

Noah's Ark

Lesson At-a-Glance

Scripture Reference
Genesis 6-9

Lesson Focus
**God saved Noah and the animals
and promised never to flood
creation again.**

Bible Memory Verse
**"Never again shall there be a flood
to destroy the earth." Genesis 9:11b**

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids use painter's tape to make an ark on the floor.	Spark Activity Pages, Spark Coloring Pages	Painter's tape
Circle Time Kids move like their favorite animal.	Spark Song CD, Spark Songbook	Music source
Opening Prayer Kids gather inside the ark and pray.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Life on the Ark Kids will make sounds and movements of their favorite animals while the story is read.	Spark Story Bibles, Spark NRSV Bibles	None
All Aboard! Kids fold the leaflet into an ark and put animals on it.	Leaflets	Toy stuffed animals

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Make a Rainbow Kids will make a rainbow on their leaflets.	Leaflets, Spark Bible Stickers	Construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet; precut into 1-in. squares), glue sticks, markers, camera or smartphone
Toys for Animals Kids will make animal toys.	None	Scissors, table tennis balls, permanent markers, polar fleece

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids will share stories about times they have seen a rainbow.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids will act like animals inside the ark and will pray together.	Family Pages	None

Introduction

Bible Background

God tells Noah to bring every animal along “to keep them alive with you” (6:19). In spite of humanity’s wickedness, God makes a covenant with all creatures and sets the rainbow in the clouds to remind us that God will not flood the earth again. The rainbow is a sign of God’s goodness, not God’s destruction. There are many other religious traditions with very similar stories, some from the same time and area of the world as the Genesis flood story. The flood story may be meant to distinguish the God of Israel as the most powerful, most gracious God of all.

Why This Story Matters

This story is fun for young children because of all the animals, but it gets a little tricky for upper elementary kids who may start to wonder what kind of a God would destroy the earth with a flood. The point of this story is that God cared so much about the created world, that God made a plan to continue life on earth through the survivors of the ark. God offered a fresh, clean start for Noah—just as God promises us a fresh, clean start every day.

If you live in an area plagued by natural disasters (especially hurricanes, floods, or tsunamis), be sensitive to memories this story may call to mind.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the Spark Activity Page and Spark Coloring Page, and set them out for kids to try.

As kids arrive, invite them to work together to make the outline of an ark on the floor using painter’s tape. Encourage them to make it as large as they possibly can.

Spark Resources

Spark Activity Pages
Spark Coloring Pages

Supplies

Painter’s tape

Circle Time

After everyone has arrived, gather inside the ark you made. Welcome everyone and invite them to introduce themselves by sharing their names. **Think about your favorite animal. Spend a moment thinking about how that animal looks and moves. Now, pretend you are that animal. The only rule is that you cannot make a sound. Pretend to be your animal until I give you more directions.** Next, assign two of each kind of animal to kids who will be buddies during Open the Bible and Activate Faith. Whisper to each kid the type of animal he or she is assigned. Make sure to partner older kids (who use Spark NRSV Bibles) with younger kids (who use Spark Story Bibles). Some possible animals are giraffe, kangaroo, snake, bird, fish, and alligator. Have kids silently portray their animals to find their partners.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD
Spark Songbook

Supplies

Music source

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Song 1: "Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord!" (tracks 8 and 25 on Spark Song CD, page 44 in Spark Songbook)

Sing this high-energy song to celebrate God's promise to never again flood the earth.

Song 2: "Rise and Shine (Arky, Arky)"

Sing this classic Sunday school song to reinforce the Noah's Ark story. Incorporate as much movement as possible.

Opening Prayer

Let's stay inside our ark and squeeze together as tightly as possible. When we are super squeezed, we'll pray together.

Spark Resources

None

Dear God, be with us as we make new friends today. Help us get to know each other better! Amen.

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Life on the Ark

Invite kids to take their Bibles and sit with their buddies from Circle Time. **We are going to have buddies in Sunday school! You might have the same buddy each week, or you might have a different one. Take a minute to tell your buddy your name and how old you are.** Once kids have done that, you are ready to read the story.

Spark Resources

Spark NRSV Bibles
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

We are going to become the sounds in the story of Noah's Ark. There are many sounds in this story: building sounds like hammers and saws, stormy sounds like

rain and thunder and lightning and wind, and lots of animal sounds. As I read the story, you make the sounds. Read the story from the Spark Story Bible, beginning on page 20. If you have time, retell the story using only the sound effects.

Next, have buddies show each other the Noah's Ark story in their own Bibles. Younger kids can work with their buddies to find Squiggles on each page of the Spark Story Bible, and older kids can show their younger buddies where Noah's story starts in Genesis 6 on page 7 of the Spark NRSV Bible. Invite kids to find a sticker from the back of the Spark NRSV Bible and place it near an interesting part of the story.

Bible Memory Verse

"Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." Genesis 9:11b

Invite buddies to create a cheer out of this verse and then, together, mark it with a sticker in the Spark NRSV Bible.

All Aboard!

Invite buddies to work together to experiment with different ways to fold their leaflets into an ark. They'll need to be creative, just like Noah was! Once the folding is done, ask buddies to get a small stuffed animal, and put it inside their partner's ark, then act out the story with their animal in the ark. Encourage them to make all the appropriate sound effects.

Invite kids to read and discuss the Bible Bits together.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Small stuffed animals

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Make a Rainbow

Before kids arrive, cut construction paper into 1-inch squares. Invite buddies to get two of each color of paper square and a glue stick. Invite kids to work together to create a rainbow on their leaflets. **Once you've glued the rainbow squares on your leaflet, write the name of someone or something you're thankful for on each square.** When the rainbows are complete, invite buddies to find friends wearing clothing with the different rainbow colors, and have them make rainbow buddies by having their friends stand in rainbow-color order. When all kids have rainbow buddies for a complete rainbow, take pictures of each group of kids holding up their leaflets and saying, **"Rainbow buddies!"**

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know? items aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special mark next to the item they found the most interesting.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet; precut into 1-in. squares), glue sticks, markers, camera or smartphone

Toys for Animals

Before kids arrive, cut polar fleece into strips 1 inch wide and 3 feet long.

I wonder if Noah's ark had any toys for the animals to play with. Let's make dog bones and cat toys for our pets, and to give to animals living in shelters or foster care.

To make dog bones, place three strips together and knot one end. Braid the three strips in a tight braid, and knot the end when the braid is finished. **Dogs love to play tug-of-war with fleece "bones."**

To make cat toys, give kids permanent markers and invite them to draw on the table tennis balls. Any designs will do—the more colorful, the better! **Cats love to play with these colorful toys. They will chase them all over!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Polar fleece

Scissors

Table tennis balls

Permanent markers

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

God made our world beautiful and good. People messed up and God sent a flood to wash everything clean and start over. Then, God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder to never flood the earth again. When have you seen a rainbow? To wrap up, read through the suggestions in Faith on the Go, and invite kids to try one or more of them throughout the week.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Closing Prayer

Distribute Family Page to kids, and encourage them to figure out what an ark would look like if their family built it.

Next, step back into the painter's tape ark on the floor. This time, ask kids to make animal sounds until you say stop, then pray together.

God of rainbows and new life, thank you for these kids. Thank you for animals. Thank you for second chances. Thank you for your promises. Amen.

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home their leaflets and Family Pages.

Spark Resources

Spark Family Pages

Supplies

None