

LESSON 5

NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD

GENESIS 6:5-22; 7:1-24; 8:1-22; 9:1-17



Teacher, please remember that the commentary below is intended to help you in your study, not to be read to your students. Make your own list of applications, using the help from the commentary, but don't necessarily try to cover everything! Think of the students in your class, then be prayerfully selective

Contents:

1. Preparation
2. Memory verses
3. Theme
4. Lesson introduction
5. Verse by verse commentary (suggested location of activities included)
6. Suggested prayer to close
7. Attention grabbers
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9. Bible Text (in full, without commentary)

1. Preparation

- 1) Choose memory verse
- 2) Select attention grabber to start off lesson / break the ice - optional, recommended for younger classes. (see point 7)
- 3) Suggested activities- optional, recommended for younger children (see point 8)

2. Memory verse (parts in bold for younger children)

Hebrews 11:7a

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear **built an ark to save his family.**

3. Theme

God will save those who trust in Him

4. Lesson introduction

This week we are going to learn about a very great man of God. Noah and his family lived in a wicked and violent society much like ours today. God saw man's great wickedness and, with sadness in His heart, decided to destroy mankind. Yet, as God looked at mankind, He noted Noah, a man who feared God and was an obedient servant. He loved the Lord even when everyone else in the world was turning away from Him and following after sin.

The Lord's grace abounded, and He chose to preserve Noah and his family. God gave Noah an interesting job to do. It was something that the people of his day thought was awfully silly, but Noah hung in there and did what God told him. There is much we can learn about faithfulness from this man named Noah. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

We can also trust in God's faithfulness to us. How important are promises? Have you ever broken a promise that you have made to someone else? Has a promise that has been made to you ever been broken? It is very hard when that happens. People will sometimes break their promises, but there is someone who will never break His promises. Do you know who that is?

That's right--God will never break His promises to us. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about a special promise that God made to Noah after the flood. He also gave Noah a special sign so he could remember that promise. It is something that we can still see today and is very beautiful. It is the rainbow. Did you know that every time we look at a rainbow, we can remember that God always fulfills all of His promises? We are going to learn more about that today. **God promises that He will save those who trust in Him.**

5. Verse by Verse Commentary (Key points in bold)

Genesis 6:5-7

The condition of the world at the time that Noah lived was terrible. In verse five it says, "**Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**" We see that "God saw." God always sees; He sees the good, but He also sees the bad. Nothing escapes the

Almighty. As God saw this condition, His heart was grieved. What a sad thing--the creation that God breathed life into, the creation that He had said was good, now grieved His heart.

Just as God saw the hearts of man in the time of Noah, **God sees the hearts of man today.** There are many bad things that happen in the world, today. It does not happen apart from God knowing and caring. One day He will bring judgment on all those who give their lives to sin in this world and hurt others in the process. How important it is to acknowledge God in our lives and serve Him faithfully all of our days, even in the midst of an evil world. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

The result of man doing whatever he wanted to do was destruction—destruction of his own life and the lives of others. So God decided that He would put an end to the misery in this world and would now destroy man and beast, the creeping things, and the fowl of the air. How sad that the creation that God loved so much would now have to be destroyed. May we never have to stand before God in judgment because we refuse to follow Him!

It is interesting that Jesus used this time in history to describe what life would be like in the last days. Jesus said in Matthew 24:37-38, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark." These are the characteristics of the day in which Jesus will return. Again, man will bring destruction upon himself; but in the dark background of this picture, we see a glimmer of grace.

Genesis 6:8-13

Vs 8 tells us, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." What did God see when He looked at Noah? Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith."

Noah was a just man, and (as was said of Enoch), he walked with God. Although the whole world turned away from God, Noah stood as a man who would give his life to serving the Lord. Because God had a relationship with Noah, He favored him and poured out His grace upon

him. Grace, the undeserved favor of God, is the foundation of every life that is well pleasing to God. Grace is the source from which every blessing we receive comes. It is in the grace of God that we stand. Isn't it just like our God to reveal His grace in such a dark time? Noah, a man of faith, was warned by God. He found grace in the sight of the Lord and was protected from God's judgment.

We find out a few things about Noah's character in these verses. **We see that he was a just man. Does that mean he never made mistakes? No, it means that he was mature in his walk with the Lord.** He made up his mind that he would serve the Lord no matter what and then carried it out. We need to have that kind of character in our lives today. **In the midst of a world that has turned away from God, we need to stand up for what is just and right.** Noah walked with God in an evil time. We need to do the exact same thing! **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Here, also, we see a contrast. A contrast is kind of like a comparison, except the two things compared are very different, not alike. A picture is painted of a very evil world filled with sin and violence. People were hurting and killing one another. It grieved the heart of God. On the other hand, there is a family that stands out as a very different group of people. They were righteous and served the Lord.

So the Lord came to Noah and began to speak to his heart. He shared with Noah that because of the sin of the world, He would destroy man and the entire world. How do you suppose Noah felt to receive that news? It might have been pretty scary. But, **Noah put his trust in the Lord and knew that He had everything under control. Not only did God have things under control, God would use Noah for a very special mission--to prepare an ark to preserve the human race and the animals.**

God can also use our lives when we remain faithful to Him. It is not always easy to remain faithful to the Lord when others are not or when we are laughed at because we obey Jesus. But, we can be encouraged by Noah's life because he stayed faithful through it all and was used greatly by the Lord. What great things God can do with our lives when we remain faithful! **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 6:14-22

Suggested activity: Race to the ark.

Now, in obedience, Noah builds the ark the Lord told him to build. When God tells us to do something, He does not just tell us to do it and then leave us to accomplish the task on our own. God gave Noah very specific instructions. Noah was to build the ark from gopher wood and pitch it within and without with pitch. The ark would be watertight, a perfect shelter, a perfect place of refuge. No matter how hard or much it rained, they were secure in the ark.

The size of the ark, on the basis of a cubit as 18 inches, was 450 feet long with a beam of 75 feet and a depth of 45 feet, with 3 decks. Scholars have calculated that a vessel of this size could hold more than 43,000 tons. The **only door in the ark**, making one way in and one way out, was set in the side. A window was placed above; Noah and his family were not to watch the scene of destruction happening around them. They were to only look up.

In vs18, God gave Noah the promise that he and his family would be preserved. Then He gave Noah the responsibility to keep the animals from complete extinction. He was to take two of every sort, male and female, and provide shelter for them in the ark. In order that they would not have difficulty gathering the animals together and getting them into the ark, God said they "will come to you." Noah was to provide food for them, that they might not starve; and Noah did "all that God commanded him." **God will save those who trust in Him.**

In spite of the darkness of mankind, God had Noah prepare a place of refuge for him and his family from the judgment to come upon that evil and wicked generation. Noah found grace in God's sight, and he walked with God. As God was Noah's place of refuge and protection, God is our place of refuge and protection (Psalm 91); let us walk with God and in obedience to Him. "For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). **God wants us to be faithful.**

Suggested activity: A paper ark

Genesis 7:1

God invited Noah to enter the ark with his family and take refuge in Him because Noah was found "righteous" in God's eyes. God is faithful to those who follow Him. He protects His children and upholds the just.

Just as the ark was Noah's place of safety, so is the Lord Jesus Christ to those who give their lives to Him. Jesus is our place of salvation and our Savior from sin and death and this world. When we put our life in His hands, He will keep us. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 7:2-4

Noah took the animals that God brought to him on the ark and they waited seven days before the rains came. God had warned man of his disobedience for many years through the voices of His servants. God longed for man to turn from his destruction and to follow His loving ways.

God is so gracious and gives each of us a chance to repent. He longs for all of us to turn from our sin and rebellion and to walk in the love and grace He alone can give. God does not want anyone to perish but desires that mankind have a fulfilling relationship with Him. Although God is gracious and long-suffering, He is also righteous and must judge sin. He gives each of us a choice to follow Him or to follow our own flesh, and we must make the decision. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

What decision have you made about following God? You can begin to have a relationship with God through asking Jesus into your heart. You can do that today and be saved from God's eternal judgment, just as Noah and his family were saved from judgment in his day. Why not come to Jesus today and follow Him?

Genesis 7:5

Noah completely obeyed the Lord. He knew that God's way is always best and Noah trusted in Him. God made us and knows what is best for us. When we obey His Word, we can be sure that we are doing what is right and good. He loves us so much and wants the absolute best for our lives. When we obey, we will always be blessed! **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 7:6-16

So Noah and his family obeyed and God protected them. God wanted to protect His creation so he had Noah bring some of every kind of bird and animal into the ark. This would ensure that man and all the animals would be able to start again and fill the earth after the flood.

The Lord is the One who shut the door behind them in the ark and kept them safe as the earth was flooded. This is an interesting picture of our salvation. God provided the way. We need only to believe and trust in the work of the cross. Just like God shut the door to protect Noah and his family, so Jesus will provide salvation for us. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 7:17-24

God's judgment was cast on the earth. Because of man's evil heart and refusal to obey God, He destroyed them. Noah and his family were saved because they put their trust in the Lord and followed His ways.

We all need to be saved. Just as God saved Noah by providing the ark, so can we be saved when we give our lives to Jesus, God's provision for sin. Jesus is our loving Savior; He delivers us from sin, self, and death when we believe in Him. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 8:1

God kept Noah, his family and the animals safe on the ark as it stormed for a total of 371 days! God provided and cared for their needs because He loved them. We do not ever have to worry about our needs. God is always there to take care of us. We just need to walk in obedience to Him and enjoy His faithfulness. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 8:2-14

Noah sent out a dove three times. Twice it returned; but the third time, it had found refuge somewhere else. This assured Noah that the land was dry. God was faithful to dry the land and allow Noah, his family, and the animals to live once again on the earth. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Genesis 8:5-19

God protected Noah, his family, and the animals as He cast judgment on the earth. Remember, God takes care of those who put their trust in Him. Even in the midst of a wicked and evil generation, we can find a refuge and peace because God is faithful to preserve and protect His children. Just as God saved Noah, He saves those who believe in His

Son.

We do not have to be a part of this wicked generation or face God's wrath. We can run into the open arms of a loving God who loves us so much and longs to be our Father. One day God is going to judge this world, just as He did in Noah's day. Only through Jesus Christ, do we have safety and salvation. We must cling to Him in this wicked world, because He alone can save us and give us abundant life. **God will save those who trust in Him.**

Suggested activity: Mud painting

Genesis 8:20-22

In vs20, we see that Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered burnt sacrifices to the Lord. **When the ark came to rest on Ararat and Noah and his family came out of the ark, they came into a new beginning; the world was clean and at rest. What was Noah's response? He worshipped the Lord.**

Noah did not build a new house for himself or his family; he built an altar to thank the Lord for gracious protection. He prayed for God's mercy in the times to come. God had just brought Noah and his family through the destruction of the world.

When He brings us through tremendous trials, what is our response? Because God was first in Noah's heart, God was the first to be served. Noah offered "of every clean animal, and of every clean bird"; he offered only those that were clean, and by doing so, he was obeying the law of God. Though he did not have much, for he only had seven of the clean animals, he acknowledged that all he did have was God's and he was willing to freely give to God.

Noah's sacrifice was a pleasing, sweet smell to God. Remember when you smelled something that was very pleasing or sweet? Think about how it made you feel. When the Lord smelled this sweet savor he said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination (or the thought and desire) of man's heart is evil from his youth (from the very time that he begins to act with consciousness)." **He promised never to curse the ground again as he had done before or to destroy mankind in a worldwide catastrophe of water, even though man's sin would continue to provoke and justify God's wrath. God's promises to us last forever, He will save those who trust in Him.**

God assures Noah that his daily needs would be met by the unbroken succession of "seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night..." Even though man in His sin deserved to be completely destroyed, God in His mercy and grace saved man from complete destruction. Man would sin again because it is part of his nature, but God would continue to extend His grace and love to man.

Genesis 9:1-4

In vs1, we are told "God blessed Noah and his sons...." This is the first time that we read of God blessing anyone since He had blessed man in Eden before he fell in sin. The basis of this blessing was the burnt offerings (a picture of Jesus); the purpose of the blessing was to show that the same Divine favor that was given to Adam and Eve would now be given to the new couple that would continue the human race.

God gave Noah the same command that He gave Adam in Genesis 1:28: "Be fruitful and multiply." This was a renewal of God's Word to Adam. In vs2-4, we see that the animals that originally were subject to man now would live in "dread" of man. The harmony which had existed between man and animal in the beginning was now broken. Before the flood, man ate fruits and herbs, but now God allowed man to eat the flesh of animals.

Genesis 9:5-7

Man's life is sacred to God; he was created in the image of God. Man's life may not be taken away without God's permission by either man or by animal. Before the flood, there did not seem to be any type of government to enforce the penalties for taking of another human life. After the flood, we see capital punishment as the penalty of murder ordained by God Himself. By God's order, man now shares in the establishing and upholding of justice on the earth.

There are consequences for our actions. If we do something wrong, there will be a penalty for it. It is important to do what is right before the Lord.

Genesis 9: 8-17

Here we see God's covenant with Noah. It reaffirms the conditions of the life of fallen man as announced by the covenant God made with Adam. And, since the threat of divine judgment in the form of another flood had been removed, it institutes the principle of human government to curb the outbreak of sin. **God's promises to us last forever, he will save those who trust in Him.**

The elements of the covenant that God made with Noah are: 1) Man is made responsible to protect the sanctity of human life by orderly rule, even to the end of capital punishment. 2) No additional curse is put on the ground; man need not fear another flood that would destroy the earth. 3) Man may not eat the flesh of animals that still has blood in it; blood is sacred. 4) Mankind was to multiply and fill the earth. The passage indicates that this was a covenant of God with Noah, not of Noah with God. God was the giver; man, the receiver.

In vs12-16, we see the sign of the covenant. **In giving the rainbow, God confirmed the promise that He had made. The rainbow not only assured man that a flood would never again destroy the earth, but it was also the memorial of the new relationship that God had entered into with His creation.**

"I set My rainbow in the cloud." When God gathers clouds over the earth, the bow is seen in the cloud, not for man only, but for God who will look at the bow to remember His everlasting covenant. An everlasting covenant is a covenant for perpetual generations, one that extends to all ages, even to the end of the world. **God's promises to us last forever, He will save those who trust in Him.**

The rainbow arcs are like a battle bow hung against the clouds. The Hebrew word for rainbow is also the word for a battle bow. The bow, a weapon of warfare, becomes a symbol of peace between God and man. When God's anger had passed with the Flood, He pointed to His bow in the clouds as the sign of His faithfulness. **God's promises to us last forever, He will save those who trust in Him.**

The rainbow comes in the combination of sunshine and rain, just as grace is the unmerited favor of God appearing on the dark background of man's sin. As the rainbow appears from the sun shining on the drops of rain in a rain-cloud, so grace is manifested by God's love shining through the blood that Jesus shed for our redemption. God places the

rainbow where everyone can see it and enjoy it; He extends His grace to all who would willingly receive it. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men..." (Titus 2:11).

The next time we see a rainbow in the sky, let's remember to thank the Lord for His promises and how faithful He is in keeping them. God's promises to us last forever.

Suggested activity: Rainbow in the sky

6. Prayer:

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in the fulfillment of His promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

7. Attention Grabbers

What you will need:

- 1) Rainstorm band: Flashlights, pie tins, a saw or large piece of bendable metal, cardboard boxes and empty soda bottles.
- 2) Prisms

Carrying out the attention grabber:

1) Rainstorm band:

Create a "rainstorm" band with the students in your class. Use flashlights for lightning, pie tins for the rain, a saw or large piece of bendable metal for thunder, cardboard boxes to beat on, and empty soda bottles to blow across for the wind. Group the kids together according to their instruments. As the teacher, conduct your "orchestra" to re-enact the rain and floodwaters.

After allowing the children time to make the storm noises, introduce today's lesson and theme.

2) Prisms:

Bring a prism or two to class. Allow the children to experiment with them; seeing how the white light refracts into the colors of the rainbow.

Explain to your class how God made the first rainbow and connected it with a promise for all mankind. Feel free to do additional research

on how rainbows give off the different colors and share with the class the amazing wonder of God's creation and promises to us.

8. Activities:

What you will need:

- 1) Race to the ark: Animal templates provided with curriculum, card board, glue, markers or crayons and string.
- 2) A paper ark: As many paper boat models provided as then number of children in your class.
- 3) Rain, rain, rain...: A large bowl or tub filled with water, a small wooden or plastic boat and some water guns.
- 4) Mud painting: Mud (or brown and black paint with brushes) paper, stamps or potato quarters.
- 5) The promise game: Masking tape
- 6) Rainbow in the sky: Red, purple, blue, green and yellow construction paper, scissors, and staples.

How to carry out the activities:

Race to the ark:

Make cardboard animals from the models provided. Tie three strings to a chair or table leg and thread the strings through each of the animals (the hole must be big enough that the string can pass through easily), and let the children race them to the ark.

Ask for three volunteers to help the animals "race" to the ark. With the animals on the opposite end of the string from where they are tied to the leg, start with the strings loosely held so that the animals lay flat to the ground. Say, "Go!" and have the children pull up on their strings. The animals will stand up. As the children pull and loosen the strings the animals will stand and fall forward, eventually inching toward the end of the string. The first one to reach the end wins. Have several groups of children try so that everyone gets a chance.

Paper Ark:

Have your students make paper boats from the model provided.

Rain, rain, rain...

Place a wooden or plastic boat in a large bowl or tub filled with water. Have your students take turns trying to capsize the boat with a water gun. Give several students a chance to shoot at the tiny vessel.

Have your class try to imagine being inside the ark as it was thrown about the churning waters.

Mud painting:

Mix up some mud (you could use brown or black paint as a substitute) and make mud paintings. You will need some paint brushes to make your picture. Use rubber stamps or stamps made from potato quarters to make footprints or other shapes that may have been on the land that Noah and his family stepped out on.

The promise game:

Place a piece of tape on the floor as a finish line and have volunteers bid or promise they can cross the line in so many hops, steps, or any other mode of that is unpredictable. Have them start their attempt with the phrase, "I promise I will hop over that line in ___hops. Sometimes they will make it; sometimes they will not.

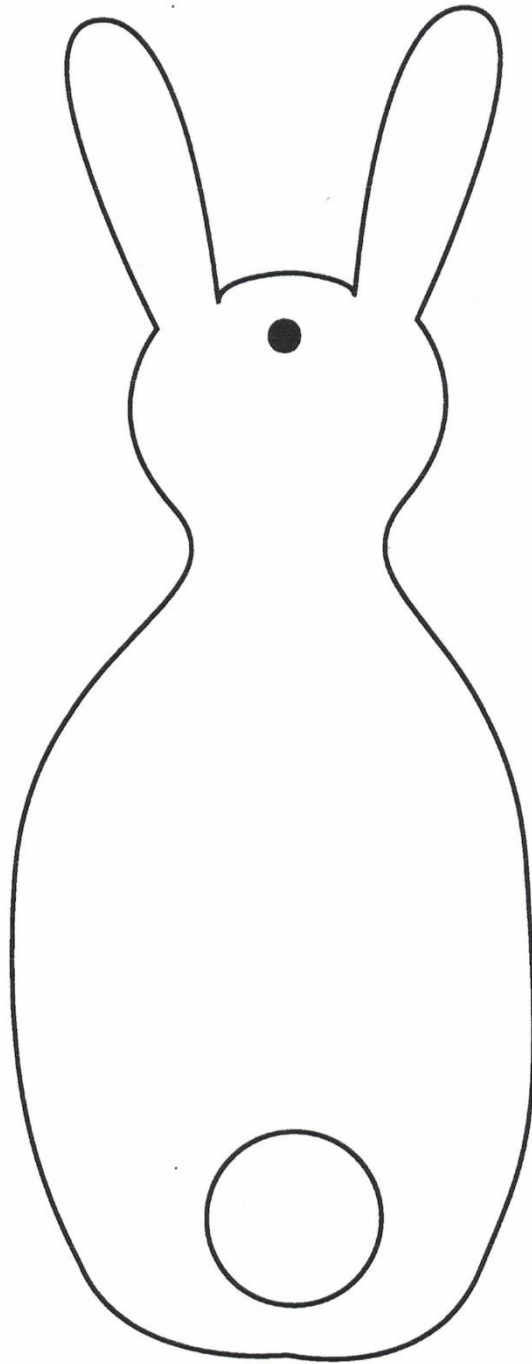
After allowing everyone that wants to participate to have a try, explain that many people have good intentions, but God's promises to us last forever.

Rainbow in the sky:

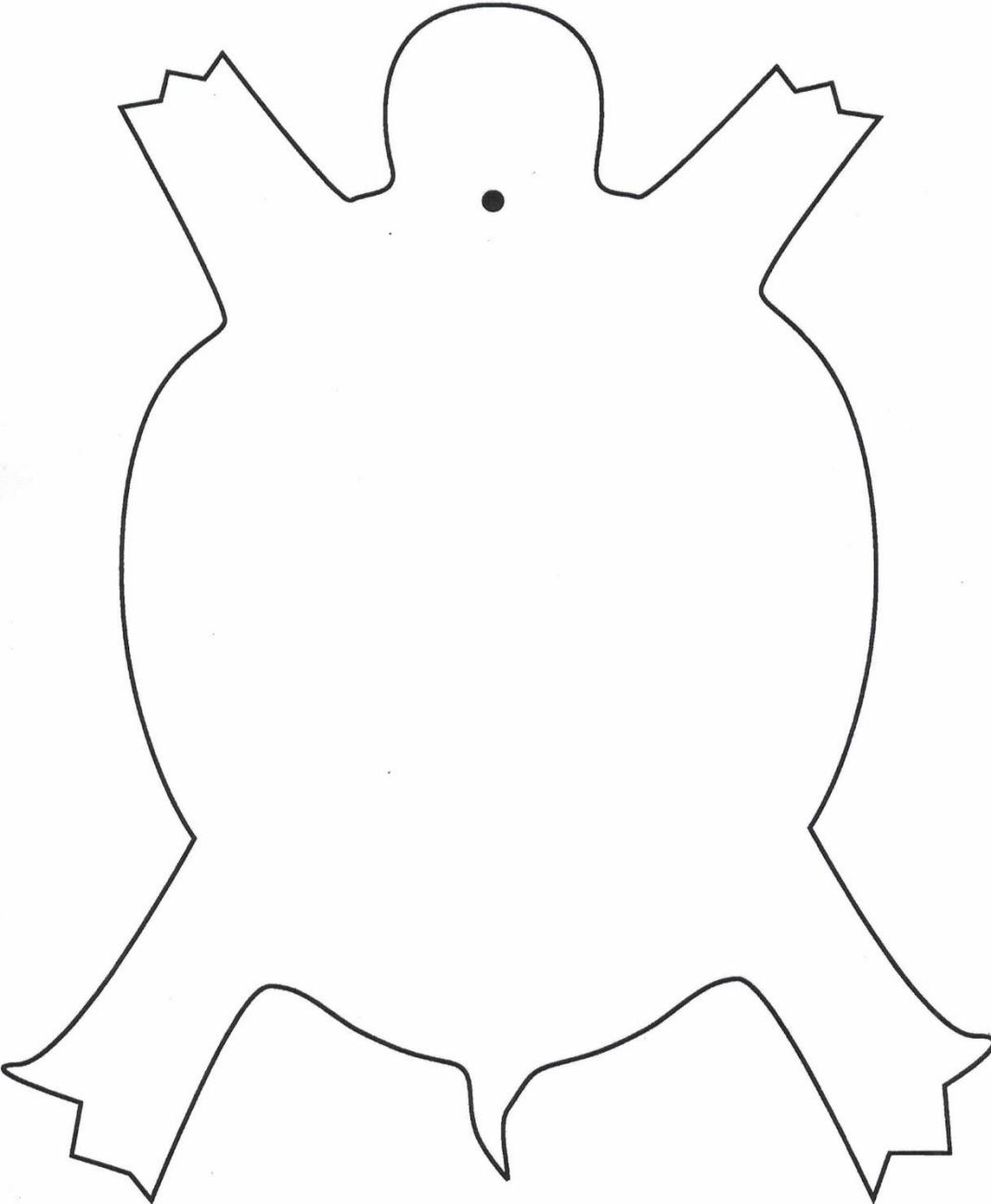
Have your students take five 2" strips of colored construction paper in various colors; you will need red, purple, blue, green and yellow in that order. Make the red piece 12" inches long, the purple, 10", the blue 8" the green 6" and the yellow 4". Join the ends together, arching the longer pieces, and staple the ends together.

Explain to your class that God gave us the rainbow to remind us of His promise. The rainbows they made can remind them that God's promises to us last forever.

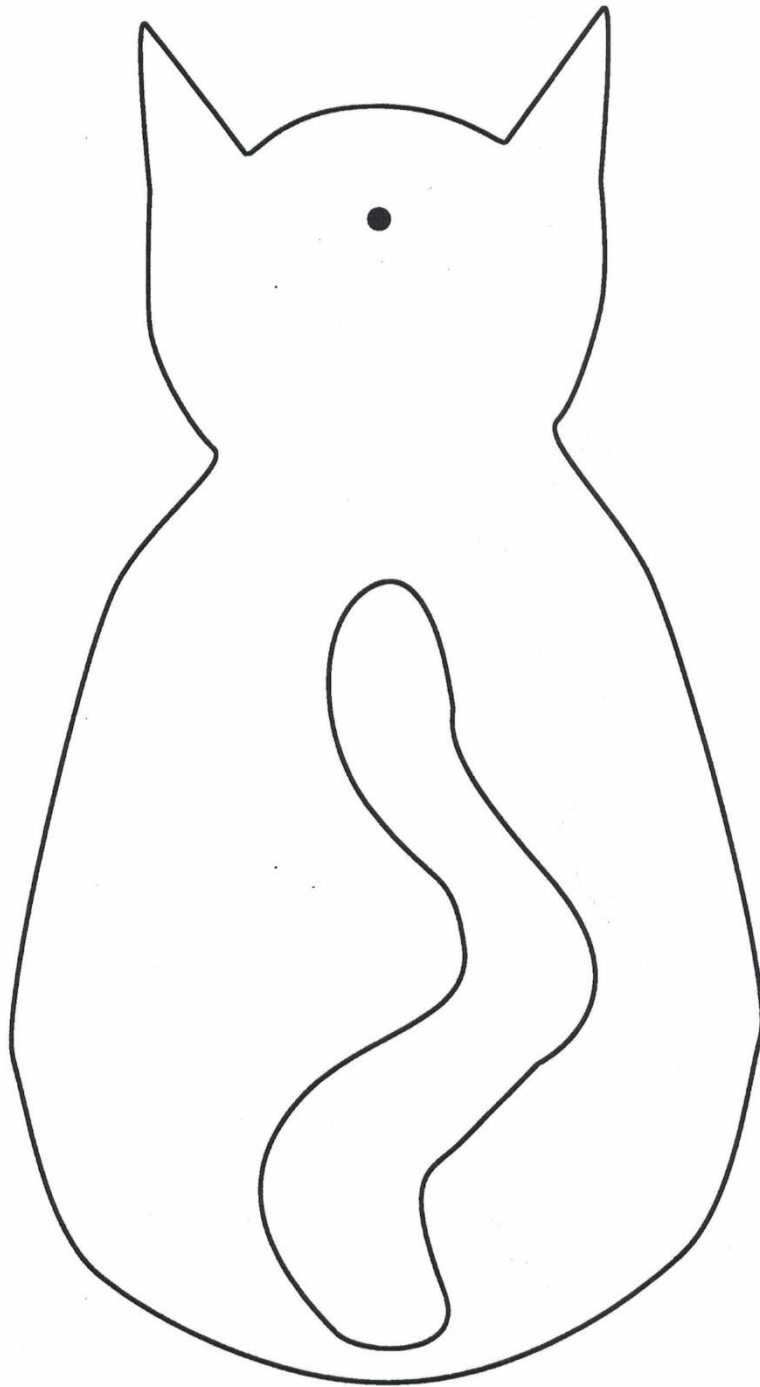
Template - Race To The Ark (Image 1 of 3)



Template - Race To The Ark (Image 3 of 3)



Template - Race To The Ark (Image 2 of 3)



9. Bible text (NIV):

Genesis 6:5-22

⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress^[e] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.^[d] ¹⁶ Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit^[e] high all around.^[f] Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” ²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Genesis 7:1-24

The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.^{[a][b]} ²¹ Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. ²⁴ The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:1-22

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ² Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky.

³ The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴ and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

⁶ After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though^[a] every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²²“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis 9:1-17

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ²The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. ⁴“But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. ⁶“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.

⁷ As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”