

Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6–9

PreK–K

Step 1: Get Ready

Gather the following story props:

- ❖ A Noah's ark play set including: Noah and family (use other dolls to make up a family if necessary), an ark (or blocks/box that can be used to build an ark), and as many pairs of animals as you can pull together
- ❖ Rainbow-colored stickers, ribbons, washable markers, or face paints
- ❖ Gift bag
- ❖ Illustrated Bible storybook

Ahead of time, hide the pairs of animals all around the room; place the ark (or materials for building an ark) near the storytelling area; and put the rainbow items in the gift bag.

Step 2: Tell the Story

Gather in a circle and welcome the children to story time. Show them pictures of Noah, the animals, and the ark from an illustrated Bible storybook. **Do you know this story? Who is this man? (Noah) What kinds of animals do you see? Do you know what a flood is? (Lots and lots of rain—so much that the dry land disappears.) Let's learn more about Noah!**

When God created the world everything was GOOD. God asked the humans to help care for everything in creation. But the people forgot to take care of each other and creation. There was a lot of hurt. God's good creation was not good.

God decided to wash things clean and start over. And so there was a flood—lots and lots of water.

But before the rain began, God told a man named Noah to build a boat.

Not a little boat. Use hands to show something little.

Not a big boat. Use hands to show something bigger.

But an enormous boat! Stretch arms as wide as you can.

A boat bigger than this room.

Bigger than your house.

Bigger than this church maybe!

The special enormous boat was called an ark. Bring out the ark (or build an ark) and talk about how much room it has.

God told Noah to go out and find two of every kind of animal and put them on the ark.

Can you help Noah find the animals? Have the children gather the animals and bring them back to the story circle. If you have “pairs” spend some time making pairs, if not, just march them into the ark when they are “called.”

Noah called out to the animals: “Get on the ark! There’s going to be a flood. Calling all tigers and hippos and kangaroos and _____!” Call out the names of all the animals the children found and march them into the ark as they’re called.

Calling Noah and his family! Invite learners to move Noah and his family into the ark.

When all of the animals were on the ark, and when Noah and his family were on too, God shut the big doors and the rain started.

It rained and it rained. Make “rain” by fluttering your fingers down. Encourage the kids to help you make rain.

God was washing all the hurt away.

It rained and rained. The wind blew and blew. Make “rain” and then make “wind” by waving hands side to side across your body.

God wanted everything to start over.

It rained and rained. The wind blew and blew. There was thunder and lightning. Make “rain” and “wind” and exciting “thunder and lightning” sound effects.

But the animals and Noah and his family were safe inside the ark.

It rained and rained. The wind blew and blew. There was thunder and lightning. The waves whooshed about.

Make “rain” and “wind” and “thunder and lightning” and rock wildly from side to side.

For forty days and forty nights it rained and blustered and thundered and whooshed. “Forty Days and Nights” in the Bible means “for a very long time...but not forever.” For a very long time the waters covered the whole earth. *But not forever.* Eventually, the rain stopped.

Noah sent out a dove to see if there was dry land. Invite children to link their thumbs together and “flap” wings (fingers).

But the dove couldn’t find a place to land. Everything was still covered with water.

After seven days, God sent the dove out again. Link thumbs together and “flap” wings.

This time, the dove came back with a leaf from an olive tree, so Noah knew there was dry land *somewhere* because a tree was growing.

After another seven days, Noah let the dove out of the ark (Link thumbs together and “flap” wings.) and this time the dove did not come back. She’d found another home.

When the flood was over there was dry land again, God told Noah to take his family and all the animals off the ark. March Noah and family and the animals off the ark.

Then God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky, and God said, “This rainbow is a sign. It is a reminder of how much I love everyone and every living thing on the earth, and it is a sign that I will never flood the whole earth again. It is a gift for you.” Bring out the gift bag of rainbow-colored items, and distribute them (or draw rainbows on hands and cheeks). Remember, rainbows are a reminder that God loves you and everyone and every living thing.

- ❖ What other animals might have been on the ark? (List animals not in your Noah’s ark set.)
- ❖ I wonder what it sounded/smelled like on the ark with all those animals....
- ❖ Have you ever seen a rainbow in the sky?

Step 3: Play and Pray

Gather the following supplies:

- ❖ Rainbow sherbet
- ❖ Animal crackers
- ❖ Bowls
- ❖ Spoons
- ❖ Napkins

** Food allergies: Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for learners who have food allergies. Provide alternative, if necessary.*

Have a Noah’s ark snack. Serve animal crackers and rainbow sherbet! Offer a prayer of thanks. Then enjoy a conversation about rainy days, puddles, rainbows, and favorite animals while you eat.

Close with the following prayer:

Thank you, God, for Noah and his family. (Point to Noah and family)

Thank you for all the animals. The _____ and the _____ (Point to the animals, as you name them).

Thank you for rainbows!

AMEN