

# God looks after the obedient Noah

## Genesis 6-9



AT1E

**Aim: To see that God has mercy and keeps his promises**



Noah is a story about God's judgement and mercy. For those of us who know God as a loving parent, it is hard for us to understand why he flooded the whole world so we often end up focusing on the animals and the rainbow and losing some of the sense of what it means. The stories in the Big Bible Storybook focus on God's protection of Noah rather than his judgement of the world that was flooded, and this is a great way of recognizing both God's power and his love. The good news is also that at the end of the story he promised that he would never flood the whole world again. Flooding is a terrible calamity experienced by more and more families as climate change affects our weather - we need to be sensitive to people's fears and experiences whilst also holding on to the truth of God's promises



Encourage everyone to join in with the actions:

*Point to the window; point to the door! Point to the ceiling; point to the floor! Clap your hands: one, two three. Then fold your arms and listen to me.*

*Today's story is about a man who trusted God and did what he said even though it was strange and scary*



Read Noah builds a boat (p22), Noah and the big flood (p23) and Noah and the rainbow (p24). As there is a lot of reading, probably the best way of illustrating the story is showing a picture to represent each story, but if you have a toy ark you can use that just be careful not so spend too much time loading the animals!



- *I wonder what Noah's neighbours thought about him building a boat miles from the sea.*
- *I wonder what it was like inside the ark with all those animals making a noise*
- *I wonder what things in my life feel big and scary - like building an ark to be safe from a flood - where I need to trust God*



Read 'Safe from the storm' in Bob Hartman's 'Play along Bible'

Divide the group into teams and give everyone five minutes to come up with an animal for each letter of the alphabet. Wonder together about what the ark must have been like full of all those animals and more

Identify areas in the world that are, have been or could be flooded. Pray for the people and talk about what you can do to help. This could be short term in terms of aid, or longer term with regard to energy consumption, etc. to reduce climate change.



- Make a rainbow by sticking tissue paper squares onto an arch drawn on card. Write or print 'The rainbow that I, God, have put in the sky will remind you that I will keep my promises for ever - Genesis 9:13' at the bottom of the sheet.
- Borrow a Noah's ark toy and encourage the children to play with it or if you have used pictures ask everyone to see if they can put the pictures in the right order
- Make 'dove hats' by putting a strip of white card around the child's head with a dove's head attached at the front and a concertina of white paper for the tail. Use white feathers to decorate it
- Provide toy animals for everyone to play with



Give everyone seven strips of paper or ribbons representing the colours of the rainbow. Encourage them to wave the right coloured ribbon at the right time.

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Thank you God for rainbows.

Red reminds me of a heart shape.  
Thank you God that you love us.

Orange reminds me of the juicy fruit.  
Thank you God that you give us good things to eat.

Yellow reminds me of sunshine.  
Thank you God that you made an incredible world.

Green reminds me of trees and grass.  
Thank you God for beautiful places to play.

Blue reminds me that sometimes people can feel sad.  
Please help me to be kind to others.

Indigo is a deep purple that reminds me of stormy skies  
Please help me to trust you when things seem scary.

Violet reminds me you make rainbows.  
Please help me to remember your promises.



- Say these words to the tune of 'Incy Wincy spider' 'God said to Noah: 'Build a great big boat!' Down came the rain and set the boat afloat. Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain and God said to Noah: 'You'll all be safe again'
- My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
- My God is so big, and I am so small
- I can sing a rainbow



Encourage families to take home their ribbons and make up their own prayers using the colours to remind them of different things they want to talk to God about