

Noah and the Ark.

Noah and the Ark is a story packed with objects and concepts familiar to young children. *Animals. Weather. Building. Boats. A need to be kept safe.* These familiar elements allow them to enjoy the story and provide a wonderful way in for them to start exploring Christian beliefs.

The broad aims of the sessions are to enable the children to:

- enjoy the story so that they are keen to hear other faith stories.
- Learn that the Bible is a special book for a group of people called Christians.
- Learn that Christians believe the Bible is true and that it teaches us about God.

The Bible Passage: Genesis 6-9

Key points from the story:

- Noah loves and obeys God.
- Christians believe God speaks and tells his people what to do.
- Christians believe God keeps his people safe.
- Christians believe God makes promises and keeps them. He does what he says he'll do.
- Noah responds to God's care for him by saying thank you.

Other key points we don't focus on in these sessions, but children may ask about.

- Christians believe God is sad when people don't live his way.
- Christians believe God punishes people who disobey him.

Experiences and Outcomes (RME)

I know Noah's ark is a story from the Bible.

I know the Bible is a special book for Christians.

I can use the story to discover what Christians believe God is like.

I know Christians believe God made the world flood but that he kept Noah safe.

I know Christians believe God still keeps them safe.

I know Christians believe God always keeps his promises.

I know Christians try to obey God like Noah did.

RME 0-01a, 1-01a, 1-01b, 1-01c,

I can talk about people who keep me safe.

I can talk about promises and how I feel when someone keeps or breaks a promise.

I can talk about the importance of saying thank you and have thought about who I should say thank you to.

RME 0-02a, 1-02a, 1-02b,

I can use the story to think about what God expects of people. I have thought about who makes good or bad choices in the story and what the outcome was. I know I have to make choices about meeting or not meeting peoples expectations of me.

RME 1-02a, 1-02b,

The ideas and lesson plans on the following pages are designed as a “pick and mix” selection. The sections work by themselves or combined with other sections depending on the age of your children and the length of your lesson.

They are designed to be complemented by some of the cross curricular ideas we have provided for the story. This will increase the depth and richness of the children's learning, ensuring they know the story and have been allowed to explore the many aspects of it.

Noah's Ark.

Story telling

Outdoors	Indoors
Tell the story - possibly introduce it playing Simon Says (obedience)	Tell the story - possibly introduce it playing Simon Says (obedience)
Question time - favourite part? Most important part? Where would you be in the story? What is God like? What does God do in the story?	Question time - favourite part? Most important part? Where would you be in the story? What is God like? What does God do in the story?
<p>Make something from the story. Split into different groups. With younger classes split into as many groups as you have adult helpers for. Each group makes something different,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stick people • clay (and stick and leaf etc) animals • boat (use whatever they can find to make a model or a picture on the ground) • rainbow (use natural materials to make a rainbow picture. Think shapes and colours) <p>Encourage the kids to chat about what they're making. Use the conversation prompt cards for staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lollypop sticks and collage stuff • clay and toothpicks and collage stuff • junk model or collage a big outline. • collage
Admire each others creations and retell the story, using what the children have made as props.	
Active Quiz to recap story (go one way for true, one way for false)	If no space, hands on head for true, on knees for false?

Notes/Follow up

- Take photos of objects children have made. Use to make a video/wall display of the story.
- As follow up - or during lesson if time - record children describing what is happening at each part

- in the story, older ones could write a script and then narrate the story.
- Or indoors, kids could read the story from the Beginners Bible as narration.

Play “Simon Says”.

In this game we had to obey Simon. We did what Simon told us to do. The story I'm going to tell you today is about someone who did what God told him to. He obeyed God.

Tell the story.

This is a story from the Bible. This is a special book for people called Christians. They read it and believe it is all true.

This story is about a time when all the people were doing naughty things. Not just little naughty things. But really really horrible, bad and supernaughty things. Can you make a naughty face? They were not doing what God told them to do. They were not obeying him. This made God sad. He decided to punish them. He was going to send a big flood to cover the whole world. Can anyone explain what a flood is?

Then God looked around and saw Noah. Who can be Noah for us today? Come and stand over here. Noah was different from everyone else. He did what God told him to. He obeyed God. God wanted to keep Noah safe, he didn't want to punish him.

So God told Noah to build a boat. It was a bit strange because Noah didn't live near the sea or even a river. He told Noah, "I'm going to flood the world but I want to keep you safe." Remember, Noah does what God tells him to. He obeys God. So Noah started to build the boat. Pretend to build (saw/carry/hammer) boat.

Then God told Noah something really strange. He told him "go and get two of every animal and bring them into the boat. I'm going to flood the world and I want to keep you and these animals safe."

So Noah got two of every animal. Have some toy animals and a toy ark. Can they find two matching animals and put them into the ark. Can we all pretend to be the animals.

Once the animals were in the boat God shut the door. Everyone clap.

Then it started raining, and raining and raining. Can we all make rain noises? And little puddles became big puddles which became a big flood. But Noah and the animals were safe. Why were they safe in the boat? What do boats do in water?

After 1 year the flood had gone. Noah and the animals came out. God had kept Noah safe. What do you think Noah said to God? Yes, that's right. Thank you! And God promised Noah he would never flood the whole world again. And he put a rainbow in the sky to show he was going to keep his promise. What colours are in the rainbow? Can we find the colours in the room and point to them?

- **Quiz.** Make one side of the room yes, and the other no. Kids decide which side to run to.
 - Did Noah obey God?
 - Did God like it when everyone did something bad?
 - Did God tell Noah to build a train?
 - Did God tell Noah to take 5 of every animal?
 - Did God keep Noah safe?

Did God make it snow?
 Did God put a rainbow in the sky?

Investigating the story

Outdoors	Indoors
Remember the story. Read it from the Bible. Or start with the quiz if you didn't use it last time. Or hunt for objects from the story first?	Remember the story. Read it from the Bible. Or start with the quiz if you didn't use it last time. Or use a story bag. (everyone take something from the bag and then add it down at the right part of the story)
Can you spot? Have big spots with answers in (pictures/words). Hang them up around your area. Read out the "can you spot questions and get the children to find and move to the big spot with the correct answer.	Sit in a circle with the big answer spots in the middle. As you/they read the question they should all point to the correct answer.
In groups describe characters/objects/part of the story. Use pictures of what they made in session one to allocate parts to each group. Write on mini whiteboards. Take photos. These could be added to classroom display.	In groups describe characters/objects/part of the story. Use pictures of what they made in session one to allocate parts to each group. Write your answers down. These could be added to classroom display.

Notes/Follow up

Story bag(s) objects could be: animals, boat, Noah, "bad" faces, toy tools, rainbow, bottles of water, bird, leaf, Bible).

Can you spot?

Big spots (answers): Noah, disobediant people, frog, horse, snake, rainbow, "God"

Questions (on smaller spots)

- Can you spot who God keeps safe?
- Can you spot who God punishes?
- Can you spot who obeys God?
- Can you spot who doesn't obey God?
- Can you spot a promise?
- Can you spot who says thank you?
- Can you spot who builds an ark?
- Can you spot who slithers onto the ark?

- Can you spot who hops onto the ark?
- Can you spot who gallops onto the ark?
- Can you spot who makes it rain?
- Can you spot who shuts the door?
- Can you spot who makes a promise?
- Can you spot who stays in the ark for 1 year?
- Can you spot who listens to God?

Meeting Expectations

Outdoors	Indoors
<p>Talk about what expectations does your teacher have of you? What are you expected to do or not to in class/when you're outside? What about at home? What are you expected to do or not do in class?</p>	<p>Talk about what expectations does your teacher have of you? What are you expected to do or not to in class? What about at home? What are you expected to do or not do in class?</p>
<p>In pairs consider these questions and write the answers on a whiteboard. (ask one question at a time and feedback between each one)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did God expect from people at the beginning of the story? • Did they make a good or a bad choice? (Do a tick or a cross) • What was the consequence? • What did God expect from Noah when he asked him to build an ark? • Did he make a good or a bad choice? (Do a tick or a cross) • What was the consequence? • What did God expect from Noah at the end of the story? • Did he make a good or a bad choice? (Do a tick or a cross) • What was the consequence? 	<p>In pairs consider these questions and write the answers on a whiteboard. (ask one question at a time and feedback between each one)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did God expect from people at the beginning of the story? • Did they make a good or a bad choice? (Do a tick or a cross) • What was the consequence? • What did God expect from Noah when he asked him to build an ark? • Did he make a good or a bad choice? (Do a tick or a cross) • What was the consequence? • What did God expect from Noah at the end of the story? • Did he make a good or a bad choice? (Do a tick or a cross) • What was the consequence?
<p>Finish with a brief discussion about do they make good choices?</p>	<p>Finish with a brief discussion about do they make good choices?</p>

Who keeps us safe?

Outdoors	Indoors
Active game - being animals. Emphasises God kept Noah safe, Noah said Thank you. Christians believe God kept Noah safe. Christians believe God still keeps them safe. But lots of other people help to keep us safe. Let's think about it.	Active game - being animals. Emphasises God kept Noah safe, Noah said Thank you. Christians believe God kept Noah safe. Christians believe God still keeps them safe. But lots of other people help to keep us safe. Let's think about it.
Who keeps us safe? Split into groups. Give each group laminated pictures of a variety of people (see below). They have to decide if they keep us safe or not. Discuss why. Peg up those who do keep us safe.	Turn pictures over? Discuss them and make two piles. Write a sentence "They keep us safe when"
How do you feel when you're safe? What can you do if you don't feel safe?	How do you feel when you're safe? What can you do if you don't feel safe?
Can you make somewhere you would feel safe?	Can you draw a picture of somewhere you would feel safe?

Notes/Follow up

Who keeps us safe? Have pictures of mum, dad, grandma, policeman, fireman, paramedic, lolly pop lady, supermarket staff, postman, clown, baby, bus driver, teacher. etc

Saying Thank you (this works well after “Who keeps us safe”)

Outdoors	Indoors
Active game - being animals. Emphasises God kept Noah safe, Noah said Thank you. (if not already done)	Active game - being animals. Emphasises God kept Noah safe, Noah said Thank you. (if not already done)
Chat about saying thank you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Noah say thank you? • Who did Noah say thank you to? • What would you say thank you to God for? • Who else could you say thank you to? 	Chat about saying thank you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Noah say thank you? • Who did Noah say thank you to? • What would you say thank you to God for? • Who else could you say thank you to?
Throw/roll a ball to each other. When you catch it, think about and tell everyone who you could say thank you to. Have words like “Who” “Why” “When” “Where” “How” on the ball to encourage deeper discussion of how, when and where we can say thank you. (for older kids)	Make and write thank you cards? Or Throw/roll a ball to each other. When you catch it, think about and tell everyone who you could say thank you to. Have words like “Who” “Why” “When” “Where” “How” on the ball to encourage deeper discussion of how, when and where we can say thank you. (for older kids)

Notes/Follow up

Game - children line up at one side of the room. Tell them they're going to be the animals coming into the ark. They have to listen to what you say. Give them instructions - can you take two tiny steps like a mouse, slither like a snake, three giant steps like an elephant. When they get to the other side say “hooray, you made it into the ark, did God keep Noah safe in the ark?” “Yes!” Then do the same back to the other side of the room to get out of the ark. “What did Noah say to God when they got out of the ark?” “Thank you!”

You can do this a few times! Perhaps ask one of the children to help you choose what animals they should pretend to be.

Promises

Outdoors	Indoors
Rainbow hunt	Make a rainbow together
What promise did God make to Noah?	What promise did God make to Noah?
<p>Discussion on promises. The Bible says God put a rainbow in the sky when he made a promise. What's a promise? Christians believe God always keeps promises.</p> <p>Ask the children which of these promises are easy to keep (hands on head) and which are hard to keep (hands on toes). I promise to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• eat all my tea• be good all day• always keep my room tidy• hold your hand when I'm crossing a road• always do what mummy says• never be naughty	<p>Make a Rainbow mobile. Hanging rain drops - write promises you want to make on the back.</p> <p>Think about - is it an easy or hard promise to keep. Do a smiley or flat face on the back.</p>