

Noah's Ark

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Obey God by faith, even when no one around you does, because God always keeps His word.

Bible passage: Genesis 6:5–9:17. Students read Genesis 6:5–22 and 8:15–9:17 out loud themselves.

Memory verse: "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth." *Genesis 9:13 (KJV)* and "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." *Hebrews 11:7 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.

Before class: read Genesis 6–9 and Hebrews 11:7. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Easy or Hard? (5–10 minutes)

Name one side of the room "easy" and the other side "hard." Read each situation. Students walk to the side that shows how hard it would be to do right. 1) Everyone at your table is making fun of a new kid, and you don't join in. 2) Friends dare you to take something from a store, and they laugh when you say no. 3) You are the only one at lunch who prays before eating. 4) Everyone else cheated on a test and got a better grade than you. Ask: *Why is doing right harder when everyone around you is doing the opposite?* Say: "Noah knew exactly how that feels."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Genesis 6:5–22. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **it repented the LORD** (6:6): God was grieved, deeply sorry and sad
- **just man and perfect in his generations** (6:9): Noah did right and was blameless among the people of his time
- **corrupt** (6:11–12): ruined and rotten with sin
- **pitch** (6:14): sticky tar that keeps water out
- **cubit** (6:15): about 18 inches, from the elbow to the fingertips (the ark was about 450 feet long)
- **fashion** (6:15): the design; **stories** (6:16): floors
- **establish my covenant** (6:18): make My promise that cannot be broken



Tell the middle part in your own words: God told Noah to come into the ark with all his house (his family), because in seven days the rain would begin (7:1, 7:4). Again, Noah did all that the LORD commanded (7:5). In the 600th year of Noah's life, in the 2nd month, on the 17th day, the flood began (7:11). The LORD shut him in (7:16). It rained forty days and forty nights, the water covered the mountains, and it stayed high for 150 days (7:12, 7:19–20, 7:24). God remembered Noah (8:1). The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat (8:4). Noah sent out a raven, and then a dove three times. The dove brought back an olive leaf, and the last time she did not return (8:6–12). Noah saw that the ground was dry (8:13), and the earth was fully dry in the 2nd month, on the 27th day, more than a year after the flood began (8:14). Noah went out when God told him to (8:15–18).

Read out loud: Genesis 8:15–9:17. Old words in this passage:

- **builded an altar** (8:20): built a stone table for worship; **burnt offerings**: animals offered and burned on the altar to worship God
- **sweet savour** (8:21): a pleasing smell; God accepted Noah's worship
- **replenish** (9:1): fill again; **the image of God** (9:6): God made every person, so every life is precious
- **token** (9:12): sign; **bow** (9:13): rainbow; **perpetual** and **everlasting** (9:12, 9:16): forever

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Genesis 6:9 says Noah walked with God in a world that did not. What do you think walking with God looked like for him every day? What does it look like for you?
2. Genesis 6:22 and 7:5 both say Noah did *all* that God commanded. Where is it hard for you to obey all the way, and not just part of the way?
3. Hebrews 11:7 says Noah was warned about "things not seen as yet." What is God asking you to do where you can't see the result yet?
4. Noah's family waited in the ark more than a year (7:11, 8:14). Even after Noah saw dry ground (8:13), he went out when God told him to (8:15–18). Why is waiting on God hard? What can it teach us?
5. The first thing Noah did on dry ground was build an altar and worship (8:20). What would it look like for you to put God first after something hard ends, or when something good happens?
6. God made His covenant with Noah and every living creature, and He has never broken it (9:11–17). How does knowing God keeps His word change how much you trust Him?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Hebrews 11:7: **warned of God of things not seen as yet** means God told Noah about a flood before anything like it had happened. **Moved with fear** means Noah had deep respect for God. **To the saving of his house** means to save his family. **Condemned the world** means Noah's obedience showed that the people around him were wrong. **Heir of the righteousness which is by faith** means God counted Noah right with Him because he believed God.

Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Genesis 9:13 this week; keep working on Hebrews 11:7 next week too.



5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "The Bible connects Noah's ark to us. Peter wrote that 'eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us' (1 Peter 3:20–21, KJV). **Like figure** means a picture of the same thing. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the Holy Ghost, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."

Pray with the students, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Where in my life does obeying God mean standing alone, like Noah did?
2. What would doing "all that God commanded" look like there this week?
3. Write a short prayer asking God for courage to obey Him and patience to wait on Him.

If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: do one thing God asks of you even if no one else around you does it. Each time you see a rainbow, remember that God keeps every promise.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You always keep Your word. Give us courage to obey You when others don't, patience to wait on You, and hearts that worship You first. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks about the people outside the ark: answer honestly and gently. God was grieved by the evil people chose (Genesis 6:5–6). Peter says God waited patiently while the ark was being built (1 Peter 3:20), and he calls Noah "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5). God is always good and fair, and He wants everyone to come to Him.

