

A NEW BEGINNING

Noah
Genesis 6:11–22;
7:11–24; 8:13–22
About 1,600
years after
creation

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God saves His people.

BIBLE VERSE

God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.
Isaiah 12:2

LEARNER GOAL

I understand how Noah was a part of God’s plan to save me and His people through Jesus.

LAW & GOSPEL

We are sinful and rebellious from birth and deserve God’s wrath and judgment.

God has mercy on us and gives us new life, washing away our sins through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Widespread sin and corruption filled the earth, but “Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8). Following God’s command, Noah and his family begin constructing a massive ark, with provisions for an extended journey. At the Lord’s direction, each animal kind boards the ark, along with Noah and his family.

The fountains of the deep open as rain falls for forty days, swallowing up every living thing. God keeps Noah’s family safe through the flood and lands them on a mountain. He gives the rainbow as a sign of His promise to never again flood the whole earth.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 6:11–22; 7:11–24; 8:13–22 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Review the section “The Blessings of Baptism” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Toy Noah’s ark set
- Paper rainbow
- Umbrella
- Plush animals
- Dish soap or commercial bubbles
- Skittles
- Celery, cream cheese, animal crackers
- The Real Story of the Flood* by Paul L. Maier

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

PRAY

Dear God, help us learn about Your promises, especially how You saved us through Jesus and gave us a new start. Amen.

SAY

- God made a perfect world. But soon it was full of sin. Today we'll find out how God saved what He had made and the people who believed in Him.**
- Tell me everything you remember about the Noah story.** Record student responses in a place where they can see them.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Use a toy Noah's ark set to review. As you tell the story, move or have the children move the figures into the ark and close the door. Snap fingers and pat legs to make rain sounds grow from soft to loud to soft again. Take the figures out, and pretend to build an altar. Make a paper rainbow and set it by the ark. Kneel and say thank You to God.
- FOR OLDER CHILDREN** Have children think about what life was like just before the flood. Have them act out what they would say if they were the people who didn't believe in God. What would they say if they were Noah and his family?
- FOR A WIDE RANGE OF AGES** Have the older children pretend that they are Noah's grandchildren born after the flood. Have them pretend that now they are grandparents telling their grandchildren (the younger students) about this earth-changing event that happened right before they were born.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose a few questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- Why did God destroy the earth with a flood?
- Why did God save Noah and his family?
- Do we have to worry that God will send another flood to destroy the earth? Why or why not?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- All the people on earth had turned against God. Noah and his family were the only ones who trusted in God.
- God saved Noah and His family out of grace and love for them. God would keep His promise to send a Savior through the family of Noah.
- God promised Noah that He would never send a flood to destroy the whole earth again. The rainbow is a sign of God's promise.
- God loves His children, and He promises to care for those who love Him. He will help us through tough times in our lives.
- God washed the earth clean to start fresh. He does the same thing for us through Baptism. In Baptism, God washes away our sins and gives us new life in Jesus.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God saves us through Jesus and gives us a new start. In Jesus, God keeps all of His promises.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: As you tell the story, show children how do the actions and make the sounds.

Many people lived in God’s world. One was a man named Noah. Noah and his family believed in God and loved Him. But the other people on earth did not love God anymore. They did not listen to Him or obey Him. This made God sad and angry.

So God made a plan to wash His world clean and give it a new start. He told Noah, “I will send a big flood to punish all the people who do not love Me. But I will keep you and your family safe.”

It is sad God had to punish people by sending a flood. But it would have been even sadder if the bad things kept happening. We can trust God to do what is right.

I wonder . . . how do you think God saved Noah and his family and the animals? *Pause for answer.*

Let’s find out.

God told Noah, “Build a big boat called an ark.” Noah obeyed God and started to build. Let’s pretend we are building the ark. *Pound one fist on top of the other.* When the ark was ready, God said, “Put every kind of animal and bird inside. Take food to feed the animals and your family.” Let’s pretend we are the animals. Lions came to live in the ark. *Roar.* Cats came too. *Meow.* Kangaroos hopped into the ark. *Hop.* Birds flew in. *Flap arms.* And snakes slithered onboard. *Move hands like a snake.*

When all the animals and Noah and his family were on

the ark, God shut the door. Then God sent the rain. The wind blew. *Blow like wind.* The rains came down. Pitter patter, pitter patter. The waters came up. *Move hand from low to high.* It rained forty days and nights until it covered the mountains.

But God kept the people and animals inside the ark safe. He kept the lions safe. *Roar.* He kept the cats safe. *Meow.* He kept the kangaroos safe. *Hop.* He kept the birds safe. *Flap arms.* He even kept the snakes safe. *Wiggle hands.* And most important, God kept Noah and his family safe.

The flood waters covered the earth and washed the bad away. When the flood dried up, everyone came out of the ark onto dry land. *Repeat earlier actions.* God saved the snakes. God saved the birds. God saved the kangaroos. God saved the cats. God saved the lions. And God saved Noah and his family. Noah built an altar to thank God for saving them. God promised, “I will never send another big flood to cover the world.” Then He put a rainbow in the sky to remind us that He keeps His promises.

God saves you too. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for your sins on the cross. He gives you a new start through Baptism and His Word to live as His forgiven child. He helps you to love and obey Him.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Since the fall into sin, **the earth had become corrupt in God’s eyes. But Noah still worshiped God.** God warned Noah that He planned to send a flood. **God told him to build a huge ship called an ark to save Noah, his family, and many animals from the flood.** Noah’s ark was three floors tall with a huge door on the side.

After many years, the ark was done. God brought all kinds of land animals to the ark to keep them alive. **The ark was filled with animals, eight people, and all the food they would need. God closed the door.**

Then the flood came. Water shot up in giant fountains from deep below the ground and under the seas. Rain poured down from the clouds. The waters covered all the land—even the highest mountains. All the people and land animals outside the ark died; only Noah and his family were safe.

The rains stopped after 40 days, but the waters stayed high for 150 days. **God remembered Noah.** He made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters started draining off the land very, very slowly.

Seven months and seventeen days after the flood started, Noah’s ark landed high on a mountain in a place called Ararat. But it was still way too early to leave the ark. The

ground had to dry out, and plants had to start growing again so the animals would have food to eat.

Noah waited forty more days, then opened the ark’s window. He sent out a raven. It flew back and forth over the earth until the waters dried up. He also sent a dove. But the dove came back to the ark because it couldn’t find a dry place to land.

After seven days, Noah sent out the dove again. This time it came back carrying a leaf it plucked from an olive tree. Then Noah knew the plants were growing and the animals would soon have enough to eat.

After seven more days, Noah sent the dove off again. This time it didn’t return—the ground was dry. **Finally, a year and ten days after the flood started, God told Noah and his family to go out from the ark, have many children, and begin filling the earth again.**

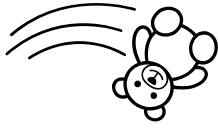
Because Noah was so thankful he made an offering to God. God smelled the sweet smoke and was pleased with Noah’s faith. **He made a promise to Noah, his family, and all land animals that He would never destroy the world with a flood again.** God used the rainbow to remind us of that great promise.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Animal Toss

Set an open umbrella upside down on the floor. Pretend the umbrella is a boat floating on water. Children take turns tossing small plush animals into the umbrella. Say, **The animals are safe in the umbrella. God saved Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark.**



Animal Mask

Give each child a paper plate and ask them to choose an animal face to make. Set out crayons, yarn, colored construction paper, glue, and scissors. Show them how to cut stripes, spots, ears, and horns from the construction paper and glue them on to the plate. Use yarn for a mane or fur. When they are finished, cut out eye holes to make the plate into mask, if desired.



Rainbow Bubbles

Blow bubbles and have children try to catch them. Talk about how the colors in bubbles are the same as those in rainbows. Say, **Rainbows remind us of God's promises. What are some of God's promises? What are ways God helps you and shows He loves you?**



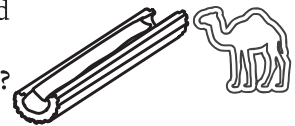
Rainbow Science

Rainbows are made when light bends through water droplets! Use water to create your own rainbow. Line the inside edge of a paper plate with Skittles. Carefully pour warm water and watch the rainbow form as the candies dissolve.



Ark Snack

Fill celery with cream cheese for arks. Give children animal crackers. Ask them what sound each animal makes as they walk it into their boats. Ask, **How did God save Noah and his family and the animals? How does God protect and save you when you have troubles?**



Read Aloud

Reinforce learning by reading *The Real Story of the Flood* by Paul L. Maier, especially if you have younger students or visual learners. Ask students about the images they see. What do they picture when they think of this account?



Church Field Trip

Take children into the church sanctuary. Show them the baptismal font, the cross, and the Bible. Talk about how God works through Baptism and His Word to give us a new start. Jesus died for us on the cross. The waters of Baptism wash away our sins. The Holy Spirit gives us faith and helps us grow as God's children.



LEAVE

SAY

God saves us through Jesus and gives us a new start as His forgiven children. That means He helps us to trust and obey Him and to show love for others.

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins and giving us a new start as Your forgiven children. Thank You for keeping all Your promises to us. Help us to trust and obey You. Amen.