

Lesson 1

-Noah's Ark- Promises



Noah's Ark - Promises

2-5 Years:

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the session. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

-Talk about promises - what is a promise. Seek examples from the children themselves. Ask them who has ever made a promise. What the promise was. Did they keep it? What other kinds of things can they think of that they make promises about?

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Noah in basic language that this age group can understand. If you can't find an illustrated copy of this in the library for use in your class, use the bible but translate the bible story into a simple language that the little ones can understand - dwelling more on the ark and rainbow rather than the reasons for the flood and the fact that no-one else was saved.

Remind the children of the earlier discussion about what a promise is - use a couple of their own examples to illustrate - and then link the bible story to the promise by telling them again about the rainbow being God's promise to the world that he would never again send such a flood.

Art: Draw a Rainbow



*Leader to draw a large rainbow for the room to remind class every time they enter the room of God's promise. This can be either painted, or use small pieces of tissue paper crumpled up and glued in the right color

bands. Or:

*Paint individual rainbows to take home.

Song: To the tune of Old McDonald's Farm. Use different animals that the children give you - discuss the noise each one makes before starting to sing the verse. Continue with different animals depending on time constraints.



Old man Noah built an ark - E I E I O
 And in that ark he placed two (dogs) E I E I O
 With a (woof woof) here and a (woof woof) there
 Here a (woof), there a (woof)
 Old man Noah built an ark - E I E I O

Game: Match up the animals - and place in "ark".

Need: Two copies of each animal used (magazine cuttings, line drawings, plastic/wood toys).
 A container to use as the ark. If you actually have a toy Noah's Ark to use, all the better!

Make some of these more difficult by having animals where the male and female look different, or having a baby and mother of the same animal. The younger children will need help with these but older children should be able to match a lion and lioness for example.

Closing Prayer thanking God for his promise. For example:

"Thank you God for our class today. Thank you for your love, and for your rainbow to remind us of your promise. Help us to keep the promises that we make, and keep us safe in your care. Amen."

6-8 Years:

Opening prayer to welcome the start of the class. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Noah to the children in the class.

A picture book version isn't necessary but a simplified version of the story will put it into the understand level of the age group. If you have a children's bible that you use with your class, then this ought to be appropriate.

Drama: Act out the story of Noah building the ark.

Appoint the main characters in the story - make sure that everyone in the class has some part to play, and is clear about what they will need to do when prompted. Use one area of your class as the "ark". Narrate the story again and let the children act out their role. This is a class drama so it doesn't have to be perfect, just enough for the children to remember what happened.

Discussion about the importance of promises

Return the class to their usual seats and discuss promises - what are they, what kind of things do they promise, should promises be kept, who keeps their promises, then see who remembers what was the symbol of God's promise.

Activity: Pair words quiz.

Make two columns of words side by side, in one column place a word that fits with today's lesson, in the other column place a corresponding word. The paired words shouldn't be side by side so that the children have to look down the list to choose the right word, for example:

Noah	Lioness
Olive Branch	Rainbow
Bove	Ark
Lion	Sheep
Promise	Dove

Make the list as long as you think the children will have time to complete in class.

Closing Prayer thanking God for his promise. For example:

"Thank you God for our class today. Thank you for the lesson we've learned and the fun we've had. Thank you also for your promise, and for your rainbow to remind us. Help us to keep the promises that we make, and keep us safe in your care. Amen."

9-11 Years:

Opening prayer to open the session. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

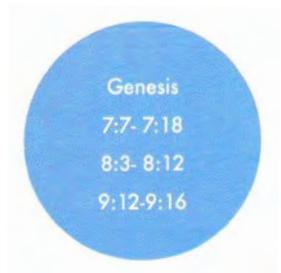
Noah's Ark, pick up the story once the ark has been built and God sends Noah and the animals into the Ark. Either retell the story up to the point where God makes his Covenant with Noah, or use the following selected passages from the bible.

Genesis 7:7 - 7:18

Genesis 8:3 - 8:12

Have students in the class read the following passage - choose one student per verse.

Genesis 9:12 -9:16



Discussion of promises and relate to personal situations

What is the importance of the rainbow? What do they understand about promises? Ask what happens when they break a promise. Ask how they feel when someone breaks a promise with them. What kinds of promise do they think should never be broken (come to the conclusion that no promise should be broken unless it's not possible to do otherwise).

Activity: Secret Code Bible Verse

Use a verse from your bible reading - for example Genesis 9:16 - and issue the students in the class with a copy of the verse (un-identified) and in code - substitute numbers for letters (Noah - 14-15-1-8) or use letters one before the one it should be (Noah - Mnzg). The mission of the students is not only to break the code and write out the bible verse as it should be written - but also to identify which verse it is!

Closing Prayer thanking God for his promise. For example:

"Thank you God for our class today. Thank you for the lesson we've learned and the fun we've had. Thank you also for your promise, and for your rainbow to remind us. Help us to keep the promises we make and to understand how important it is that we do so. Keep us safe in your love as we go out into your world. Amen."

12-14 Years:

Opening prayer to start session. For example:

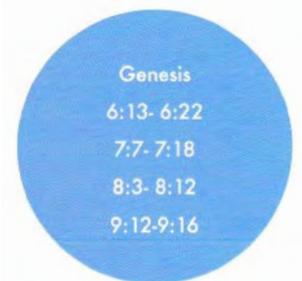
"Dear God, thank you for the chance to come together with others in fellowship to learn more about your love. Give us the wisdom to learn from your words, and to put what we learn to work as we go about our lives in the week to come."

This week we are looking at the story of Noah and in particular the importance of keeping promises.

Bible Reading:

Appoint a number of readers and have each of them read a verse in turn until they come to the end of the readings. At the end of each section, discuss the bible passage that they've just read. Do they understand what it says? Is there anything they don't understand? If there is too much for your group to read/take in, miss the first section - don't miss the last as this is the main theme for the week.

Genesis 6:13-6:22
 Genesis 7:7 - 7:18
 Genesis 8:3 - 8:12
 Genesis 9:12 -9:16



Discussion: Implications of God not keeping promise

Do they think that the violence in today's world is greater than it was at the time of Noah? What if the Covenant wasn't there?

Discussion: Importance of promises and consequences of breaking them

Have a list prepared of the kind of promises this age group are likely to have made. "I promise there are no boys at the party" "I promise I won't smoke just because someone else does!" "I'm just going to the mall with Jenny, I promise!" <roll eyes for effect>

Now have the students consider the consequences of breaking these promises - in particular you are looking for personal safety, health issues and most importantly, the breaking of trust with the person they have made the promise too.

Activity: Role play - a promise not kept.

Use one of your scenarios and have the students act out the parts. You will need the promise maker, the person they make the promise too, and then enough people to bring it to a possible conclusion. What do the student's themselves believe would happen? Let them lead the scenario but with a little gentle nudging to get the ending you want!

Closing Prayer thanking God for his promise. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for your Covenant, and for leading us to the Right way by your own example. Help us to make the right kind of promises and to keep them so that we follow in your footsteps. Keep us safe in your love as we go about our lives this week, and guide our actions so that we reflect your work through our actions. Amen."