Genesis 8-9:17

“The Lord is faithful to all his promises” (Psalm 145:13).

The flood was finally over and Noah and his family were faced with starting over. God lovingly gave them a blessing, a covenant and a sign. “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth . . . everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything” (Genesis 9:1, 3). God blessed Noah and his family for their perseverance and dedication through the difficult year He had just brought them through. No longer would they eat only plants, but meat also.

“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you. Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth” (Genesis 9:9-11). God generously extended His covenant not only to Noah, but also to all his descendants and even the animal kingdom. God can almost be seen here as a father comforting His child after a traumatic event. “It won’t happen again. Never. Not even to your animals. I promise.”

“I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth” (Genesis 9:13). Though the rainbow likely existed before the flood, it took on new meaning after God proclaimed it to be His covenant sign, a visual reminder, of His promise. In the Old Testament, a covenant was a legal binding promise made before witnesses. Today, we, along with all mankind, are witnesses to the covenant sign that God will never again destroy all the earth with a flood.
Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: The conclusion to the story of Noah and the Ark.

Feel: Trust in God’s promises.

Do: Remember God’s promises when they see a rainbow.

Leader’s Devotion

The emphasis of this lesson is about God making a promise to His creation. What do promises mean today? It seems that they are so easily broken. Think of how many people make a marriage vow (promise) until “death do us part.” At least 50% of those “promises” are broken according to statistics. What is this telling our children? How is this influencing our culture? Somehow, we must learn for ourselves and teach our children that God will always keep His promises. Think about the promises that God has made in His Word. How do you feel about them? Are you confident that they will come to past? Do you live your life trusting in His promises? When you are contemplating a decision, do you reflect on those promises? God has given His promises as a firm foundation for our lives and He has given a beautiful reminder each time we see a rainbow in the sky. When the storms come, so do the reminders of God’s promises to us. What a blessing!
TRAVEL GAMES

Materials: None

Procedure: Have you ever gone on a long trip? When I was young, we used to play games in the car to help pass the time. Do you remember how long Noah and his family were on the ark? It was probably a whole year. What do you think they did to pass the time? There is a fun game called “Twenty Questions” that would have helped them pass the time. Let’s try it and see what you think.

Play the game “Twenty Questions.” To do this have a student think of something that might have been on the ark. Then, let the others ask questions to see if they can figure out what the student has in mind. They only get twenty questions and then that round is over. If they guess it in less than twenty questions, the class wins. If they cannot, the student can reveal the answer and he has won. If there is time, give everybody a chance to select something. Usually, the person who guesses the right answer gets to be next. If they have had a turn, they can chose someone who hasn’t. Did you enjoy that game? Can you see how it would help pass the time? Well . . . the time has passed, because today we are going to find out what happened when the flood waters subsided and they were able to start a new life on a new earth.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
PROMISE KEEPERS

Materials: Resource person who has participated in the Promise Keeper program or the Resource Page entitled “Promise Keepers”

Procedure: There is an organization called “Promise Keepers.” Do any of you know anything about it? Give them an opportunity to respond. What do you think that people who are a part of this organization are like? Hear their ideas. We have a special guest today who is going to tell you a little about this organization and then you can ask some questions. Introduce your guest and have him talk about the Promise Keeper organization. Encourage him to emphasize the importance of making promises and keeping them.

If you do not invite a guest, explain that the “Promise Keepers” organization was formed to encourage Christian men to live out their faith by making and keeping seven basic promises. You can read the promises to them from the resource page entitled, “Promise Keepers.”

I think that we can all agree that we would like to live with people in our lives that make meaningful promises to us and keep them. In our lesson today, we will learn about our Heavenly Father and an important promise He made. We will also learn that we can trust Him to keep His promises.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Get Set!

Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Materials: Bibles, pencils, Resource Page entitled, “Rain, Rain, Rain and Then What?”

Procedure: Last week we left Noah and his family safe in the ark. The rains had come and the rest of the earth had been destroyed by the flood that God had promised would happen. Let’s take a look at Scripture and find out what happened to this very special family.

Hand out the Resource Pages entitled, “Rain, Rain, Rain and Then What?” Give each student a pencil and a Bible if they need one. Read through the worksheet stopping to check out the answers found in the Scriptures that are listed.
CREATIVE WRITING

Materials: Pencils, worksheet entitled, “An Interview With The Animals”

Have any of you seen the movie, “Dr. Doolittle?” In that movie a man was able to talk to the animals and hear them talking as well. Wouldn’t that be fun to be able to talk to animals. Well, I don’t think that will be happening any time soon, so we will just have to imagine what they might say. If we were to interview the animals as they came off of the ark what do you think they might say? Let’s try to put ourselves in their place and imagine how they might describe their experience.

Procedure: Hand out the worksheets entitled, “An Interview With The Animals,” and a pencil to each student. Have them select one of the animals shown on the page or some other animal of their choice. Encourage them to think how “their animal” would respond to the questions in the interview. There are spaces provided for their answers. When everyone has had a chance to write down their thoughts, share the responses as a class. You might want to play a guessing game and have your students see if they can guess what animal their classmates chose.

That was fun! Did it help you to think of what it might have been like on the ark? We all have heard the story of Noah and the Ark, but we may have never thought about what it was like to be there. I hope that this experience helped to make it seem more real to you. You know, God is real, and so are all the things written in His Word. Sometimes, that is really amazing, isn’t it? We truly have an amazing God!
SCIENCE

Materials: Bowl(s), water, mirror(s), white paper, sunlight/flashlight(s)

Isn’t it incredible how God made a rainbow in the sky? Wouldn’t you love to see one now? We can’t always look up into the sky and see a rainbow. Why is that? (Because they appear after a rain). But, I think maybe we still can see a rainbow today. Would you like to?

Procedure: You may want to do this for your students or you may want to let them do it for themselves. (If they do it for themselves, you will need multiples of the supplies.) Place water in the bowl until it is about 3/4 full. Put the mirror into the bowl so that it is resting half in and half out of the water. Position the bowl and mirror so that the light is shining on the top half of the mirror. (You may want to use a flashlight to supply the light.) Hold the sheet of white paper so that the light shining on the mirror reflects on the paper. A rainbow should appear.

Aren’t rainbows wonderful? I’m so thankful that God put colors in His creation. His rainbow is a collection of many of those beautiful colors. God gave us color for us to enjoy His creation and He gave us rainbows to remind us of his love. We are very special to Him and today we have seen how He has demonstrated that to us. The rainbow is our reminder.
God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His promise to never destroy the earth again by a flood. He wants us to trust in that promise as well. So every time we see a rainbow, we can remember that promise. Have you ever seen a rainbow? Aren’t they beautiful? The only thing is that we don’t see them very often. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a rainbow to remind us of His promises every day? That is just what we are going to create today!

Procedure: On your computer use your clip art program to find a nice picture of a rainbow. Copy it into a draw program. Draw a rectangular frame (approximately 1 3/4 in. x 2 1/2 in.) around your rainbow and then type in the memory verse. This will be one completed magnet. Copy it and paste as many as you can on a page. You can then print them on the magnet sheets. The magnet sheets can be cut so that your students can have their own magnet. If you have extra, you may want to give them to your students to share with friends or you can make a gift of them to those who attend your church.

Teacher Tip: If you wish, you may use the sheet of rainbow magnets provided in the Resource Pages. You can scan them into your computer and then print them on the magnet sheets.

How do you like your magnet? Do you have a place where you can put it so that you will see it every day? Now, what is it you will remember when you see your rainbow magnet? Let them share what they remember from the lesson. When you think about His promise to you, why not think of a promise you can make to Him?
A Rainbow Within

FOOD: Check for food allergies!

Materials: Rainbow Jell-O made from the recipe below, serving utensil, plates, forks or spoons, napkins

Quest Connection

Rainbows are a beautiful sight in the sky to remind us of God’s promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood. Can you think of different places where you might have seen rainbows other than the sky? I have seen decorations in wall paper borders. Can you think of some? Let them think of ideas such as: greeting cards, stickers, bedding, books, etc. I think we all like things that have rainbows on them. What do you think of this idea? How about eating a rainbow? Doesn’t that sound yummy? Well, I have prepared a rainbow treat for us today. I hope you enjoy it and think of God’s many good promises.

Advanced Preparation: Prepare a rainbow salad according to the following recipe: Ingredients: 4 small boxes of Jell-O in different colors, 4 c. of boiling water, 1/2 gallon of ice cream

Procedure: Make one box at a time and let it set before adding the next layer. Cut 1/2 gallon of ice cream into 4 equal pieces. Dissolve one box of Jell-O in 1 cup boiling water. Stir in 1/4 section of ice cream. Let set. Repeat until you have four layers.

Serve your Jell-O treat to your students and eat it together. Talk about the lesson and what it means to you.

Close

I hope you liked your rainbow treat. It can be a delicious reminder of God’s promise to us. Let’s say our memory verse together as we close.
The Conclusion

VIDEO

Materials: TV, VCR, video of the story of “Noah and the Ark” used in the previous lesson

Quest Connection

When we left off on the video, Noah had built the ark, gathered the animals into it and the rains had come down flooding the earth. As we read in Scripture, Noah and his family were on the ark for over a year. Let’s take a look at the remainder of the video we started in the first lesson to watch how they portray the conclusion of the story.

Procedure: In advance, arrange the room and TV so that everyone can see the video. Put it in the VCR ready to begin where you left off the previous week. As you watch the video, feel free to pause it at times to discuss what is happening (especially the altar and the rainbow).

Close

Was the video something like you imagined it would have been like? Even though our video was animated, I hope that it helped you realize that this story in the Bible really happened. We want to always remember how God took care of this righteous family and helped them start anew. God also gave us a lovely reminder of His promise that He would never again flood the earth. Whenever we see a rainbow, we can remember that promise.
APPLICATION

Materials: Worksheet entitled, “Promises, Promises, Promises,” pencils, Bibles

Quest Connection

We have talked a lot today about God’s promise to never flood the earth again. Do you think that God has made any other promises to us? What are some of His promises? Let them share some of their ideas. God’s Word, the Bible, tells us many promises that God has made to us. Let’s look at some of them today.

Procedure: Hand out the worksheet entitled, “Promises, Promises, Promises,” Bibles and a pencil for each student. As a class look up the verses listed under “God’s” promises. After you read them comment upon their meaning. Then, have the children write a brief description of the promise on the lines provided with the verses. When you finish all of “God’s” promises, look at the side entitled, “Mine.” Read the directions and them talk about some of the promises we can make to God (examples: to follow His commandments, to serve Him faithfully, to read His Word, etc.) Then, encourage each child to write a promise in the space provided. When you have finished, read the memory verse at the bottom of the page and ask the question that follows.

Close

What did you think of God’s promises we discovered today? Did they make you feel safe and confident to know that God is always there and has promised to care for you? We are so fortunate to have a loving God who has given us so many promises. And . . . best of all, we can be SURE that He will keep them!
Rain, Rain, Rain, and Then What?

Noah, his wife, their sons and their sons wives were safe in the ark. It had stormed so hard for forty days and nights. The ark had rocked and swayed with the waves, but now it was quiet the rain had stopped. Do you have any idea how long they would have to stay in the ark before it would be safe to leave it?

Check Genesis 7:11 and 8:14 to see if you can find the answer.

To find out if the water was drying up on the earth, Noah sent out some of the birds that were with them on the ark. First, he sent a raven and then he sent out a dove twice. What did this tell Noah?

Genesis 8:6-7

_________________________________

Genesis 8:8-12

_________________________________

_________________________________

Once they all got on dry land, you might think that they began right away building a shelter or preparing land to plant a crop. But, they didn’t do that at all.

Check Genesis 8:20 to see what Noah did.

When God smelled the aroma from Noah’s sacrifice, it says that it was a pleasing aroma to Him. He said in His heart, “Never again will I curse the ground because of man... And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.” (Genesis 8:21)

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.” Next God told Noah and his family that He was going to establish a covenant with them and with all living things.

Check Genesis 9:8-11 to discover what that covenant was.

The sign to seal the covenant is the beautiful rainbow in the sky...
AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ANIMALS

What did you think when Noah came to take you to the ark?

What was the hardest part about living on the ark for over a year?

What was it like when you were finally able to get off the ark?

Do you have any idea why you were on the ark?

What will you do now?
Look up the verses below to read some of God’s promises.

Isaiah 41:13

Psalm 32:8

Jeremiah 33:3

Jeremiah 29:13

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises."
—Psalm 145:13

Will you be faithful to yours?
Noah--The Conclusion

Find the words above in the block of letters. They may be across, down or diagonal. They may also be forward or backward. Circle them as you find them.

When you have found all of the words, you can then look for the hidden message. You will find it by starting at the top left and writing down each letter that is not in one of the words--reading left to right. Keep going through several rows until you have the hidden message written below.
Everything I need to know about life... I learned from Noah’s Ark (part 1)

1. Don’t miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don’t listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Look at the above list. Think about how the advice might help you. Select one and write on the lines below how you can follow that advice.
Everything I need to know about life... I learned from Noah’s Ark (part 2)

6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety’s sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn’t always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you’re stressed, float awhile.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there’s always a rainbow waiting.

Look at the above list. Think about how the advice might help you. Select one and write on the lines below how you can follow that advice.

__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
PROMISE KEEPERS

Promise Keepers is a Christ-centered organization dedicated to introducing men to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord; and then helping them to grow as Christians. This is mainly accomplished through Seven Promises and a men's conference ministry. Millions of men have participated since 1990 when PK first began.

SEVEN PROMISES

1. A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

3. A Promise Keeper is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.

4. A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values.

5. A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of his church by honoring and praying for his pastor, and by actively giving his time and resources.

6. A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

7. A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (see Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19-20).

Mark 12:30-31
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. (NIV)

Matthew 28:19-20
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (NIV)
The Lord is faithful to all His promises.