of animals and the whole earth was flooded. However, now living in the scientific age,

many modern believers understand that it's a story with a wonderful truth in it, but the idea of one family building such a large boat and collecting so many animals to escape a worldwide flood isn't history, it's story.

Why did ancient people imagine a time when the whole earth was flooded? Because when you go up mountains you can see the fossils of sea creatures embedded in the high rocks! Ancient peoples across the globe wondered how they got there and came up with a variety of similar stories, including the story of Noah building an ark, that explained how sea creatures could get to the tops of mountains. Today, we understand that the earth's crust is constantly on the move, and that over millions of years ancient sea floors can be pushed up and up until they become mountains. What doesn't change is the truth of the story these ancient people wanted to share: God keeps his promises.

Invariably, children may question why God "flooded" (killed) all the bad people. It's a difficult question that even adults struggle with. In ancient times and in some parts of the Bible, God was depicted as a war-like God, at war with sin and at war with sinners. However, many other parts of the Bible and Jesus himself remind us that God is a Good Shepherd who cares even for sinners. Every part of the Bible needs to be compared to what we know about God through Christ Jesus. So can you imagine Jesus flooding the whole earth and killing almost everyone? No. And so we read the story of Noah as a story of what ancient people thought, but not as the final opinion. Jesus is the final opinion, and he died for sinners. So as we look at some of the most ancient stories in the Bible, we look at them through the eyes of Jesus for the truth they teach, and that truth is that God is merciful and loving and that's a promise we are reminded of after nearly every rain and storm.

God's Covenant with Noah

Cooking Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Make dog biscuits to distribute to the congregation. Discuss God's caring and compassionate choice to save Noah (and the animals). Recognize Noah as faithful and obedient to God. Discuss ways that the students can be faithful and obedient to God. Note: 4th, 5th, and 6th graders visited this workshop.

Scripture Reference:

Genesis 6-9.

Leader Preparation:

- Read the scripture for this lesson.
- Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.
- Gather the materials.

Supplies List:

- Aprons, Parchment paper, Olive oil, Rolling pins
- Quick rolled oats, Flax seeds, Brown rice flour, Whole wheat flour, Sugar
- Cookie cutters: dog bone shapes
- Kitchen timer
- Plastic baggies, Ribbon, & Tags (ingredients) to attach to dog bone packages
- Pages from the book *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier
- Items in kitchen: mixing bowls, cookie sheets, hot pads, clean-up supplies

- Items in refrigerator: Eggs, Brewers Yeast, Garlic, Chicken broth, Shredded cheddar cheese
- Bibles; One purple *Adventure Bible*

Before Start of Class:

- Remove pertinent pages from the book *Noah's Ark*. You may wish to mount them on pieces of construction paper and laminate them for long-lasting keeping.
 - Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Turn on vent fan.
 - Cover 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. Use 4 T. of olive oil to coat parchment paper.
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Presentation

Opening- Welcome and Lesson Introductions:

Gather everyone around the tables in the Social Hall. Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to the Cooking Workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults. Pass around a basket to collect any offering. Remind everyone about the mission project for this month: donating cat and dog food for the animal shelter.

[Note: The Shepherd will quietly take attendance, etc. while you are starting your lesson.]

Say: Just as we can help care for animals by donating food, today we will hear about how God cared for the animals by saving them in the ark. In order for those animals to be saved Noah had to build the ark! We will talk about how Noah followed all of God's instructions.

Say: Let's begin with prayer. Ask for any prayer requests. Ask if anyone would like to lead the group in prayer. Be prepared to say a prayer yourself, working in prayer requests. Use the Lord's Prayer as the ending. A suggestion: "Dear God, we thank you for the chance to be here today to

learn. Teach us about being faithful and obedient. Help us to see your always available, loving kindness. (End with the Lord's Prayer) Amen."

Say: Since it is September and we might not all know each other, let's go around the table and say our name and what kind of pet you have or wish you had.

Dig- Main Content and Reflection:

Ask: What does being obedient mean? (accept a few answers)

Can you tell me about a time when you were obedient?

Say: Being obedient means following directions. Noah followed God's instructions.

Ask: What are some of God's instructions that Noah followed? (accept a few answers- this question is posed to gauge how much of the story your students know)

Say: Let's review the story of Noah and the ark.

Ask: Who knows in what book of the Bible our story is found?

Say: We find our story in the Old Testament of the Bible, in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Genesis means "beginnings". This is a story at the beginning of the Bible.

Distribute Bibles.

Have the students find Genesis, chapter 6, verse 5.

Say: Our story continues all the way into chapter 9. It is too long to read from the Bible today. Let's see how much of the story you know. You may use your Bibles to help you answer some questions about Noah.

Have the kids answer questions to help you tell the story...

Ask: Why did God tell Noah to build an ark? (Genesis 6:13-14)

Was it raining out when Noah started building? (no!)

How big did God say the ark should be? (Genesis 6:15)

Who was going to be on the Ark? (Genesis 6:18-19)

Did Noah follow God's instructions? (check Genesis 6:22)

Say: Leave your Bibles open to Genesis. Let's pause with our story for now and go into the kitchen to follow some cooking instructions. Today we are making dog biscuits. We will share the dog biscuits with the congregation.

Have everyone put on aprons, wash their hands, and gather around the metal table.

Mix up the dog biscuits and put them in the oven to bake for 35-40 minutes.

Package up the previous weeks dog biscuits for distribution; Place them into Baggies and tie on the tags.

Return to the Social Hall:

Say: We left off in our story at Noah obeying all of God's instructions.

Ask: Why do you suppose Noah obeyed all of God's instructions? (he trusted God)

What would have happened if Noah hadn't followed the instructions?

Say: If Noah hadn't followed God's instructions he would have been wiped out in the flood. God saved Noah because Noah was faithful and obedient to God.

Ask: If God is so powerful, why do you suppose that God had Noah build an ark – I mean, why didn't God just save Noah and his family and 2 of every animal? Why bother with the ark? (it allowed God to see Noah's faithfulness)

Ask: What is God seeing in us that shows us as being faithful and obedient? (accept all answers)

Say: Some people believe the story of Noah and the Flood is history; that it really happened. Some people think it is a story that was told in ancient times. When you get home today, you can ask your family what they think. Whether it really happened is not as important as much as what the story teaches us about God.

Ask: What does this story teach you about God? (accept all answers – a few possible ones: God is caring (even when we screw up) patient, loving, full of grace)

Ask: What about the rest of our story – what happened when the flood was over?

Bring out the pictures from the book by Peter Spier Noah's Ark. Show them the picture of the rainbow.

Say: God had said that he wanted to start over. The good news in this story is that God loves us. God promised to never again send a flood to destroy the earth.

Ask: What sign did God give us that he will keep his promise? (a rainbow)

Say: Our key Bible verse tells us about this promise: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

Ask the students to repeat the key verse with you.

Ask: What is a covenant?

Say: A covenant is a promise or an agreement. We say that God made a promise, God made a covenant with Noah. God also made this covenant with all of us. Remember God said, "between me and the earth." God meant, everyone.

Ask: (accept all answers)

Why do you suppose God made this covenant with us?

What do you think is the most amazing thing about this story? (some possibilities: Is it that Noah got the ark built? Survived the ridicule of neighbors? The animals got loaded onto the ark? That God was willing to make a covenant with us? Or what?)

Picture sorting activity:

Have the group put the pictures from *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier book in order. This will require them to get up and move around the table. (You may wish to figure out a way to string the pictures on a clothesline). Encourage them to use the Bibles to help them order the pictures.

Ask questions as they work to place them in order:

What's happening in this picture?

Which is the raven and which is the dove? Which comes first?

Why would Noah and his wife be so happy when the dove brought back an olive branch?

Closing:

Close in prayer. *"Holy one, we thank you for loving us and making us your children. Guide us and help us to follow your directions like Noah followed your directions when he built the ark. Amen."*

God's Covenant with Noah

Music & Science Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Make rain sticks and play them to a song. Explore science through some experiments.

Scripture Reference:

Genesis 6-9.

Leader Preparation:

- Read the scripture for this lesson.
- Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.
- Gather the materials

Supplies List:

- Tubes with caps – one for each student
- Aluminum foil
- Rain stick "innards"
- Dried Beans or rice
- Funnel
- <https://youtu.be/3R9xztBTGl4?si=1ho9zXrFlqaOD50n>

Before Start of Class:

- Check out the resources for how to make rain sticks. Prepare foil for the innards.

- Use packing tape to fasten one cap on one end of enough tubes for the class.
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Presentation

Opening- Welcome and Lesson Introduction:

Say: We are learning about the story of Noah and his ark. Since there is rain in our story we will be making rain sticks and then playing them to some music. Let's begin with prayer.

Ask for any prayer requests. Ask if anyone would like to lead the group in prayer. Be prepared to say a prayer yourself, working in prayer requests. Use the Lord's Prayer as the ending. A suggestion: "Dear God, thank you for bringing us all here today to learn about the promises that you make with us. Help us to understand these promises and what they mean for our lives. (End with the Lord's Prayer) Amen."

Dig- Main Content and Reflection:

Ask: What is a promise that someone has made to you recently? (accept a few answers)

Do promises that people make sometimes get broken?

Say: God makes promises to people and God's promises are never broken.

Ask: Who can tell me another word we use when we are talking about the promises that God makes? (covenant)

Write the word "covenant" on the whiteboard.

Ask: Does anyone know the promise that God made a long time ago to someone named Noah?

Say: God has made covenants or promises with people. God makes covenants with us. We can read in the Bible about the covenant that God made with Noah.

Have the students find Genesis 6:5.

Say: We are in the book of Genesis, chapter 6. Our story starts at verse 5

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

Ask: What is a covenant? (a promise or agreement)

What sign did God give us that he will keep this promise? (a rainbow)

Say: We say that God made a promise, God made a covenant with Noah.

God also made this covenant with all of us. Remember God said, "between me and the earth." God meant everyone.

Ask: What was this promise, this covenant? [Have them look up Genesis 9:11.]

How is God feeling now? (forgiving, filled with grace)

Create rain sticks

1. Insert innards.
2. Insert beans or rice.
3. Close other end of tube with cap and packing tape.
4. Apply double stick tape to the outside of the tube. Apply transfer foil to decorate.
5. Shake!

Play song and play rain sticks.

[Arky, Arky](#)

Science Workshop

Scripture Reference:

Genesis 6-9.

Leader Preparation:

- Read the scripture for this lesson.
- Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.
- Gather the materials

Supplies List:

- Dish pans (one for every 3 to 4 students)
- Water pitcher for collecting water
- Clay (a one-inch ball for each student)
- Foil (a 6-inch square for each student)
- Towels (in case of spills)
- A ruler
- A prism
- A shoe box (prepared, see resources for web site with instructions)
- A flashlight
- Scissors

Before Start of Class:

- Read several times the story "Noah and the Ark." Be able to interact with the students (by making eye contact) when you read it to them.
 - Cut the foil into six-inch squares (one per student).
 - Form the clay into one-inch balls (one per student).
 - Fill each dishpan with about an inch of water. Set them out on the low table.
 - Practice making a skinny boat from foil – one that will sink (see lesson).
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Presentation

Dig- Main Content and Reflection:

Ask: What does being obedient mean? (accept a few answers)

Can you tell me about a time when you were obedient?

Say: Being obedient means following directions. Noah followed God's instructions.

Ask: What are some of God's instructions that Noah followed? (accept a few answers)

Say: Let's review the story of Noah and the ark.

Ask: If Jesus learned this story as a child, where would we find this story in the Bible?

Say: The Bible is divided into two testaments – the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is stories that Jesus learned as a child. The New Testament tells us the story of Jesus' life and the start of the church after Jesus' death.

Ask: Who knows in what book of the Bible our story is found?

Say: We find our story in the Old Testament of the Bible, in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Genesis means "beginnings". This is a story at the beginning of the Bible.

Say: Our story continues all the way into chapter 9. It is too long to read from the Bible today.

Say: Noah followed God's instructions to build the ark. As a result, Noah and his family and two of every kind of animal were saved.

Science Exploration #1

Say: Let's do a science experiment that helps illustrate the importance of Noah following God's instructions.

Give each student a ball of clay and a piece of foil. Move over to the table.

Say: Spend a couple of minutes forming a boat out of your foil and a Noah

out of your clay. Then try to float your boat. Try putting Noah in your boat. Let's see what happens.

After a couple of minutes, use your attention-getting device.

Ask: Did you get your boats to float?

What sort of rules did you have to follow in order for your boat to float?

Say: God had specific instructions for Noah on how he should build the ark.

Ask: What do you suppose would have happened if Noah had made the ark how he wanted to, instead of how God instructed?

Demonstrate for the students what would have happened if the boat had been narrower than God asked. (Shape the foil into a very skinny boat. You may need to create a wave to have it sink.)

[In case someone asks about what makes a skinny boat not float: "The amount of water that is pushed aside by an object equals the force of water pushing upward on the object. The larger boat pushes more water out of the way ... and creates enough upward force to cause it to float." [Quote is from TryScience link in resource list.]

Say: God's instructions were such that Noah made a boat that was floatable. God saved Noah and his family and the animals because Noah was obedient and faithful to God.

Have the Shepherd collect the clay and the foil.

Science Exploration #2

Say: Let's explore the size of the ark.

Ask: Do you suppose the ark would fit in this room?

How large was the ark?

Refer to Genesis 6:15 in the NRSV Bible. [Am having you use an NRSV Bible because it uses cubits. The Adventure Bible translates the figures into feet.] Read this verse to the students.

Ask: What is a cubit?

Say: A cubit was a unit of measurement. It was the measurement from a person's elbow to the tip of their middle finger. A cubit is about 18 inches. So the ark would have been 450 feet long (about one and a half American football fields), 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall. Let's make some measurements to see if the ark would fit in this room.

Point out with the use of the ruler that each floor tile is exactly 1 foot square. Have the students count floor tiles across the width of the room (from outside windows to windows in the hall). Have them continue measuring out into the hall (towards Calkins).

Have the shepherd stand over by the windows where the counting began, while the rest of the class is in the hall. Point out that this was how wide the ark was. [The hallway from door of room to other end is 65 feet.]

Take everyone back into the classroom to sit in a circle on the carpet.

Discussion:

Ask: What good news was there after the flood was over?

Say: God had said that he wanted to start over. The good news is that God still loves us. God promised to never again send a flood to destroy the earth.

Ask: What sign did God give us that he will keep his promise? (a rainbow)

Say: Our key Bible verse tells us about this promise (refer to the pocket chart): "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

Ask the students to repeat the key verse with you.

Ask: What is a covenant?

Say: A covenant is a promise or an agreement. We say that God made a promise, God made a covenant with Noah. God also made this covenant with all of us. Remember God said, "between me and the earth." God meant, everyone.

Ask: (accept all answers)

Why do you suppose God made this covenant with us?

What do you think is the most amazing thing about this story?

What good news will you take home with you about this story?

Science Exploration #3

Ask: Who can tell me about a time you saw a rainbow?

Ask: What colors do we see in a rainbow?

Do you know how a rainbow is formed?

Did you know that light, such as sunlight, contains all the colors of the rainbow?

Show the flashlight.

Say: The light this flashlight creates contains all the colors of the rainbow.

Bring out the prism box and show the students the prism.

Say: A prism is a piece of glass that bends light. Light travels in waves. We can't see those waves but they are there. A prism can allow us to see little rainbows because a prism bends the waves of light. The different colors that make up light bend at different rates and the result is a rainbow.

Allow each student a chance to see the rainbow that is created by the prism.

Other facts to share as time allows:

- o Different wavelengths of visible light bend at different degrees; violet light bends the most as it passes through the prism and red light the least.

- o Isaac Newton was the one who realized that white light was actually made up of the colors of the rainbow.

- o Rainbows seen in the sky are created the same way that a prism creates a rainbow. When sunlight shines on raindrops in just the right way, the sunlight is bent and we see a rainbow.

- o The colors in a rainbow always appear in the same order: red, orange,

yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. An easy way to remember this order of colors is to remember ROY G. BIV. (Each letter of the name is the first letter of the color.)

Closing:

Say: The next time you see a rainbow, you can remember about God's covenant. The rainbow is a reassurance of God's promise.

