

# Lesson 1: God Rescues Noah

Bible passage: Genesis 6-Genesis 9:17

A long time ago, God watched people on earth and found that only one person and his family still loved God and obeyed Him. That person was Noah. God decided He needed to clean the earth up.

“God said, ‘For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die’” (Genesis 6:17). God was going to get rid of all the bad in the world. But He promised to save Noah and his family! He told Noah and his family to build an ark—a big boat. God said, “But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.”

Whew. What a relief! A covenant is a promise. So God was promising to save Noah and his family.

God told Noah to collect one pair of every kind of animal and seven pairs of every clean animal and to bring them onto the ark with him. That included rainforest animals, desert animals, and every other kind of animal.

As soon as Noah had finished building the boat, loading all the animals, and getting his family on, it began to rain. It rained and rained, and soon the whole earth was covered with water. Noah and his family and all the animals stayed safe and dry on the boat. But it rained for forty days and forty nights.

Eventually, when the rain stopped, Noah opened a window on the ark. He looked out and saw water, water everywhere. Even if he had binoculars, Noah couldn’t see any land. But God knew what was under the water. God knew where Noah and the ark needed to stop in order to be safe.

“But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided” (Genesis 8:1). Noah sent a dove out to look for dry land, but the dove came back. Seven days later, Noah sent out the dove again. This time, the dove came back with an olive branch. So, Noah knew it was safe for everyone to get off the ark.

“Then God said to Noah, ‘Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.’ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and

his sons' wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark" (Genesis 8:15-19).

I bet they made quite a ruckus. All those animals celebrating that they finally got off the ark! In the middle of all their celebrating, Noah and his family remembered what was really important: God had saved them. He saved them, just as He promised.

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in His heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done'" (Genesis 8:20-21).

So God made another promise. He promised to never again destroy the earth with a flood. And as a reminder of that promise, God put a rainbow in the sky. Every time we see a rainbow in the sky, we can be reminded of God's promise to take care of the earth and His people.

Even when the rain stopped, Noah couldn't see where he needed to go because of all that water. Sometimes we don't know what we are supposed to do or where we are supposed to go. Sometimes we face new and sort of scary situations. Binoculars won't even help us see what we need to do in those times. But God helps us trust Him. He gives us faith in His Word and promises. Even when the difficult situations we are in are due to our own sin or bad choices, God is faithful to us. If we ask for His forgiveness and help, God will give it.

## Lesson 1 Discussion Questions

Found in Genesis 6-9

- When God saw that only one person and his family were still faithful believers, what did God decide to do? Why?
  - Genesis 6:17: God sent a flood to destroy everything
  - Genesis 6:11: All was corrupt and violent
- What did God ask Noah to bring on the ark with him?
  - Genesis 6:18: His family
  - Genesis 6:19: Two of every kind of animal
  - Genesis 6:21: Food for his family and the animals
- What did God promise Noah?
  - Genesis 6:18: God made a covenant with Noah. He told Noah to bring his family onto the ark where they would be safe and could survive the flood.
- How did Noah know when it was safe to get off the ark, even though he couldn't see all the land?

- Genesis 8:6-12: Noah sent a dove out from the ark on three different occasions. When the dove returned with a branch, Noah knew the water was receding. When the dove didn't return at all, Noah knew it was time to leave the ark.
- What did Noah do to thank God for keeping His promises? How did God respond?
  - Genesis 8:20: Noah built an altar and made sacrifices to God
  - Genesis 9:11-13: God made another promise, that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood, and He put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His promise

God promised to keep Noah safe in a scary situation, and God kept His promise. God also helps us know what to do in difficult situations through the Bible, prayer, our pastor, our church, and the Ten Commandments. Remember, God's Word is full of His promises to us, and God always keeps His promises!

## Pray

Loving God, we thank You for being faithful and keeping Your promises. How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! Thank You for protecting us in difficult situations, just like You protected Noah. Please help us to look to You when we can't see where we need to go or what to do. Use Your rainbows to remind us that You keep Your promises. In Jesus' Name. Amen.