

5 Sunday School Lessons in 2 Versions for Older and Younger Students

Lesson Three Noah



Noah and The Ark

Read Genesis 6:11-22; 7:11-24; 8:13-22

We focus so often on God's love and his forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus' death and resurrection, that we forget that God is also a God of wrath and anger. Psalm 7:11 states, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day."

Genesis 6:11-13 reads:

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

God made a decision to destroy all flesh, saving only Noah and his family, and the animals on the ark. This action does not mean that God did not care. All life is important to God. In Matthew 10:29 Jesus says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."

God's promises are for everyone - And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matt 28:20). For the persons not in the ark, it was indeed, the end of their world. And God was with them. The Bible tells us that Christ died for all - that means people living today, people who have not been born yet, and the people who lived before the flood.

In Genesis 6:18, God makes a covenant with Noah. The covenant (or pledge) listed responsibilities (or obligations) for both parties.

God's Obligations
God pledges to save Noah and his family

Noah's Obligations
Noah must follow the instructions to build the ark

Noah builds an ark that is longer than a football field on dry land. It took Noah many years to build the ark. Then he had to gather and store food supplies for his family and all the animals to last more than a year. Scripture tells us in Hebrews 11:7 that Noah did this by faith.

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 which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Noah and his family along with the animals entered the ark when God commanded.. Genesis 7:16 states, "and the Lord shut him in." It was God who closed and sealed the door to the ark so that Noah, his family and the animals would be safe.

The rains stopped after forty days and nights, but the waters stayed high for 150 days. Then God sent a wind to blow over the earth, and the waters started to drain off the land very slowly. Noah, his family and the animals stayed in the ark until God told Noah to go out of the ark. Noah's family and the animals were in the ark for a year and ten days.

In thankfulness for being saved, Noah builds an alter and makes an offering to God. God responded by making a promise. This was a promise that he made to Noah, Noah's family, and all the land animals. God promised that he would never destroy the world with a flood again. As a symbol of his promise, God placed a rainbow in the sky.

The story of Noah begins with a covenant and ends with a promise. There are other covenants listed in the Bible. God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 15:18; 17:2-21). A covenant that is referred to many times in Scripture is the covenant between God and Moses and the people of Israel (Exodus 19:5; 24:7-8; 31:16; 34:10, 27; etc.).

After God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, God made a solemn covenant with the Israelites to be their God and they are to be his people. This covenant included:

God's Obligations
God will be with Israel and lead them on their journey
God will protect his people
God will provide for and bless his people

Israel's Obligations
Exclusive love for and allegiance to God - no other Gods
Obedience to God's commandments

Scripture records how time and again the people of Israel would follow God, then turn away and worship idols forgetting God's commandments. Israel would fall on hard times and turn back to God in repentance, only to repeat the cycle again. The Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah, foretold of a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the Lord.

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor or a man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

The New Covenant is a result of Jesus' death on the cross which paid for the sins of the world.
The New Covenant includes:

God's Obligations
Salvation
Eternal life
Forgiveness of all our sins through the death of his Son
The Holy Spirit to live within us and enable us to follow Christ

Our Obligations
With the help of the Holy Spirit:
Faith in God
Trust in God
Belief that Jesus was God in the flesh

Prayer: Help me to be a person of faith like Noah who walked in your ways. Thank you for the New Covenant you have made through the death of Jesus. Help me to be sorry for my sins and give me strength to change my ways. Show me the path of your righteousness. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Noah and His Ark. Oil on canvas. Painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1819.

Noah's Ark

Noah lived a very long time ago. The Bible says that "Noah walked with God." That means that Noah believed in God, and he tried very hard to live his life in a way that would please God.

One day God told Noah he would bring a great flood that would cover the earth with water. God wanted to keep Noah and his family safe. He told Noah to build a very large boat called an ark.

Noah built the ark following the instructions God gave him. The ark had three floors and many rooms. It took Noah many years to build the ark. Noah painted the ark inside and out with pitch to make it waterproof.

When Noah finished building the ark, he had to fill much of the ark with food. God would send many animals to the ark to keep them safe during the flood. Noah needed to gather enough food to feed his family and the animals for more than a year.

At last everything was ready. God sent animals to the ark. There was a male and female of every animal. God sent birds too. They all found room in the ark. Last of all, Noah and his wife, Noah's three sons and their wives entered the ark. With everyone safe inside, God closed the door.

Then the rains came. It rained for forty days and forty nights without stopping. God also released water from the depths of the earth. There was so much water that even the tall mountains were covered. The ark that once sat on dry ground in a field was now floating on water.

Noah waited and waited for the flood waters to go away. Noah opened a window and sent out a dove. In the evening, the dove came back. It had found no place to rest. There was still too much water. Noah waited some more, then sent out the dove a second time. In the evening, the dove came back with an olive leaf in its mouth. Noah knew that the earth was getting dry. Noah waited again and sent out the dove for the third time. The dove did not come back. Noah knew that there was now dry ground.

After more than a year, God told Noah to leave the ark with his family, and to bring all the animals out of the ark. Noah built an altar to pray and thank God for keeping everyone safe in the ark.

God made a promise that he would never make a great flood again. God put a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise.

Prayer: Thank you God for keeping Noah and his family, and all the birds and animals safe during the flood. Help me to be like Noah who believed in you and tried to live his life in a way that would please you. Thank you for sending Jesus who died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. Amen.



Noah and His Ark. Oil on canvas. Painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1819.

The Ark

It took Noah many years to build an ark 450 feet long.
Noah made it out of gopher wood. He made it very strong.

The ark was 75 feet wide, and stood at 45 feet high.
Noah built it in a place where the land was very dry.

The ark had three floors and lots of stairs. God said, "Make many rooms."
There was a place for birds and animals, food, and tools, and brooms.

Noah painted it with pitch to make it waterproof.
The ark needed to stay dry when rain was drumming on the roof.

When it was time, the animals came in. They found a place to stay.
Noah and his family were last. God closed the door that day.

It rained for forty days. It rained for forty nights.
God called water from the depths. It was a terrible sight.

But as God promised, Noah and his family stayed safe throughout the storm.
All the birds and animals were dry, and fed, and warm.

When at last, they came out; to stand on dry land once more,
everything was fresh and new, with hills and valleys to explore.

Noah built an altar. He wanted to thank God and pray.
He was happy to be outside, standing in the light of day.

And across the sky God placed his bow, with colors in every hue.
God put the rainbow there for a symbol. The rainbow was something new.

With the rainbow came a promise to Noah and you and me.
A flood that big, a flood that great, never more will be.



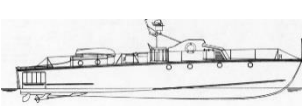



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Lets Talk About Boats

Discuss the following properties of boats and explain how these boat parts can help a boat reach its destination: 1) Oars, 2) Rudder, 3) Sails, 4) Motor and propeller.

Look at the drawings of boats below. Put a check in the grid if the boat has oars, rudder, sails or a motor and propeller.

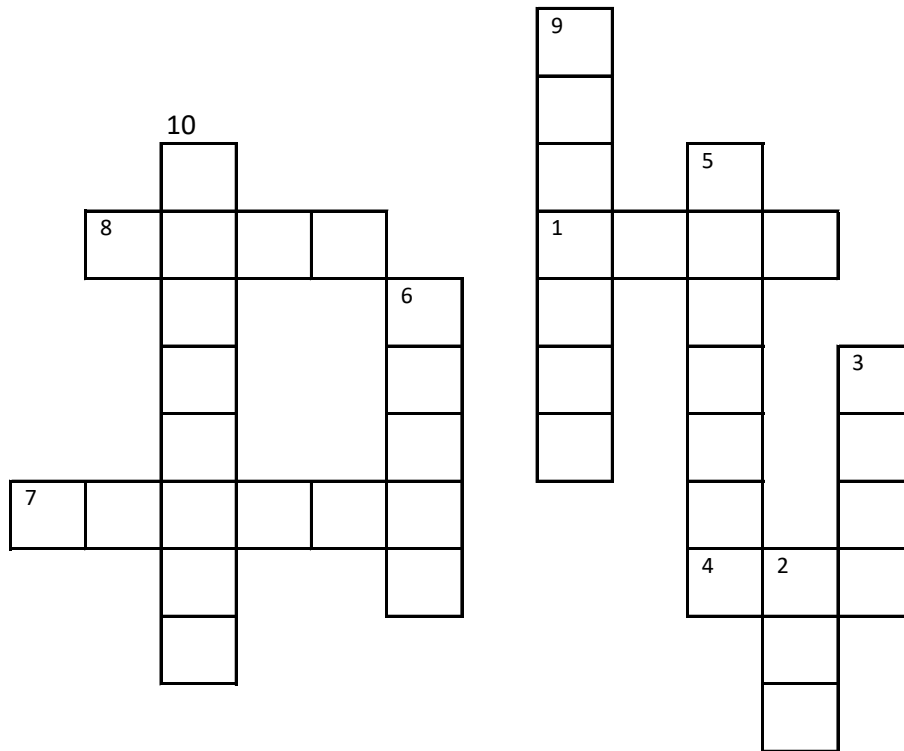
		Oars	Rudder	Sails	Motor and Propeller
Old Viking Ship					
Sailboat					
U. S. Navy Rescue Boat					
The Ark					

The first three boats above were designed to help people get from one place to another. The first three boats have ways to make them move over water - oars that people row to move the boat; sails to allow the wind to move the boat; or a motor and propeller to move the boat.

The ark is not like the other boats. It does not have a rudder. Noah could not make the ark move in the direction he wanted it to go. The ark did not have sails or a motor. There were no oars. The ark could only float. The ark moved because waves or wind pushed it. Without sails or a motor, Noah could not make the ark go faster.

The ark was built for only one purpose: to keep Noah and his family, and the animals safe during the flood. The ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat because that is where God wanted it to stop. The ark was God's plan to save Noah, his family and the animals.

Noah and the Ark



Across

1. The Bible tells us that this man found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It also says that he was a just man and perfect in his generations, and that he walked with God. God told this man to build the ark. This man's name is _____.
4. The name of one of Noah's sons who was with Noah in the ark during the flood. (Genesis 7:13)
7. The ark came to rest upon the mountains of _____. (Genesis 8:4)
8. What type of bird did Noah send forth from the ark three times? The second time this bird came back with an olive leaf in its mouth. (Genesis 8:8-12)

Down

2. The large boat that was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high that Noah built was called an _____.
3. The name of one of Noah's sons who was with Noah in the ark during the flood. (Genesis 7:13)
5. The name of one of Noah's sons who was with Noah in the ark during the flood. (Genesis 7:13)
6. During the flood, how many days and nights did it rain?
9. God made a promise to Noah that he would never make a big flood like that again. What did God put in the sky as a sign of his promise?
10. God made an agreement with Noah. In this agreement (or pledge), God would save Noah and his wife, Noah's three sons and their wives. As part of the agreement, Noah had to build the ark and fill it with food for his family and the animals. This agreement was called a _____. (Genesis 6:18)

Important Words to Remember

God made a pledge, a covenant with Noah, that Noah, and his family, and the animals would be safe from the flood in the ark.

God gives a promise to all of us in the Bible

And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matt 28:20)

For Noah and his family, the flood did bring the end of the world as they knew it. Sometimes, we feel like our world is crashing down around us. Things are changing. Everything seems to be falling apart. When this happens, remember that there is an important constant. God is there. He can be our support in times of trouble. The English Standard Version of the Bible puts it this way

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt 28:20)

God is always there for us. He is always beside us. He is always living within our hearts. Sometimes we may distance ourselves from God. We may fail to go to church. We forget to pray. We do things which we know do not please God. But God is still there for us. God does not leave us. In the Bible God tells us

I will never leave you, nor forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

God knows we are not perfect. God knows we make mistakes. That is why God sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away the sins of the world. Jesus' death and resurrection washed away all our sins. God tells us

I shall remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:12)

The Almighty God who promises to be with us always, also promises to love us always

I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for keeping Noah and his family, and all the animals safe during the flood. Help me to remember that you are always with me, and that you will always love me. Give me strength and courage to face the hard times in my life. Be my support in times of trouble. Help me to find peace in my soul, even when everything around me seems to be falling apart. Thank you for Jesus' death and resurrection so that I might have everlasting life in Heaven. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Review

1. How many people entered the ark, and how were they related to Noah?
(Genesis 6:10, Genesis 7:7)
2. How was the door of the ark closed? (Genesis 7:16)
3. How long did it rain? (Genesis 7:12)
4. Noah sent a dove out from the ark three times. Tell what happened each time Noah sent out the dove. (Genesis 8:8-12)
5. After Noah and his family left the ark, God made a new promise. What was his promise? What did God put in the sky as a symbol of his promise? (Genesis 9:11-16)

Suggested Coloring Sheet



God made a promise to Noah.

The coloring sheet "God made a promise to Noah" can be downloaded for free from the website www.SundaySchoolZone.com. The website grants permission for personal use, and use in Sunday School classes.