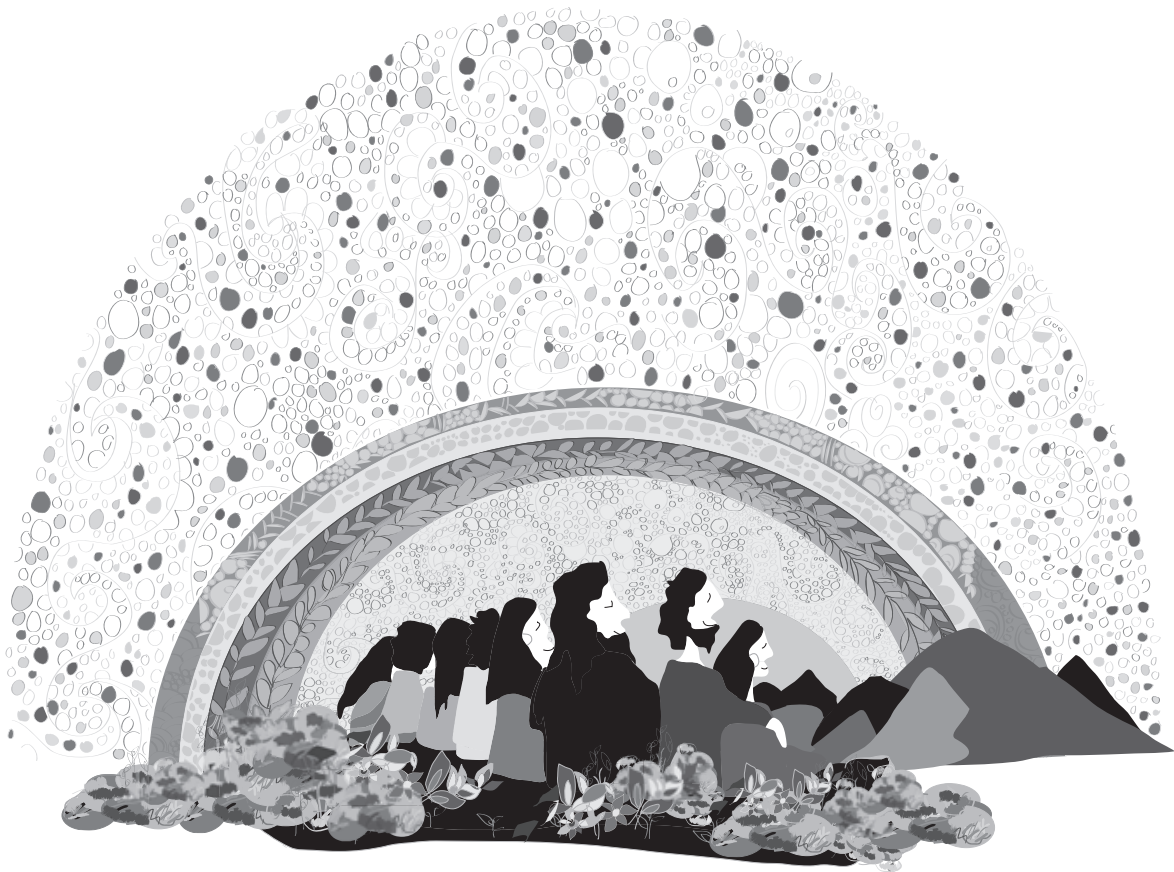


LESSON 6

The Rainbow of God's Promise

GENESIS 8–9



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD ESTABLISHED A COVENANT WITH NOAH BY HIS GRACE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Genesis 9:8–17 from the Scriptures or read story 6, “The Rainbow of God’s Promise,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Faith in My Words
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ plastic baseball bat
 - ✓ table
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
By Grace
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ decorated cake
 - ✓ paper products
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Make a Rainbow
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ a prism (a chandelier crystal or other piece of cut glass will work in a pinch—try it at home to make sure it works)
 - ✓ a slide projector or large bright flashlight
 - ✓ a white piece of paper
 - ✓ a small piece of cardboard
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Build an Altar
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ plastic or wooden blocks
 - ✓ toy lamb

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Although he could not fully see or understand, Noah responded in faith—What God told Noah to do must have seemed very odd. Many Bible scholars believe that before the flood, it had never rained. Certainly it had never rained enough to flood the whole world! To obey God, Noah had to build a huge ship that was far away from any water. Yet Noah trusted God, believed what he said, and obeyed.

This is why Noah is considered one of the heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11:7). Even though he could not fully see or understand God’s plan, Noah obeyed God.

Faith is not seeing, but believing even when we can’t see. Jesus said to Thomas who doubted, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

God remembered Noah and brought an end to the flood—God said that he would flood and destroy the earth. But to Noah he said, “I will establish my covenant with you.” And God honored his word because after flooding the earth, “God remembered Noah.”

We know now that when God remembered Noah and carried out his plan to save Noah from judgment, God was thinking of Jesus. One day Jesus would save us from judgment and would pay the price for our sins—and Noah’s! How precious that word “remember” is! God remembered Noah and brought an end to the flood. God remembers and keeps his promises to us, too. God is faithful to fulfill all his promises.

God made a covenant with Noah and through Noah with all men—God made a covenant with Noah: never again would God destroy the world by a flood. The rainbow is the sign of this promise.

When Noah and the others got off the ark, people began to populate the earth all over again. One of the first things God did was to remind Noah that people are made in God’s image, and this is what makes murder so awful. The most wonderful thing about people is that we are all made in God’s image.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Luke 22:19, 20; Hebrews 12:24.

As soon as he got off the ark, Noah sacrificed some of the animals to God. Noah didn't realize it, but to God all genuine sacrifice to him points forward to his plan to sacrifice his son, Jesus. So the story of Noah and his family being saved from the flood should remind us of God's plan to save his people through the death of his Son, Jesus.

God gave Noah (and us!) the rainbow as a sign of one of God's covenants with his people. It reminds us of God's promise that he will never again destroy the earth by flood. God always keeps his covenants perfectly, and the best covenant of all is the one involving Jesus and his death on the cross for our sins.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 9:8–17 from the Scriptures or read story 6, "The Rainbow of God's Promise," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Faith in My Words

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ plastic baseball bat
- ✓ table

The object of this lesson is to show how Noah believed God even though he didn't understand what was going to happen.

Ask a volunteer to come up to the front of the class. Ask her if she trusts you. Then have her put her hand palm up on a table in front of the class. Say, "You will be surprised, it won't hurt

at all.” Then take the bat like a sword above your head and slowly bring it down to her hand like you are practicing your aim. Continue to tell her not to be nervous, that the bat won’t hurt her hand when you slam it.

Take a few practice false starts to try to get her to flinch or move her hand. If she flinches or moves her hand, ask for a new volunteer. Once in position, bring the bat crashing down on the table far away from her hand.

Then ask for another volunteer and another, continually doing the same thing, missing their hands by hitting the table far away. Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why was it so difficult for the first person to trust me?
(She didn’t know you were going to hit the table far away from her hand.)
- Why was it easy for the rest of the children to trust me?
(They had the advantage to see what you were doing—not hitting hands.)
- Who was Noah most like, the first person or the rest of the volunteers?
(Noah was more like the first volunteer because he had never seen a flood like the one God was describing.)
- What word would you use to describe Noah’s response to God?
(faith)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

By Grace

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ decorated cake
- ✓ paper products

Make a cake and decorate it for the class by drawing a simple picture of the ark on it. Bring in paper products to serve the cake. Keep the cake hidden until the proper moment to surprise the class.

Explain to the class that God reached out to Noah. Genesis 6:9 tells us that Noah walked with God. But it wasn't Noah who approached God for those walks; it was God who came to fellowship with Noah. Noah would not have known about the impending flood or known how to build an ark if God had not given him that information. When God gives us something we do not deserve, we say that his gift is one of grace. God poured out his grace on Noah by walking with him, by warning him of the flood, and by giving him the instructions to build the ark.

Tell the class that you want to illustrate what it is like to get something you don't expect or deserve but get simply out of grace. Bring out the cake and the supplies.

As you cut and serve the cake, ask the children these questions:

- Did you do anything to deserve the cake?
- Did you ask me to bring a cake?
- Did you ask me for a piece of the cake today?

Of course the answer to all these questions will be no. Explain that Noah did not ask God how he planned to destroy the earth. Noah did not ask for instructions on how to build an ark. Noah did not ask if God would save him from the impending flood. God, in his mercy and grace, chose Noah, walked with Noah, revealed information to Noah, and saved Noah!

Tell the class that you made the cake to bless them and brought it in for their enjoyment simply out of your love for them. Tell them that if children in the other classes hear of this and ask why they had a cake they should answer, "As a picture of God's grace in saving Noah!"

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Make a Rainbow

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a prism (a chandelier crystal or other piece of cut glass will work in a pinch—try it at home to make sure it works)
- ✓ a slide projector or large bright flashlight

- ✓ a white piece of paper
- ✓ a small piece of cardboard

Cut a one-fourth-inch hole in the cardboard and tape it over the lens of the light source to limit the beam of light coming out. Turn off the lights in the room. Shine the light through the prism onto the paper to reveal a rainbow. Explain to the children that the light looks white to us but is actually made up of seven visible colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet).

Isaac Newton (1642–1747) was the English scientist who discovered that the white light of the sun could be separated by a prism and then back through a second prism to make it white again, thus explaining how rainbows are formed. Rain droplets act as tiny prisms, reflecting and dividing the light of the sun. Since before the flood it had not yet rained, God reserved the rainbow for after the flood as a mark of his promise never again to destroy the earth by flood.

Use this activity to talk about God’s wonderful creation, God’s sovereign control over all things, and his promise never to destroy the earth by flood again.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Build an Altar

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ plastic or wooden blocks
- ✓ toy lamb

Explain to the children that you are all going to work together to build an altar. Have each child individually take a block and lay it on the floor to form a short two- to three-block high altar (not a tall towerlike structure). Place the toy lamb on top of the blocks. Tell the children that Noah built an altar when he left the ark. Read Genesis 8:20–21. Explain that the “clean animals” were animals that were good to eat, including lambs. Ask the children to guess who the sacrificed animals were meant to point forward to? The answer is Jesus. Jesus is called the Lamb of God (John 1:36) because he was killed on the cross as a sacrifice to God to take the punishment we deserved. Every sacrifice in the Old Testament points forward to Jesus.

LESSON 6 - THE RAINBOW OF GOD'S PROMISE

