



Since many of the kids will be home this week and we will all be missing Sunday School, I thought a Sunday School lesson "to go" might be a good idea.

Start with the story:

Pick your favorite version of the Bible or a really good children's bible or read this:

The number of people on earth had increased quite a bit since Adam & Eve and their sons Cain and Able. As a matter of fact, there were many people on the earth. Sadly, the people had settled into a life of sin. They hurt one another and didn't listen to God. The thoughts of their minds and hearts were evil and God was very sad. God decided to remove all that evil from the earth by removing the humans and animals from the earth.

A man named Noah and his wife had three sons named Shem, Ham and Japheth. Noah walked faithfully with God. God told Noah to build a large boat called an ark. God's instructions included what size to make the ark, how to design it and even what kind of wood to use. Then God told Noah that He was going to bring a big flood that would destroy all of the life on earth. But God made a special promise to Noah and his family to keep them safe. He told Noah to bring his wife with him into the ark. Noah was also supposed to bring his sons and their wives. Noah's neighbors laughed at Noah and his giant boat. God told Noah and his family to bring two of every living creature into the ark with them along with all of the types of food. Can you imagine the sound? The smell? Even with all of those adventures, Noah still did everything that God told him to do. He obeyed.

God told Noah and his family that it would rain for forty days and forty nights. The water rose but God kept the people and animals in that ark safe! Even the mountains were covered in water. The water was on the earth for a long time, but God kept Noah and the others on His mind the whole time. He never forgot to take care of them because He loved them.

The waters started to go away, and the ark settled onto a mountain. Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven, but the raven just flew back and forth. Then Noah sent a dove but the dove came back because there was still water on the surface of the earth. When Noah sent the dove again, it came back with a leaf from an olive tree, so Noah knew that the water was gone. The next time Noah sent the dove, it didn't return because it had found a place on earth to live.

God told Noah to come out of the ark with everyone so that they could fill the earth again. Can you imagine what a celebration that must have been? All of the people and animals came off the ark. Noah obeyed again and the very first thing he did was build an altar to the Lord. God placed a beautiful rainbow in the sky and told Noah that the rainbow is a covenant to Noah and all people. God promised that He would never destroy the world again. He set the rainbow in the sky as a sign of the promise that He would never flood the earth again.

God rescued Noah and his family from the flood that sin caused but God had a plan for an even greater rescue. Jesus died to rescue us from our sins forever. Rainbows can remind us of both of those promises.



Talk about it:

- Re-tell the Noah story on your own, acting out each part. Use your imagination! (Your couch would make an excellent ark)
- The ark was big- really big. 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high
 - A cubit is an ancient measurement of length based on the distance from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger which means the actual length of a cubit varied between different groups of people.
 - Noah may have used a measurement of 19.8-20.6 inches
 - Some people think that the ark would be 510 feet long and 50 feet tall
 - That means it could hold as much stuff as 45 semi trucks!
- What would you do if God asked you to build a boat that was huge?
- What other surprising things has God asked you to do?
- Do you think it would have been fun to be on Noah's ark? Would you enjoy the work of caring for all of those animals?
- Which animal would you most want to hang out with? Which animal would you not want to be around? Why?
- How would you handle the people who made fun of Noah for building a giant boat in a desert?
- How do you handle it when people make fun of you?
- Do you think Noah trusted God?
- Have you ever had big plans but God had different big plans for you?
- Do you think Noah felt like the rain would never stop? Have you ever gone through something hard that you thought would never end?
- How can we trust in God and have faith, even when we don't understand?
- Rainbows are amazing. Can you imagine seeing one for the very first time? Which color do you like the best? Why did God send a rainbow?
- What promise did God give Noah?
- What are the promises God gives us?
 - Check out Hebrews 13:5
 - Psalms 136:1
 - Isaiah 49:13
 - Nahum 1:7
 - Deuteronomy 7:9
 - Psalms 33:4
 - Psalms 121:1-2

Get Creative:

- Pull out scissors, markers, crayons, tape, paper, play-doh or whatever else is laying around and make your own animals and ark.
- Fold a paper plate in half.... instant ark AND instant rainbow
- Here are some cute print and fold animal bookmarks <https://www.itsalwaysautumn.com/diy-origami-bookmarks-print-fold.html> No printer? Just have kids draw their own bookmarks.
- These printable animals are fun and easy for younger kids:
<https://www.firstpalette.com/craft/folding-paper-zoo-animals.html>
- This print and fold animals are more challenging and time consuming for older kids:
<https://creativepark.canon/en/categories/CAT-ST01-0072/index.html>
- There are a bunch of free printable coloring pages for Noah's Ark as well.
- There are many really fun activities at: <http://www.ourlittlestdisciples.com/home/noah-3-of-3-genesis-8-6-9-17>

Games:

- Hide and seek with a stuffed animal: Noah had to round up all of those critters which would not have been an easy task. Take turns hiding a stuffed animal in your home and have your kiddos go find it.
- Pass the animal. Start some music and pass a stuffed animal around the circle. Whoever has the animal when the music stops shares one thing they are thankful for, one thing they love about God, or one thing they want to share with God (like a worry.)
- Animal Action: This is just like charades except we act out only animals.
- Guess who I am: Make an animal sound and guess which animal it is!
- Draw animals with your eyes closed and other family members guess.
- You probably don't have a play parachute at home to toss a paper boat in the waves but you probably DO have a sheet or beach towel which is just as fun!
- Build yourself an ark from legos

The next page is a print and fold dove paper airplane! (no printer? Just draw your own on a piece of paper folded in half)

