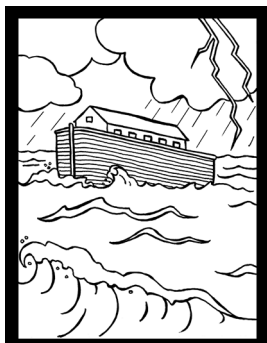


Lesson C1.2 - God Keeps Us Safe



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Genesis 6-8

- Bible Characters: Noah, God, animals

The story of Noah's ark tells of one man's trust in God, and how God keeps promises. When the people of his time embraced evil, Noah stayed faithful to God. Not only that, but Noah built an ark when God told him to do so, even though his neighbors scoffed. In the end, God saved Noah, his family, and many animals from a huge flood.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Prehistory

The early chapters of the Bible contain stories from before the time of written history, showing how sin has always been a part of our human lives. Even when we turn away from him, God shows mercy.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good.

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "This Old Man." No accompaniment is needed. Clap along in rhythm as you sing.

*Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!
Glad to see you all again!*

*Now it's time to learn and pray together, too:
Thank you, Lord, for all you do!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

There can be storms in this life, and challenges, too. But did you know that God can bring good out of storms and hard times? He can and he does! We can be at peace, trusting that God knows what's going on, and **God keeps us safe**. Say that with me: **God keeps us safe**.

- What are ways **God keeps us safe**? (*He provides good adults to watch over us and help us: parents, doctors, teachers, pastors, grandparents, etc.*)

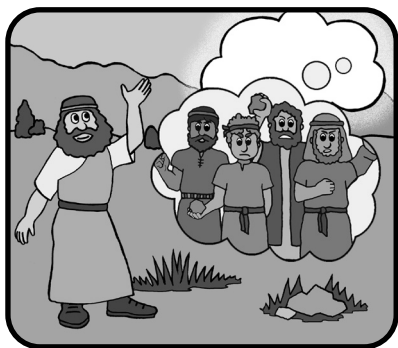
Today's story is about a man named Noah who faced a lot of scary things — neighbors who were mean to him, a huge storm, and even a flood! But Noah trusted God, and God did not let him down. Though waters roared around him, God kept him safe. **God keeps us safe**, too!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: After God made the earth, the people he created forgot about him. This made God very sad. But one man, named Noah, stayed faithful to God.

Read the caption: Things were going wrong in the world. People were bad! So God decided to start over. He told Noah that a flood was coming.

- *Look at the picture. Which of these people is Noah? [The man wearing orange.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me what Noah is doing. [He's thinking about the bad people who are doing mean things. He's listening to God, who is telling him that it is time to start over with people who would be faithful like Noah.]*

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: After hearing about the flood that was coming, Noah knew that he had a huge job ahead of him. He would have to get ready for it!

Read the caption: God told Noah to build a very big boat called an ark. When the floods came, Noah and his family would be safe on the ark.

- *What is happening in this picture? [Noah and his sons are building the ark.]*
- *Look at the sky. Does it look like a storm is coming? [No, not yet. But Noah trusts God, so he is building the giant boat even though the weather seems fine.]*

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: The wood that Noah used to build his ark was called "gopher wood." After sealing the ark with pitch to keep out the water, it was ready!

Read the caption: God also told Noah to bring all types of animals into the ark so that they would also be saved. Animals came, two by two.

- *Name the animals that you see in the picture. [Doves, sheep, lions, pigs, chickens, frogs, bears.]*
- *Raise your hand if you would like to travel on a giant ark with so many animals. What do you think that would have been like? [Call on volunteers.]*

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: Noah packed plenty of food for his family and also for all the animals. He knew they would be in the ark for a long time, and he was right.

Read the caption: When the rains fell and the floods came, everyone who was in the ark was saved. God brought the ark to rest on a mountain.

- *What is happening in this picture? [It is raining. There is water and waves everywhere. But the ark is afloat, and it looks cozy inside.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me how long the storm was. [40 days and 40 nights.]*

Remember today's message: **God keeps us safe!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*God saw that people everywhere
had turned from him and did not care.*

*But Noah was a faithful man,
the only one in all the land.*

*So God told Noah, "Build a boat,
and seal it well, so it will float.*

*"Collect some food, and also find
two animals of every kind."*

*Well, Noah did what God had said,
and, feeling raindrops on his head,
he brought those animals on board
to keep them safe while waters poured!*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class craft or game activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Animals of the Ark

Materials: Clay or play dough, animal photos, large shoe box, brown construction paper, scissors, glue

Instructions: Divide the class into pairs. Give each pair a photo of a different animal. If possible, have a male and female photo of any animal pairs that might look different.

Next, give every child a lump of clay or play dough. Invite each person in a pair to make one of their animal species out of clay or play dough. Animals don't have to look like the photos — those are just for reference.

When they finish, they will have a male and a female of their animal type. Take the shoe box, and cut big pieces of brown construction paper that can be fitted to each side. Glue these in place. This will be the ark. Set the ark somewhere in the classroom where it can stay as a display.

As each pair finishes making its set of animals, invite them to set them up somewhere around the ark. If you have time, pairs can do a show and tell with their animals, explaining why they made them as they did.

**h. Song (optional)**

Motions for this classic song can be learned on YouTube, Vimeo, or other children's music sites. Or, use the option below! No accompaniment is needed.

Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory, Glory

Refrain:

Rise and shine (Lift hands up to heaven)
And give God the glory, glory (wave arms)

Rise and shine (Lift hands up to heaven)
And give God the glory, glory (wave arms)

Rise and shine (Lift hands up to heaven)
And (clap!) give God the glory, glory (wave arms)

Children of the Lord! (clap in rhythm to the song)

Verse 1: **The Lord said to Noah, "There's gonna be a floody, floody"** (repeat line)

"Get those children out of the muddy, muddy!"
Children of the Lord (to refrain)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: As more people filled the earth, they forgot about God. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for the world you made

For rain and plants and sun and shade

For those we love who love us too

We are so blessed because of YOU! Amen.