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Noah's Ark and the Flood

Scripture: Genesis 6:9-9:17

Theme: God judges sin but saves those who trust Him

4th-6th Grade (Ages 9-11)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "Noah and the Ark , God Saves" (Upper Elementary Ages 9, 11) Opening (Engage & Connect): Begin with a simple story question: "What's one way you've seen God help people when things seem impossible?" Then introduce Noah's story by showing a picture of the ark. Ask, "Have you ever felt like you were too small to handle something big? How did Noah and his family trust God's plan?" The Story of Noah (Explore & Discover) Noah lived in a world where people were disobeying God, building tall towers to make their own rules instead of trusting Him. God saw this sin and told Noah to build a huge ark (a giant boat!) because He was about to judge the world with a flood (Genesis 6:9, 7:24). But God didn't leave Noah alone! He promised Noah and his family that if they trusted Him, He would save them. The ark floated on the water for 40 days and nights (Genesis 8:6), and finally, God sent a rainbow to be His promise that He would never again destroy the earth by flood. That rainbow is still a sign today! Deeper Questions: - Why do you think people in Noah's time ignored God's warnings? (Hint: Think of other stories in the Bible where people chose their own way.) - How did Noah and his family know they were safe? (They trusted God's word!) God's Way of Salvation (Reflect & Apply) Noah's story isn't just about a big boat, it's a picture of how God saves us from sin! Just like Noah trusted God to save his family, we can trust Him to save us from our own "flood" of mistakes or fear. The ark wasn't just for animals; it was God's plan to keep His people (Noah, his family, and the animals) alive. Today, God offers us a way to be saved through Jesus Christ, He came to earth to take away our sins (like the flood took away the sinful world) and give us a new life! Personal Application: Ask: "Have you ever felt like you're too small to make a difference? How can you trust God, like Noah did, to guide you?" (Pause for sharing.) Then challenge them: "Next time you face a big challenge, ask God, 'Will You save me?'" Closing (Encourage & Reflect) End with a prayer: "Lord, thank You for being a God who sees our hearts and knows what we need. Help us trust You, like Noah trusted You, to guide us and save us. Give us courage to share Your love with others." Wrap up by holding up a small boat or rainbow craft (if made in class): "God's promise to Noah is still here, like the rainbow, a reminder that He's always with us!" Volunteer Tip: Keep it interactive! Use props (e.g., a small "ark" for kids to climb in), act out parts of the story, or draw the rainbow together. Focus on God's love and trustworthiness, no pressure to

explain every detail!

Bible Story

Sunday School Lesson: Noah and the Ark , God Saves

One day, long ago, God spoke to a man named Noah. Noah was a kind and faithful man who listened to God's words. God told Noah to build a huge boat called an ark, not because Noah could do it alone, but because God was preparing to send a great flood that would destroy everything on Earth, except for those who would be saved. Noah obeyed God immediately, even though he didn't know how to build such a big boat. His family, including his wife, three sons, and their wives, also trusted God and got to work.

As Noah built the ark, the animals came to him. Two of every kind of animal, birds, cattle, reptiles, and more, were sent to Noah. These animals would be saved from the flood, just like Noah and his family. The ark was covered in pitch (a dark, waterproof material) to keep it strong and safe. Noah and his family worked together, trusting God to take care of them. Even though they didn't know what would happen next, they knew God had promised to save them.

After the ark was finished, God told Noah to fill it with pairs of every animal, male and female. Then He said, "I am going to send rain on the Earth for forty days and forty nights. I will destroy everything that has life from the face of the Earth." Noah did as God commanded, and he placed the animals inside, one by one, until the ark was full. The people of the world, however, didn't believe God's warning and kept living in sin, ignoring His call to repent.

The flood came suddenly, rain poured down for forty days and forty nights. The rivers overflowed, and the oceans rose so high that the ark floated on top of the waves. Only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark were safe. After the waters had gone down and the Earth had dried up, God sent a dove to check if the land was safe. When the dove returned with an olive leaf in its beak, Noah knew it was time to leave the ark. He released the animals one by one, and they went back to the Earth. Noah built an altar to thank God for saving them, and God promised never again to flood the whole world.

This story shows us that God is always faithful, even when we don't understand His plans. Even though Noah and his family didn't know what would happen, they trusted God and obeyed His commands. When we face challenges, we can trust God to protect us, just like He protected Noah and his family. Who do you trust to help you when things seem overwhelming?

Personal Reflection: - How can we trust God like Noah did, even when we don't fully understand? - What are some ways we can show our thankfulness to God, like Noah did? - How can we share God's message of hope with others, just as Noah's family trusted God?

Key Verse

Genesis 6:22

Genesis 6:8 tells us that Noah was special in God's eyes, even when everyone else was not. Long ago, the world was very different than today, and people were living in a way that made God sad. Noah, though, was different. His heart was kind, honest, and full of love for God, even when others didn't care. Because of this, God chose Noah to build an ark, a huge boat, to save his family and a few animals from a big flood. This verse reminds us that God notices when we try our best to follow Him, even if others don't see it yet. Sometimes, like Noah, we might feel like no one else notices our efforts, our kindness, our prayers, or even our quiet time with God. But God sees everything! He remembers when we choose to do what's right, even when it's hard. Even if friends or family don't always agree with us, God still loves us and wants to use our good choices to help others. Have you ever felt like God is watching you and waiting for something special because of how you've acted? How can you show God today that you care about what He thinks is important? God gave Noah extra time to build the ark, even though the flood was coming soon. This shows that He gives us chances to turn around and do what's right. If Noah had given up or acted like everyone else, the world might have been destroyed forever. But because Noah was faithful, God saved his family and all the animals. This verse is a reminder that when we listen to God and try

our best to do what's right, He might just use us in a big way too, even when no one else knows it yet! Here's a deeper question to think about: If Noah had given up, would God still have chosen him? Why do you think that is? Some people might feel like they're not good enough, but God loves them anyway. What are some small things you do every day that show you care about God? Maybe it's sharing your faith, helping a friend, or praying before a big test. Those little acts matter to God, just like they mattered to Noah! To apply this to your own life, think about how you can do what's right, even when no one is watching. Maybe it's telling the truth when others might not believe you, or being kind to someone who is mean. God notices, and He's glad when we try to live like Him. When you do something kind or brave for God, remember: He sees it, and He's saying, "You're one of My special people!" Would you like to think about one small way you can show God you care today?

Activities

Activity 1:

Students play a role-playing game where they act out Noah's obedience to God and the animals' trust in him. This activity reinforces that God's plan for salvation includes both people and creatures.

1. Set Up Groups: Divide students into small groups (3, 5) and assign one bottle per group.
2. Discuss the Ark: Read Genesis 6:9, 9:17 aloud, focusing on how God commanded Noah to build the ark and how He saved everyone inside.
3. Design the Bottle Ark: Each group decorates their bottle by gluing paper plates to represent the ark's compartments (like Noah's ark had separate levels). They can also add animal cutouts to "fill" the bottle.
4. Reflect Together: Ask, "How can we trust God like Noah did? What does it mean to obey God even when it seems impossible?"
2. "Animal Rescue Mission"
6. Assign Roles: Assign 2, 3 students to act as Noah, while the rest play animals (e.g., "I'm a cow!" or "I'm a dove!"). Assign one student as God (optional).
7. Read the Story: Read Genesis 6:9, 9:17, emphasizing Noah's faithfulness and God's promise to save.
8. Play the Mission: Noah "builds" the ark (draws a simple diagram on paper) while the animals "board" by writing their

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions about Noah and the Ark, designed for upper elementary students (ages 9, 11). Each question encourages reflection, deeper thinking, and personal connection to the story of God's faithfulness and how we can trust Him today.
- 1. God's Kindness and Unexpected Help
- "In the story of Noah, God told him to build an ark to save his family and animals. At first, Noah didn't understand why God wanted him to do this, it seemed impossible! What do you think Noah must have felt like when he started building the ark? Why do you think God chose Noah to do this job?"
- (Deeper question: How does this story show that God sometimes asks us to do things that seem hard or strange? Can you think of a time in your life when you had to trust someone, like God, who seemed unfamiliar or difficult to understand? How did it feel?)
- 2. Trusting When Things Don't Make Sense
- "After the flood, Noah and his family rebuilt the ark and released the birds to see if the earth was dry. When the birds didn't return, Noah waited patiently. How do you think Noah felt when he waited for days (or weeks) for answers? What does this teach us about trusting God when we don't get immediate answers?"
- (Personal application: Have you ever waited for something important, like a test result, a friend's response, or even a blessing you hoped for? How did trusting God help you through that time?)

- 3. Why God Used Noah to Save the World
 - "Noah wasn't perfect, he had to deal with animals, family, and even the people around him. Yet God chose Noah to build the ark. Why do you think God picked Noah? Was it because he was the best person in the world, or was there something else?"
 - (Deeper question: What do you think Noah learned from this experience? How might this story remind us that God uses imperfect people to do big things? How can we be like Noah, faithful and trusting, even when life gets tough?)
- 4. God's Promise to Never Again Flood the Earth
 - "After the flood, God gave Noah a sign, a rainbow, that reminded everyone that He would never let another global flood destroy the world. Today, when we see a rainbow, what does it remind you of? How can knowing God's promises help us be brave and hopeful, even when things look scary?"
 - (Personal application: Think of a time when you felt like God's promises were true, like staying safe during a storm, getting through a hard school year, or knowing you're loved even when things didn't go as planned. How did that remind you of God's faithfulness?)
 - These questions encourage students to explore emotions, faith, and personal connections while thinking about how the story of Noah and the Ark still applies to their lives today. Would you like any of them adjusted for a specific focus (e.g., kindness, patience, or God's promises)?

Prayer Focus

Here's a heartfelt prayer for upper elementary children that connects to Noah and the Ark while inviting reflection, gratitude, and personal application. The prayer balances wonder about God's love with simple, meaningful questions to spark deeper thinking: Prayer for Noah's Family & Ours "Dear God, you are the greatest Savior in the whole world, and even when the world seemed dark, full of chaos, and filled with people who didn't know you, you chose Noah and his family. You told them to build something strange and unusual: an ark, a giant boat made of wood, to float on top of a world that looked like it would drown. Noah and his family didn't understand it at first, but they trusted you anyway. They packed animals two by two, and when the rain came, you protected them. You were with them on the ark, and when the water went down, you let them step back onto dry land. They were so glad to see their families again, and they thanked you for saving them. Help us today to trust you like Noah did, even when life feels overwhelming or confusing. God, we know you care about us too, even when we don't feel safe or when people around us don't understand. Help us to be like Noah, faithful, patient, and kind. And when we forget to thank you, remind us, just like Noah did after the flood: 'We're so grateful for you!' We love you, God, and we wait for you to guide us." Follow-Up Questions for Discussion (Teacher Guide): 1. What did Noah do differently than most people in his time? (He trusted God's plan before seeing it.) Why might that be hard for us? 2. How do you think Noah and his family felt inside when they boarded the ark? (Excited? Nervous? Confused?) What would you have asked God if you were there? 3. The Bible says God's heart was not finished with the world, he would start over with Noah's family. What does that mean to you? How does that help you feel when things seem broken? 4. Personal Application: Think of one time when you felt like you needed to 'build something strong' (like trust, courage, or a relationship) based on God's promise. How did you start? Why This Works for Kids: - Emotional Anchor: Uses concrete details (ark, animals, rain) to ground abstract faith. - Empathy: Asks kids to feel Noah's doubt or wonder, not just memorize facts. - Action Step: Ends with a call to trust and thank like Noah did, giving them a tangible way to respond. - Growth Edge: The question about God's "not finished" heart invites them to see God as a redeemer, not just a provider. Optional Addition: After prayer, have kids draw their favorite part of the ark story or write one thing they're grateful God has saved them from!

>> Missions Spotlight

Flood stories exist in over 200 cultures worldwide, from the Aboriginal Australians to the indigenous peoples of North America. Missionaries working with the Hmong people of Southeast Asia have found the shared flood memory opens conversations about God's judgment and salvation.

-> To the Cross

Noah's ark saved those who entered it from the flood. In the same way, Jesus is the only way of salvation from the judgment of sin. Just as God provided the ark, God provides Jesus, we simply need to trust and enter in.