

GOD'S BIG PLAN

Noah Pleases God

Genesis 6:8-9:20

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 104:6-9; Ezekiel 18:32; Romans 1:18-32; Hebrews 11:1-7; James 1:14-15; 1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:1-9; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Goals: To see that God is patient when we are disobedient.
To see that God punishes disobedience.
To see that God is faithful to keep His promises.

Scripture Memory

But without faith no one can please God. We must believe that God is real and that he rewards everyone who searches for him. Hebrews 11:6 (CEV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself so much with this story that it can be told as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. But, to reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson:

Let's review the last part of God's Big Plan. (Review the previous story. Encourage more and more students to share. They will remember and learn the stories.)

Why were Adam and Eve sent away from the garden? (They had sinned and God was protecting them from the "tree of life.") What was life like outside of the garden? (Difficult. Separated from God.)

Who were Adam and Eve's first two children? (Cain and Abel.) What gifts did they give to God? (Cain-some of the fruit he had grown; Abel-the best he had, the first little baby sheep that was born.) Which gift pleased God? (Abel's.) How did Cain feel about this? (He was angry). How did God warn Cain? (To get control of his anger and not let sin get control of him.) How did God describe sin? (Like a wild animal waiting to pounce.) What did Cain choose to do? (Disobey God's warning and kill his brother.) What was God's response? (Making Cain wander forever and separating him forever from God's presence.) What will sin do to us, if we don't get control of it? (It will pounce on us, too, and control us.) Why do we have trouble with sin? (Because Adam and Eve sinned, choosing to disobey God.)

Did everyone outside of the garden displease God? (No.) Who pleased God? (Enoch and Noah.) How did they please God? (They walked with Him and obeyed Him.)

READ: Genesis 6:5-8 (Remember to hold the Bible in your hands throughout the story.)

Even though everyone around Noah was disobeying God, Noah obeyed God. Noah chose to do what was right even if everyone around him did the wrong thing. This pleased God. God was ready to do something big and He was going to tell Noah. Because man had turned away from God, God was sorry He had ever even created man to live on the earth. So, God decided to destroy them all, all but Noah and his family! But, just like in the garden when Adam and Eve sinned, people weren't the only ones who would suffer. God would not only destroy the people, He would also destroy the land animals and birds. But how?

God spoke to Noah. "Noah, make an ark, or boat. Make it out of gopher wood. Make it three stories tall with a window all the way around, under the roof. Make it 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. I am sending a flood to destroy everything on the earth. But I am making a covenant, or promise, with you. You and your family will go into this ark. I will send the animals and they will go onto the ark with you in pairs, male and female. Get food ready for you and the animals." Noah had never seen rain, much less a

flood, but he had faith in God. Noah couldn't see rain or even imagine it, but He trusted God even when he didn't completely understand. Noah did everything, exactly as God told him. He worked for years and years and years—120 years! And all this time, God was being very patient with these evil people on the earth. God was displeased with them, but God isn't about destroying people. God wants people to know Him, to turn away from their sin and live! God gave these people many years to change their ways and obey Him. They chose not to obey.

So, when Noah had finished building the ark God told him to get in. Noah and his wife got into the ark with his three sons and their wives. The animals came and they also got onto the ark. And God shut the door of the ark. And then, it began to rain, just as God had said it would. The rains came and all the springs and fountains of water from under the earth broke and filled the earth, too. The water rose higher and higher. The water lifted the ark and it floated. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water rose so high that it even covered all the mountains.

But God hadn't forgotten about Noah. After the rains had stopped, Noah sent out a black bird to see if the earth was dry enough. Then Noah sent out a dove. The dove came back because it couldn't find a place to rest. Noah waited seven days and sent the dove back out. She came back with an olive twig in her beak. The water was drying up. But Noah waited another seven days. He sent the dove back out and she didn't return. Noah knew that it was almost time to leave the ark. In all, Noah and his family were on the ark for a whole year! Then God spoke again, "Off the ark, everyone". And they all walked off the ark onto dry ground. To show his thankfulness, Noah stacked some rocks together and took the best from all the animals and offered them as a gift to God. When God smelled Noah's gift, He said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, and I will never destroy the earth this way, again."

Then, God talked to Noah again about a covenant, or promise. God promised Noah that He would never destroy the earth again with a flood. To remember that promise, God placed a rainbow in the sky. Every time God sees the rainbow, He remembers His promise to Noah. And we have seen already, that when God makes a promise, He keeps it. God blessed Noah and told his sons to multiply over all the earth. And every one who lives today comes from Noah's sons; Shem, Ham, and Japeth.

Now, let's review what you have learned. Who wants to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Review:

What happens when someone constantly disobeys God and refuses to do what He asks? (They are punished and die.)

Is it hard to please God? (No.) What does it take to please God? (Faith. Believing in God and The Son He promised to send.)

What happens to those who please God? (God spends time with them and talks to them and rewards them.) How about you? Do you please God or are you constantly disobeying Him, doing your own thing. Remember from last week that sin is waiting to pounce on you. Will you choose to follow God, believing that He promised to send His One and Only Son for You?

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 8 • God's Promise to Abraham
Genesis 11-17

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: "Rise and Shine"

SHARE: Noah was a man who really loved God. Even though everyone around Noah was disobeying God, Noah obeyed God. God was pleased with Noah. Noah's obedience made God happy. God was so happy with Noah that He wanted to share His plan with him.

Because everyone but Noah had been so bad, God was sorry He had ever even created man to live on the earth. So, God decided to destroy them all, all but Noah and his family! God told Noah to make an ark, or boat. Noah would make it out of a special wood called gopher wood. God wanted this to be a big boat, three stories tall! Noah worked for 120 years to build the ark. When it was ready, God did something very amazing.

Two by two, animals began to arrive! Sheep and ewe. Lion and lioness. Gander and goose. They came and they came because God sent them! When Noah and his family had gotten into the ark, and when all the animal pairs had arrived, God shut the door to the ark. BAM!

When the door was shut, it began to rain. The rains came down and floods of water came from under the earth. The water rose higher and higher. The ark began to float. It rained for forty days and it rained for forty nights. The water rose so high that it even covered all the mountains.

But God hadn't forgotten about Noah, so the rains stopped; Noah sent out a black bird to see if the earth was dry enough. Then Noah sent out a dove. The dove came back because it couldn't find a place to rest. Noah waited seven days and sent the dove back out. She came back with an olive twig in her beak. The water was drying up. But Noah waited another seven days. He sent the dove back out and she didn't return. Noah knew that it was almost time to leave the ark. In all, Noah and his family were on the ark for a whole year! Then God spoke again, "Off the ark, everyone". And they all walked off the ark onto dry ground. To show his thankfulness, Noah stacked some rocks together and took the best from all the animals and offered them as a gift to God. When God smelled Noah's gift, He said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, and I will never destroy the earth this way, again."

Then, God made a promise to Noah. God promised Noah that He would never destroy the earth again with a flood. To remember that promise, God placed a rainbow in the sky. Every time God sees the rainbow, He remembers His promise to Noah. And every time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's promise, too!

PRAY: Thank you, God, for your promises.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Play the basketball game “H-O-R-S-E.” (If a basketball goal and basketball are unavailable, use a small, soft ball and a trashcan.) Rather than trying to replicate the shot made, prompt your students to “replicate,” or repeat, sections of the memory verse before making a shot. This can be done phrase by phrase until your students remember the verse.
- Make an edible ark. Using graham crackers and frosting, make a long rectangular shape to form the ark. Remember to leave an opening for the door. Complete the ark with animal crackers in pairs.
- Make a wall mural of Noah’s Ark. Before you meet as a class, prepare one of your walls with a huge poster-paper or card board ark with the door opened. During class time, make pairs of animals. Animals can be created by having students use animal masks or by creating paper plate animals. Reenact the story when you have completed the wall mural.
- If you didn’t do so last week, make “Noah’s Family Tree.” Note Noah’s family from Adam to his father Lamech.
- Discuss measurements. God gave Noah measurements for the ark in cubits. A cubit is the measurement between an adult’s elbow and fingers, approx 18 inches. Give your students the opportunity to measure things around the apartment. Make a chart of the measure of your tables, windows, etc. in cubits.

In modern day measurements, the ark would be 450 feet long, 45 feet high and 75 feet wide. That would be longer than a football field. With its three levels, It would have held the equivalent of about 570 train cars.