

SKY

Saving Faith
Series 4—Lesson 1

StoryTime



Rain, a Boat, and the Rainbow

Primary 3-7

Bible Text:

Genesis 6:15; 7:24

Lesson Aim:

To teach children that faith is an act of trusting, believing, and obeying. Our actions will show our faith, and trust.

Memory Verse:

"Have faith in God"

(Mark 11:22).

Words to Learn:

- Noah
- Faith
- Steadfast

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

Faith is the sure knowledge that God exists and that He will accomplish those things He has promised. Faith in God, trust in His promises, and belief that He is in overall *control* is a major element in the Christian life and is absolutely necessary for salvation.

In the English translation, there are two distinct meanings of the word faith. The first meaning is when faith is preceded by the definite article ("THE faith") meaning the overall system of the doctrines of the church. When used *without* the article it means "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). This is the clearest biblical definition of faith. Faith is absolute belief that God exists and a total trust in His statements. Read Hebrew 11:6.

In the Old Testament, the word faith does not appear very often. A couple places it does appear are Psalm 119:66 and Jeremiah 17:7. However, the Old Testament does have many examples of faith. Noah is just one of the many, and Noah had steadfast faith.

Because the people of earth were so evil, it grieved God that He had made man, so He decided to clean the earth. He would send a flood to cleanse the earth's surface. However there was one man and his family who had not forgotten God. Noah was a good man. God decided He would spare Noah and his family.

Scripture says Noah found GRACE in the eyes of God (Genesis 6:8).

When everyone continued to degenerate in their wickedness, Noah did what was right (Genesis 6:9). One day God gave Noah a very strange command: Build a large boat on dry land. After it was built he was to put animals into it—two pairs of each unclean animal, and seven pairs of clean animals; also seven pairs of each bird. Our lesson is not about the command God gave, but Noah's willingness to believe and act upon the command.

Noah and his three sons spent many years faithfully building the ark. If the ark was available for viewing today, the length of it would stretch past both goal posts of a football field. Its length was 450 feet, its width 75 feet, and its height 45 feet. Mankind was safe within this ark of deliverance. There was no way Noah could navigate the direction

of the ark. God was in CONTROL of the ark: God decided how long it would rain, how fast the ark would go, where it would go, and for how long.

Today's story is about Noah and his sons building that ark and their complete commitment to God. Noah was 480 years old when God commanded that the ark be built and 600 years old when the flood came. Noah then lived 350 years after the flood, dying at the age of 950!

Regardless of the persecution from those around him, Noah obeyed and trusted God. He was steadfast in his faith and obedience. The New Testament says Noah became an heir of righteousness. Read Hebrews 11:7.

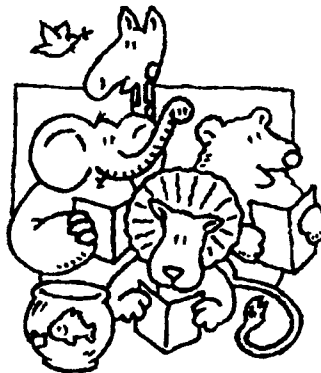
Living Our Faith

The Creator asks us to put Him first in our lives; to honor our parents; to not steal, or lie, or commit adultery; to love our neighbor by consideration and care; to follow preventive health care in diet and lifestyle; and to come before Him to worship Him on certain days. We ask, *Why wouldn't we cheerfully obey Him?*

We understand that obedience comes from a heart of trust and submission: one that LISTENS to what God says; FOLLOWS Him; TRUSTS Him, and THANKS Him.

Noah gave an outstanding example of day-in-day-out, year in-year-out obedience and faith. His actions said that he knew God would do what He said. He trusted God completely and Noah never looked back. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Psalm 90:1; Ezekiel 37:26-28; Luke 9:62; Hebrews 6:19

2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* Noah lived in the middle of a society that was full of violent, sinful men and women—**TRUE**
2. *True or false:* God hates sin and will ultimately destroy those who absolutely refuse to turn away from it—**TRUE**
3. *True or false:* Noah built the ark by himself—**FALSE**
4. *True or false:* An ark is used to keep something safe—**TRUE**
5. *True or false:* Noah and his sons had a hard time finding, gathering, and herding the animals to put into the ark—**FALSE**
6. *True or false:* It rained for forty years—**FALSE**
7. *True or false:* The first thing Noah did when he got out of the ark was to build an altar and make offerings to God—**TRUE**
8. *True or false:* When we see a rainbow we should remember God and the story of Noah—**TRUE**

3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- **Ark**—a refuge or place to safeguard something
- **Faith**—confidence or trust in a person
- **Steadfast**—unwavering direction, faith, or purpose

SKY Story Time

Rain, a Boat, and the Rainbow

Have you ever seen a rainbow after the rain? Do you know what rainbows mean?

A long time ago mankind lived for many, many years longer than today. And during this time there lived a good man named Noah. Now, Noah was God's friend. He loved and trusted God, but Noah lived in the middle of a world that was full of violent, sinful men and women.

These people would sit and think of disgusting, sinful things to do, and go do them! They did not fear God, respect Him, love Him, or think of Him at all.

Year after year after year, God watched all this evil. It made Him very sad. The people would not repent, and were never truly sorry for the pain or hurt they caused others. He became sorry He had created man and woman.

One day, as Noah prayed he heard the voice of God say: "Noah, Noah?" Noah respectfully listened as God began to speak to him.

God told him that everywhere He looked mankind was wicked and evil—hurting themselves and others, for God hates sin and will ultimately destroy those who refuse to turn away from it.

God told him to build an ark. Now, an ark is something that you put things into to keep them safe. And God wanted to keep some things safe: God wanted to save Noah and his family, the animals,

and the birds from the utter destruction that was going to take place, and the ark had to be very, very big!

God gave him very specific details to use in building this strange vessel.

Noah must have thought, "Everyone is going to think I am crazy, but that's not new. They already think I am a little crazy because I follow the commands of God, and God is my friend. God in His great goodness is offering me and my family a way to escape destruction. I will faithfully do as God tells me, for He is faithful to do what He says."

Did You Hear About That Noah?

Noah and his three sons began to build the ark. The ark was being built by God's specifications and it must have been an impressive thing to see! Day after day, and year after year, as Noah and his sons faithfully worked at building the ark, it got bigger, and bigger, and **BIGGER!**

At first, as Noah and his sons worked the wicked people laughed, told jokes and made fun of them. People came by to see this odd vessel. Some would say things like: "Have you heard any voices lately Noah?, or, "What's the weather report today, old Noah?" It became a familiar sight and common knowledge. The people lost their interest in it; they would not

listen to Noah and they continued in their wickedness. When the huge structure was finished, perhaps a few even noticed that old “crazy” Noah was collecting and loading up a few animals, but so what? Few really paid much attention by then. “What will he think of next...he’s a real weird guy!”

The Door Closes

God had told Noah to put animals in the ark: seven pairs of each kind of clean animal, and two pairs of all the unclean animals and birds. And food enough for his family and the animals.

God had caused the animals to go to Noah. Can you imagine the strange site: animals such as lions, tigers, bears, giraffes, and elephants walking slowly into the ark? Small animals such as rabbits, cats, dogs, and monkeys all went in too! This had never happened before and hasn’t happened since.

When all the animals and food were in the ark, Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives went into the ark. The large door into the ark was then raised, closed, and sealed by the hand of God.

Soon the sky looked a little strange, for dark clouds began to cover the sky. Thunder rumbled and lights flashed through the clouds. Then came the rain.

Noah and his sons looked out of a window and saw the water begin to pour. Noah knew God had begun to cleanse the earth.

It rained for FORTY days and FORTY nights, continually! It rained until everything was covered by water. Even the trees and mountains were under water! Any life outside of the ark drowned,

but the lives within the ark were safe. Noah and his passengers were in the ark for almost a year before they could get out, walk on dry land, build new homes, and grow food.

The first thing Noah did after he got out of the ark was to build an altar to worship God. God appreciated this and told Noah that He would never again destroy the earth’s life with the waters of a flood. He would give mankind His word and a *sign* of His word in the beautiful rainbow.

So when we see a rainbow, God is telling us something. He wants us to remember this: God is steadfast and faithful. He keeps His word.

God wants to save life, not take it, but He will ultimately have to destroy those who will not turn away from sin.

Listen to God and trust Him to keep you safe within the ark called salvation. □

Crafty Idea

Draw and color a rainbow that is about 12–18 inches long, and at least 6 inches high.

Have the children draw what they think the ark may have looked like. Color or glue bright strips of yarn horizontally to simulate the side boards, or use a combination.

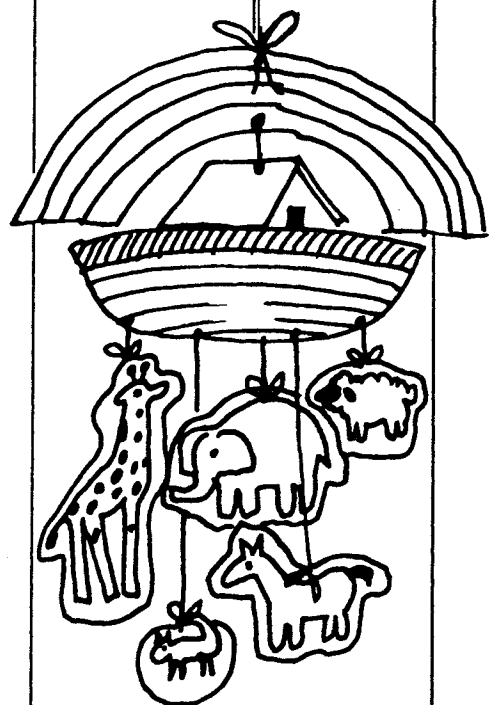
Draw several animals of their choice, and combine with figures of Noah and his family.

Cut out the drawings (explain that they don’t have to be precise). Use the hole punch to make a hole at the top. Assemble the pieces.

Let the child explain what the rainbow will mean to them now.

Crafty Ideas

Hang In There Noah



Materials To Use:

- White poster board
- Crayons or markers
- A hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- White Glue
- Scissors