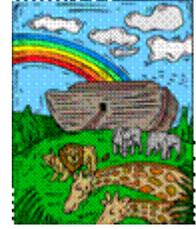


Get Ready!

Trust Me

By: Andrea Wagganer



Text

Genesis 8-9:17

Key Quest Verse

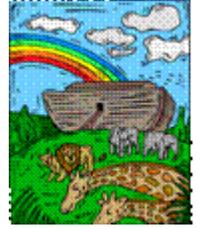
“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth” (Genesis 9:16, NIV).

Bible Background

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.

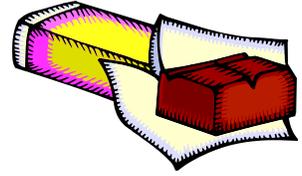
“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you. Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth” (Genesis 9:9-11). God generously extended His covenant not 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.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** God's promises can be trusted.**Feel:** God's promises can be personally applied to their daily lives.**Do:** Trust in God's faithfulness.**Leader's Devotion**

The story of Noah decorates our nurseries and offers creative lyrics to children's songs, but the message is for the children of God that are adults as well. As more years go by, we read more stories, comfort more friends and heal our own wounds due to broken commitments and promises. We live through more disappointments and we begin to try and protect those that are close to us from experiencing that pain of being let down. We guard from untrustworthy people, we are skeptical of the insincere, and we warn of the "too good to be true." It's good to know whom we can and cannot trust in this world, but that's sad if that's all we learn and teach others. It's simply only half the story and certainly not the most important half. The other half goes something like this: God is trustworthy. That's it, there's no more – no need for explanations or exceptions to the rule, God is without a doubt faithful to His children and He will not break any commitments He has made. It's hard to believe it, isn't it? We are let down so often by imperfect people that it's hard to trust God won't or hasn't done the same thing. But, don't be fooled, God does not forget us or fail to keep His word. Let that sink in.

Wow, that can change your life. Now let it change the teens in your class – give them something to praise God about when you teach this lesson – there is someone they can trust. It's a world right now something like Noah experienced that our teenagers are immersed in, so before we warn them of all the evils, let's remind them of their dependable source of truth, of love.

Get Set!

Option A**PROMISES**

Materials: Kit Kat candy bars for everyone

Procedure: Give everyone a Kit Kat bar and let them eat it or save it for later. See who can name the rhyme or jingle that goes with the candy bar (“Gimme a break, gimme a break, break me off a piece of that Kit Kat bar!”).

Now that you’ve shared chocolate with them, have everyone share a time in their life when either they or someone they knew did not keep a promise. Let them be honest about the resulting feelings and what happened to the relationship.

It would be really hard to get through life without either breaking a promise or having a promise to you broken. It’s the nature of our world to make promises without committing to following through on them. When you make a promise to someone else that means they are depending on you to stick with it. Unfortunately promises made by man are broken over and over again, but without fail, God’s promises are never broken. God sticks with what He says He will do. Kit Kat bars are made to be broken, God’s promises are not. It’s comforting to know that there is someone who will always keep His promises. For an example of one promise God made and kept, turn to Genesis 8-9:17.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Option B**HOW LONG DO YOU WAIT?****Materials:** None**Procedure:** What's the longest amount of time you have ever had to wait to:

1. Ride a roller coaster?
2. Go to the bathroom?
3. Get a present from someone else?
4. Give a present to someone else?
5. Get your grades back?
6. Wait in line for a movie/concert ticket?
7. Use the phone after your brother/sister/parent?
8. Get permission to go out on the weekend?
9. Get your punishment when you've broken the rules?
10. Finally go on a vacation you've been wanting to go on?

Why is it so hard to wait? Is it harder to wait when you know what's coming or when you're unsure? Can you imagine waiting for it to quit raining after 40 days? Can you imagine being unable to walk on land for over one hundred and fifty days and waiting for it to be safe to leave the ark? Noah and his family had a long wait, what made it possible for him to wait without going crazy? For the answer let's go to Genesis 8-9:17 – here we read of God's faithfulness to Noah. When we trust that the outcome is certain we are able to wait without getting impatient, because we know without a doubt that God is faithful.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

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

Advanced Preparation: Read over the following alternate endings:

Alternate Ending #1: After one hundred and thirty-three days, Noah snapped. He couldn't take living on that ark anymore and he was mad at everyone that spoke to him – living too closely for too long with his family and the animals had made him want to scream and finally on the one hundred and thirty-fourth day, Noah crafted a raft out of scrap wood and horse hair and when no one was looking leapt overboard and begin floating on his own. But, when God sent the wind to dry up the waters it was too strong for his little, flimsy raft and it capsized. That was the official end of Noah. Luckily his wife and sons and their wives were able to keep the animals safe until God eventually let them out of the boat. God put a rainbow in the sky to remind Noah's family that if you are going to jump overboard you need a stronger floating unit than a raft.

Alternate Ending #2: And, it came to pass that in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked and, indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons, and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing. If you or any of those with you does one unrighteous thing, I will flood the entire earth immediately. You better behave or else! You know now what I can do and so I'm threatening you, either continue to live in faith or start quickly building another boat. The rainbow in the sky is a reminder that at any time I could make it rain hard enough again to cover the entire earth, so keep up with that righteous and faithful living."

Alternate Ending #3: After the flood waters prevailed on the earth over six hundred and eighty-five days, God forgot Noah and every living thing. God finally made a wind to pass over the earth and the waters subsided but by this time Noah, his family, and all the animals had died from starvation. Forgetting about Noah, God created new animals and men and women for the earth and put a rainbow in the sky to remind us today that He will try to remember His people from now on, but no promises!

Read the alternate endings to the class and let them vote on which one is true. **Of course none of them are even close to the truth – for that we have to read Genesis 8-9:17. Here we read of God's faithfulness and how He has promised never to destroy the entire earth with floods again. Too often we think and are told that God forgets about us, is not concerned with us, or punishes us if we don't behave, but the truth is that God cares and is very concerned for us. He remembers and keeps the promises He makes. He wants us to follow Him and He is faithful to us just like He was to Noah. What a great story!**

Go!



Never Been Unloved

BRAINSTORMING

Materials: A chalkboard or whiteboard, “Live the Life” CD by Michael W. Smith, Resource Page, Bibles (Text: 2 Timothy 2:13)

Quest Connection

Even though Noah had great faith, he still wasn’t perfect and there were times when he did things in his 900 + years of living that were unlovable. God didn’t show Noah grace because Noah was lovable, but God is faithful to those that follow His plans. When we make the decision to accept Christ, God’s Son, and accept the plan of salvation, God extends His grace to us. We can make that decision to love God, because just like in the days of Noah, He loves us first (1 John 4:19). So, even when we mess up, we are still lovable to God because He is not looking for lovable people; He already loves us. Noah and all of us have been saved through grace (Ephesians 2:8) by a loving God. God saved Noah with an ark and us with His Son.

Procedure: Have teens brainstorm and make a list (on chalkboard/whiteboard) on why some people are hard to love. Make as long a list as they have answers and as time allows. Now, have anyone, brave enough, to volunteer to admit when they have been hard to love identifying themselves with the list your class has made. Listen to and/or read the lyrics to “Never Been Unloved” by Michael W. Smith and answer the questions at the bottom of the worksheet either as a group or individually.

Close

Accepting Christ as Savior involves the act of baptism. If there is anyone in class who would like to talk with the teacher or pastor after class about that step in their journey, invite them to do so before ending.

Go!**Symbols****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: 5x5 strips of muslin, several colors of Rit dye, hot water, paint brushes, Elmer's glue

Quest Connection

Without the story of Noah, rainbows are beautiful, but meaningless. God designed the rainbow to be a symbol, a sign to remind us of His promise to never flood and destroy the entire earth again. Many of us associate the cross as a symbol of Christ's love for us and His willingness to die for our sins. Doves are symbols of peace. The empty tomb is a symbol of Christ's victory over death. Images become symbols when we attach meaning to them. Can you think of other symbols (good or bad)? Today it's your turn to create your own symbol – a picture, word, design or any image that reminds you of God's faithfulness.

Procedure: Each teen gets a 5x5 piece of muslin and paints a symbol/picture on it with Elmer's glue using a small paint brush. Taking only a few minutes for the glue to dry, the teens paint on dye(s) of their choice over the entire piece of muslin. Allowing that to dry, the teacher will need to do this at home, place fabric in pan of hot water to remove the glue and allow to dry. Once dry the symbol will show up in the dyed fabric (process called batik).

Close

No matter what design we created today, may we always remember that God is faithful and we can trust Him.

Go!**So, What Can You Trust?****FOOD:** Check for food allergies!**Materials:** One box of cereal, bag of chips, 2 liter of pop (soda), or any other measurable product, Resource Page, serving sizes, measuring cups and Ziploc bags (animal crackers may be especially appropriate for this lesson)!**Quest Connection**

Most of us, I'm guessing that none of us in our class, really check if we are getting the right amount of servings each time we buy a bag of chips or eat a bowl of cereal. We've learned to trust that when we pay \$2.45 for a box of Corn Flakes® we are getting what Kelloggs® tells us we are paying for and we accept what we get without question. How many of us do that with our relationship with God? Do we believe without doubt that once we've accepted Christ as our Savior that God's promise of eternal life is unbreakable? Do we trust that as a member of the body of Christ that God is concerned for our daily life? God's Son says, "come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." When we're emotionally and physically exhausted, do we trust that if we go to Him we will really get what the printing on the package, the Bible, says? Noah trusted God when He was told to build an ark and God did as He said He would and protected Noah from the flood. God then made a new covenant with Noah and all who would come after him, that He would never again flood and destroy the entire earth and God has kept that promise, as well. Finally, God has promised us eternal life and life more abundant in Christ – and, yet, it's still easier to believe sometimes that we'll get all the promised cereal than it is to believe in God's plan for salvation.

Procedure: Using various products, have teens measure to see if the amount of serving sizes written on the outside packaging is really correct. Are there really sixteen 2 tablespoon servings in Peter Pan® creamy peanut butter? Am I getting cheated out of a few Doritos® or do I count the broken and smashed Pringles® in the bottom of the can?

Close

Read John 20:27 to see what Christ said to Thomas when he was doubting. "Do not be unbelieving, but believing." You may not be able to trust the serving sizes in your next bag of microwave popcorn, but you can always trust in the life, death, resurrection and resulting hope of Christ, because His Father has been faithful. He is still faithful and He will continue to be faithful until the day of His Son's return.

Go!**What's the Promise?****VIDEO**

Materials: Magazines or a video tape of previously recorded commercials, worksheet, “Empty Promises”

Quest Connection

The world is full of promises. Most of the promises in advertisements suggest that buying certain products will make your life happier, successful and more attractive. But, the lie in advertising is that seeking wealth, beauty and prestige is what is most important, when Jesus said, “seek first the Kingdom of God,” Noah knew that what was most important was his relationship with God, not gaining prestige in his corrupt community. Products wear out, fade, and go out of style, but God’s faithful love is always up-to-date and fully stocked.

Procedure: Look for and tear out advertisements in magazines or watch a 10 minute clip of commercials. Give teens the worksheet, “Empty Promises,” to help analyze each advertisement.

Close

Sing “Seek Ye First” together

Go!**God Gets the Glory****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Worksheet, “Dear God,” envelopes for each teen

Quest Connection

Once Noah was able to leave the ark with his family and all the animals, he built an altar, a place of sacrifice, to the Lord and led his family in worship and thanksgiving. The Bible doesn't record Noah bragging that he and his family were chosen to be saved and praising how well he must have built the ark – instead it records that Noah gave God the glory. That's how we should live our lives too, giving God the glory for all good things that are only possible because of Him.

Procedure: Read Genesis 8:20

Close

Have teens write a thank you letter to God. Let them put it in an envelope to bookmark this Scripture and to remind them in the future to praise God for the times He provides for them.

Go!**Agree/Disagree****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Two signs, one that says “agree” and one that says “disagree,” scotch tape

Quest Connection

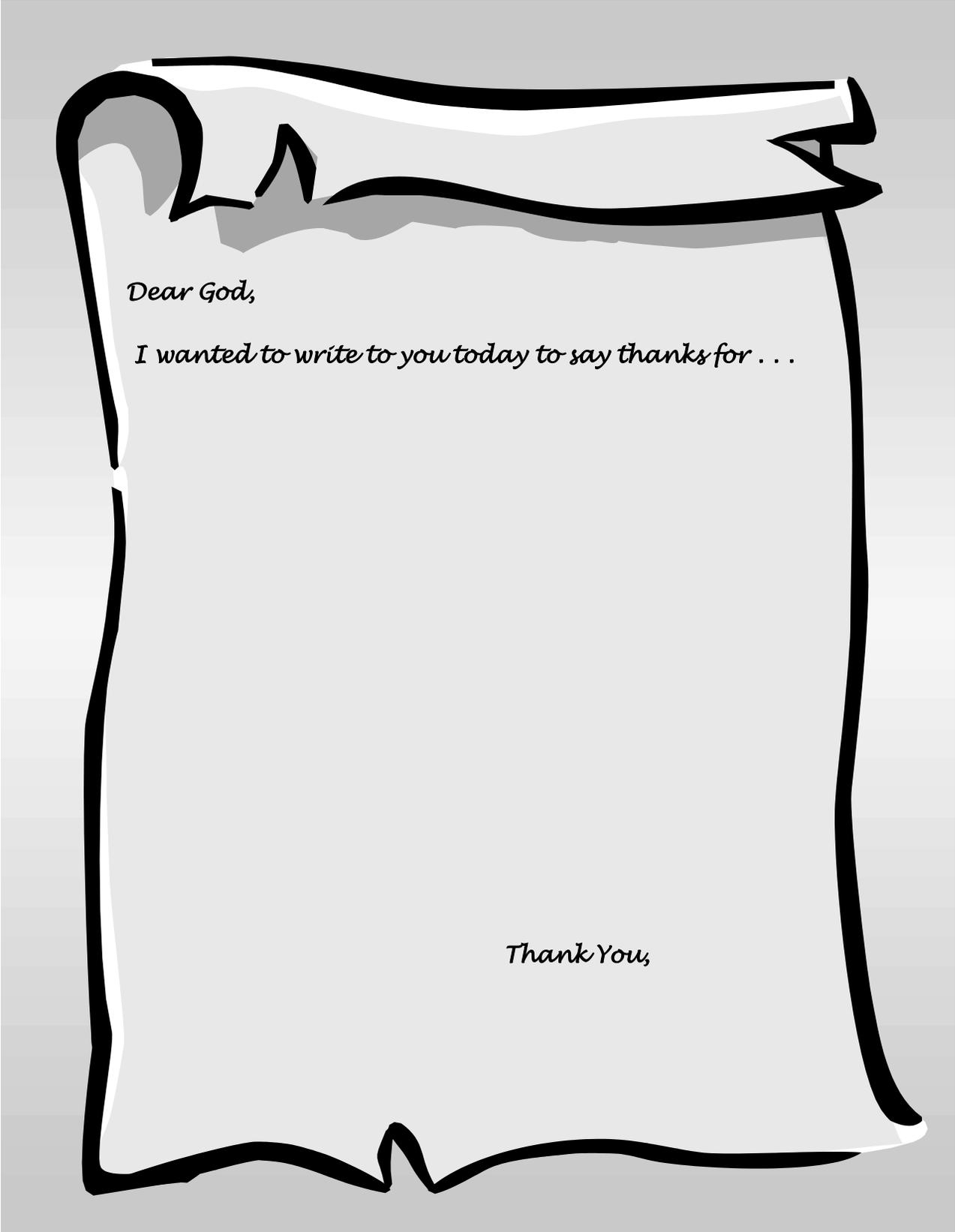
The truth is that there are no right or wrong answers to the five questions. Still, most of us will at some point if not almost every day, find it hard to tell others about God, fail to do the right things all the time, want to hide our Christianity, find it much easier to believe than to obey God and won't know how to tell others about God when everything around us is going badly. This is what makes the story of Noah so great and such a good example for us to rely on. In a world where everything was bad, and obeying God meant building an ark that everyone around you thought was foolish especially because of the simple fact that you were noticed for being a follower of God, Noah still believed in God and obeyed all that he was commanded (Genesis 6:22 and 7:5). In the second half of the story, we read about how God rewarded Noah and kept him safe after Noah followed all of His directions. So, when you are not sure if you should do what God would have you do or if you really want to be known as a follower of His, remember that God rewards you for your faithfulness and His commandments are meant to keep you safe. Others will notice you, not because you are crazy, but because you have faith.

Procedure: Tape each sign on a wall on opposite sides of the room. Reading the following questions one at a time, have the teens go stand next to the sign that they want to be their answer. Ask them to explain why they have chosen to agree or disagree to help facilitate discussion.

1. It is easy to tell others about God.
2. It is hard to do what a Christian is *supposed* to do all the time.
3. Some people are Christians, but don't want others to know it.
4. Believing in God is easy, but obeying His commandments is hard.
5. When bad things happen, it's hard to convince others that God really does love us.

Close

As the teacher, pray over and for your class before you dismiss, that they will have courage each day to be recognized for their faith.



Dear God,

I wanted to write to you today to say thanks for . . .

Thank You,

Empty Promises

A CLOSER LOOK AT ADVERTISEMENTS

Product	Images	Words	Results	Promises
Freshlook® Cosmetic Contact Lenses	Two women's faces – one with beautiful blue eyes and one with beautiful brown eyes	“Open your eyes and say something beautiful”	Beautiful eyes and it looks like beautiful skin and hair as well	If you purchase Freshlook® contacts you will be more attractive



Serving sizes

DRINK OR FOOD

SERVINGS ACCORDING
TO THE LABEL

SERVINGS ACCORDING
TO OUR MEASUREMENTS

1) _____

1) _____

1) _____

2) _____

2) _____

2) _____

3) _____

3) _____

3) _____

4) _____

4) _____

4) _____

5) _____

5) _____

5) _____

2 Timothy 2:13

Never Been Unloved from "*Live the Life*"

I have been unfaithful
I have been unworthy
I have been unrighteous
And I have been unmerciful
I have been unreachable
I have been unteachable
I have been unwilling
And I have been undesirable
And sometimes I have been unwise
I've been undone by what I'm unsure of
But because of you
And all that you went through
I know that I have never been unloved
I have been unbroken
I have been unmended
I have been uneasy
And I've been unapproachable
I've been unemotional
I've been unexceptional
I've been undecided
And I have been unqualified
Unaware – I have been unfair
I've been unfit for blessings from above
But even I can see
The sacrifice You made for me
To show that I have never been unloved
It's because of you
And all that you went through
I know that I have never been unloved

by M.W. Smith, W. Kirkpatrick

No matter what we have or haven't done, God is still faithful.
Is it easy for you to accept that at no point in your life you have ever been unloved?
How would you explain the lyrics to someone who didn't know nothing can separate us from God's love?

Journal Page

I was ____ years old when I first heard the story of Noah.

Before our class I didn't know that _____ happened in the story of Noah.

I think that _____ is the most amazing part of the story.

God gave us a rainbow to symbolize his promise to Noah and all the generations to come. When I think of God's faithfulness, I picture or think of _____.

I think I'm like Noah, because _____.

I don't think I'm like Noah, because _____.

When it describes the world of Noah being evil, I imagine it was corrupt in these ways:

I think our world today is still evil – some of the ways it's evil are:

A time I felt like Noah, when I was doing something I knew was right but everyone else laughed at me was _____

Noah had to choose to do what God said and trust building this ark was a good idea. I think it's hard to trust God when _____

Noah and his family were on the ark for so long it might have seemed like God had forgotten about them. I remember a time when I thought that God had forgotten about me or just didn't care. It was _____

But I'm learning that God does care about me just like He cared about Noah. So, I trust God that He will _____

_____ in my life.