

Noah's Ark

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God keeps His promises, so we can trust Him and obey Him.

Bible passage: Genesis 6:5–9:17. Read it before class.

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)*

You need: a Bible, 7 paper strips in rainbow colors, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: toy animals and a bedsheet.

Before class: write the memory verse on the 7 paper strips (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 6:22.

1. Opening game: Noah Says (5 minutes)

Play it like Simon Says. "Noah says, hammer a nail!" "Noah says, flap like a bird!" "Walk like an elephant!" If someone moves when you did not say "Noah says," they sit down. Then ask: *Was it easy to listen and do exactly what you were told?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who did **everything** God told him to do."

2. Bible story: Noah Obeys God (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 6, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

A long, long time ago, people all over the earth turned away from God. They thought about doing wrong all the time, and they hurt each other. This made God very sad (Genesis 6:5–6, 6:11). But one man was different. His name was **Noah**. Noah walked with God (6:9). That means Noah stayed close to God every day.

God told Noah, "Make an ark." An ark is a giant boat. God told Noah exactly how to build it: very long, with three floors, rooms inside, and a door in the side (6:14–16). It was about as long as one and a half football fields! God said a big flood was coming, and Noah's family and the animals would be safe inside the ark (6:17–20).

There was no rain yet. But Noah built the ark anyway. **Read Genesis 6:22 from your Bible:** "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." Say: "That means Noah did everything God told him to do."

When the ark was ready, Noah went in with his wife, his three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives. That is eight people (7:13). The animals came in two by two, a male and a female (7:9). Then God shut them in. God closed the door (7:16)!



The story continues: Then the rain came. It rained for forty days and forty nights (7:12). The water got deeper and deeper. It covered even the tallest mountains, but the ark floated safely on top (7:18–19). The water stayed high for 150 days (7:24). But **God remembered Noah** (8:1). God sent a wind, and the water started to go down. The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (8:4).

Noah opened a window and sent out a bird called a raven (8:6–7). Then he sent out a dove. The dove could not find a dry place to land, so she flew back to the ark (8:8–9). Seven days later Noah sent the dove out again. She came back with a fresh **olive leaf** in her mouth (8:10–11)! Seven days after that, Noah sent the dove out one more time, and she did not come back. The ground was drying out (8:12).

God told Noah to come out of the ark (8:16). Noah, his family and all the animals came out (8:18–19). The very first thing Noah did was build an altar and worship God (8:20). Then God made a promise: He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God put a **rainbow** in the clouds as the sign of His promise (9:11–13).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who did God tell to build the ark? (*Noah, Genesis 6:13–14*)
2. How many people were in the ark? (*Eight: Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, 7:13*)
3. Who shut the door of the ark? (*God did, 7:16*)
4. What did the dove bring back? (*A fresh olive leaf, 8:11*)
5. What did God put in the sky as a promise? (*A rainbow, 9:13*)

4. Memory verse: Rainbow Verse game (5 minutes)

Tape the 7 strips up in order: *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.* Explain the old words: **bow** means rainbow, **token** means sign, and **covenant** means a promise God makes and keeps. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Noah obeyed God all the way, and God kept him safe in the ark. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, 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.

This week: obey the first time when a grown-up asks you. Every time you see a rainbow, say, "Thank You, God, for keeping Your promises!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Noah's Ark word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/noahs-ark-word-search), the Noah's Ark coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/noahs-ark), or **Animal Pairs**: whisper an animal to each child (two children get each animal). Everyone makes their animal's sound and finds their partner without talking. Then the pairs walk "into the ark" (under the bedsheet) together.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You always keep Your promises. Help us trust You and obey You like Noah did, even when it's hard. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about the people outside the ark: answer simply and gently. God was sad about the wrong people chose (Genesis 6:6), and the Bible calls Noah "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5), so people heard about God while he built. God is always good and fair, and He wants everyone to come to Him.

