



God Preserves Noah

Genesis 8:1–9:17



LESSON GOAL

Students will recognize that God judges sin but also is loving and keeps His promises.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain that God remembered Noah and caused the floodwaters to recede.
- Evaluate Noah's response to God's grace.
- List the instructions God gave to mankind through Noah.
- Explain God's covenant with mankind and every living creature.

KEY VERSE

"The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth" (Genesis 9:16).

APPLICATION

- Submit to God as ruler.
- Trust God; He always does what He says.
- Remember that God keeps His promises.

NEXT WEEK

God Judges the Nations at Babel
Read Genesis 11:1–9.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

In order to save Noah and his family from the great judgment that was coming, the Lord commanded Noah to build an ark (Gen. 6:14). The ark was to be made of gopherwood—a type of wood that has not been identified but that might have been cedar or cypress. The ark’s dimensions were truly remarkable for its time. It was approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (Gen. 6:15). Modern ocean liners rarely exceed twice the length of Noah’s ark. To compare it with something familiar to us, we can conclude that the ark was the length of one and a half football fields. The biblical text does not give the precise thickness and weight of the beams, but the structure was solid enough to withstand the battering of the storm and the turbulent waters. (For more information, refer to the background note on page 5.4.)

Anyone who has experienced even a minor flood knows something of the devastating force water can generate. We can only dimly imagine what it must have been like on the day when “all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened” (Gen. 7:11). The incredible power and speed of massive quantities of water gushing from subterranean springs and pouring down from the skies above caught everyone by surprise—everyone but “Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons” (Gen. 7:13). We are told repeatedly that the waters increased and rose greatly, that they covered all the high mountains, and that every living thing that moved on the earth “died” and was “destroyed” (Gen. 7:21, 22, 23). For five long months, Noah and his family and all the animals rode out the flood (Gen. 7:24). During that entire time, they saw no dry land at all. They must have felt that God had forgotten them. But “God remembered Noah” (Gen. 8:1).

Note: To “remember” someone in the biblical sense means to express concern for him, to revisit him with gracious love.

Up to this point, mankind had been getting progressively worse, but from Genesis 8:1 on, things gradually got better. The reason they improved is because “God remembered Noah.”

In a very real sense, the period after the flood marked a new beginning for the human race. The following events took place after the flood:

- 8:1 “God made a wind to pass over the earth.”
- 8:2 “The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped.” It been 150 days since they started (7:24).
- 8:3 “The waters receded continually from the earth.”
- 8:4 “The ark rested...on the mountains of Ararat.”
- 8:5 “The waters decreased continually.... The tops of the mountains were seen.”
- 8:6–7 Noah sent a raven out from the ark. Evidently the raven returned to the ark because it could not find a resting place; there was too little dry land to debark.

Additional Reference Materials

Paradise to Prison: Studies in Genesis by John J. Davis

The MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur

Creation and Blessing by Allen P. Ross

8:8–12 Noah released a dove. On its third journey, it found a resting place and did not return to the ark.

8:13–19 Fifty-seven days after Noah opened the window and released the raven, God commanded him to exit the ark. God also renewed the command He had given to the animals and to Adam (Gen. 1:28): “Be fruitful and multiply on the earth” (Gen. 8:17; 9:1).

Though the rest of mankind had been judged, Noah and his family were redeemed. God brought His faithful children through the trial of the flood by telling them how to escape it. Throughout the long ages of history, the Lord has rescued those who trust in Him because “God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:9).

The receding of the floodwater gave mankind the opportunity for a brand-new start. More than any other event since creation itself, the aftermath of the great flood inaugurated a time of beginning again.

It was no accident that Noah’s first act in the new world was to build an altar to the Lord and offer sacrifices on it (Gen. 8:20). Noah’s devotion was not surprising, for he already had distinguished himself as a man who walked with God and whose faith was unwavering. Noah’s sacrifice reminds us of the importance of a proper sacrifice and a proper attitude. Worship properly offered is a very personal matter. For that reason, it was to God as “the LORD” that Noah brought his sacrifice, and it was “the LORD” who responded to Noah’s act of worship (Gen. 8:20–21).

Note: “LORD” is the intimate, redemptive name of God in the Old Testament. As such, it is regularly used in contexts of worship and sacrifice (Gen. 4:4).

The Lord regarded Noah’s sacrifice as a “sweet savor,” a “soothing aroma,” or, more literally, “a smell of satisfaction” (Gen. 8:21). A new promise symbolized the Lord’s response. God promised never again to curse the ground or destroy all living creatures because of man (Gen. 8:21). The cursing of the ground in Genesis 8:21 refers to the universal destruction of the land by flooding (Gen. 9:11, 15).

God also promised in Genesis 8:22 that the normal cycles and processes of nature would continue unhindered as long as “the earth remains.” The functions of time and season mandated by God from the very beginning, would never again be interrupted until the end of history.

With this new beginning of life came three commands in God’s covenant with Noah. The first command was to fill the earth (Gen. 9:1, 7).

The second command (or reaffirmation) was for man to rule over the entire animal kingdom (Gen. 9:2–4). Various animals would serve as food for mankind. For the first time, God encouraged man to eat animals in addition to vegetation (Gen. 1:29–30; 9:3). God gave man one restriction in regard to eating meat: “But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood” (Gen. 9:4). Since “the life of all flesh is its blood” (Lev. 17:14), the severest penalties would be inflicted on those who ate meat that still had its blood in it (Lev. 17:10, 14).

The third command was to keep sacred the life of man (Gen. 9:5–6). Man and beast alike would be held accountable for the lives of any human beings they killed. God’s command in Genesis 9:6 gave man not only the right but also the responsibility to put murderers to death. The reason seems clear: God made man in His own image, and therefore the murderer, in taking the life of a man, displays contempt for God as well.

Note: This principle has important implications for the function of the state in the area of capital punishment. Civil government as instituted by God involves the power of life and death. It is not the mindless revenge of a murdered man’s rela-

tives but the orderly processes of civil law that should be the deciding factor in capital cases (Num. 35:6–30). In this respect, government, necessary because of human disobedience, is God’s gracious provision for the preservation of human life (Rom. 13:1–5; 1 Tim. 2:1–3; 1 Pet. 2:13–17).

In the remaining verses (Gen. 9:8–17), God reaffirmed His covenant with Noah and his descendants and gave him the sign of the covenant, the “rainbow in the cloud” (Gen. 9:13). Whenever the rainbow appeared in the clouds, it would serve as a reminder of God’s covenant with all His creatures. For many people today, the rainbow may be simply a beautiful natural phenomenon, but for the believer it is a perpetual reminder of God’s covenant promise to Noah and his family and all the animals. Floodwater never again will destroy all life.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

When God looked at the people on the earth, what did He see in their hearts?
Wickedness and evil.

When God saw how wicked the people were, what was His response?
He was sorry that He had made man on the earth.

Why does man’s wickedness grieve God?
God hates sin, which always is ultimately done against Him.

What do those who sin against God deserve?
They deserve to be punished. Once God decided to destroy the earth with a flood, He graciously decided to spare the lives of one family—Noah’s.

Name at least one thing about Noah that was pleasing to God.
He was a righteous man; he was blameless in his time; he walked with God.

Describe what happened after God shut the door to the ark.
The water came and flooded all the earth. God destroyed every living thing that was on the land and in the sky.



1

Noah's Altar

Bring brown paper bags to class. Tell the students to turn the bags inside out to make "rocks." Students can build an altar with the rocks, using packing tape to secure the rocks to one another. Tell the students that today they will learn why Noah built an altar to the Lord.



1

Make a Rainbow, Version One

Bring a prism or crystal to class. Hold it where it will catch daylight, and refract the light onto a wall or another lightly colored surface (maybe paper). When we move the prism around, are the colors always in the same order? What are we seeing? What have we seen outdoors that looks like this? The first rainbow was seen on what occasion? What did it mean?



2

Make a Rainbow, Version Two

Pour three to four inches of water into a clear plastic container, and set it on an overhead projector. Cover the front of the small upper projection lens with paper. When the projector is turned on, its light will be bent as it is projected through the water. A large rainbow should appear on the wall or screen. Adjust the position of the rainbow by moving the container slightly or by adding more water. Explain to the students that when white light passes between air and water, each color bends by a slightly different amount (a process called refraction). The result is the dispersion of white light into its many component colors. In this demonstration, the range of colors appearing on the screen will be determined by the nature of the projector bulb. (It usually produces a spectrum similar to that of the sun.)

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Genesis 8:1–9:17: Genesis 8:1–5, God remembers Noah and causes the waters to recede; Genesis 8:6–12, Noah uses two birds to test for dry land; Genesis 8:13–19, God tells Noah and the animals to exit the ark; Genesis 8:20–22, Noah's sacrifice pleases God; Genesis 9:1–7, God gives commands for a new beginning; Genesis 9:8–17, God makes a covenant with mankind and every living creature.

Introduction

We know that God was just to judge all the wicked people who died in the flood. It was only because of God's grace and mercy that everyone on the ark was saved.



With Noah and his family and the animals on the ark, there would be a new beginning. Let's see how all those on the ark finally got off, and let's look at the special promise that God made to mankind and the animals.

Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What is the most important thing about Genesis 8:1?

Answer: Genesis 8:1 says that "God remembered Noah, and every living thing and all the animals that were with him in the ark." To "remember" someone in the biblical sense means to express concern for him, to revisit him with gracious love.

LOQ: What did God do for Noah and the creatures on the ark with him?

Answer: He saved them and promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again.

LOQ: How did Noah determine that the land was dry?

Answer: Noah sent out a raven. Then he sent out a dove, which returned because there was no place to rest. He sent out the dove again, and it returned with a freshly picked olive leaf. Finally, he sent out the dove again, but it did not return.

LOQ: Once the water had gone and there was dry land, what did God command Noah?

Answer: God told Noah and his family to leave the ark and to bring out every animal from the ark. This was done so that the animals could begin to be fruitful and multiply on the earth.

LOQ: What important thing did Noah do after he left the ark?

Answer: He offered burnt offerings to the Lord.

LOQ: Why did Noah do this?

Answer: Noah was very thankful to God for saving him and his family from destruction in the flood. Noah knew that God had to judge the wicked people who lived before the flood, and it was only by God's grace that Noah and his family were saved. And with all the animals that had been saved from the flood, Noah must have been happy that God had given man a new beginning on the earth.

LOQ: How did the Lord respond to Noah's sacrifice?

Answer: The Lord smelled the aroma from Noah's sacrifice and was pleased.

LOQ: What did the Lord say to Himself in Genesis 8:21?

Answer: The Lord said to Himself that He would never again curse the ground on account of man, never again destroy every living thing.

Summary

We have learned that man was very wicked and that God judged him and the earth with a great flood that covered the earth. But He saved Noah and his family and some of each animal kind by bringing them into the ark and protecting them from the floodwater. When Noah left the ark after all the waters had receded, he made a sacrifice to God because He had saved him and his family. He also worshiped God because God was righteous in His judgment of the world. Then God made a covenant with mankind and every creature. He promised to never again destroy the earth with a flood. The sign of this covenant is the rainbow.

Application

Whenever you see a rainbow in the sky, think about what you have learned from the story of Noah. Think about the wicked people who sinned so much that God destroyed the earth with a flood. Think about Noah and the others on the ark whom God showed grace toward. Think about how Noah offered a sacrifice to God because he was thankful to God and knew that God was right to judge all the wicked people. Then think about God's promise never to destroy the earth again with water again. Remember all these things the next time you see a rainbow. And tell a friend what that rainbow means; tell him or her the story of the flood.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the Bible lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



The Power of Water: God's Instrument of Judgment

Show the class a video clip from a documentary on hurricanes or floods. Here are some suggested videos:

20th Century with Mike Wallace

Underwater: The Great Flood of '93

A&E Entertainment, 1998

Chasing Killer Storms

Janson Media, 1997, 2005

Deadly Forces: Killer Storms/Savage Seas

TLC Video, 2000

Eyewitness: Weather

Penguin Groups, 1996

New Explorers: The Great Chicago Flood

A&E Entertainment, 2001

Raging Planet: Hurricane

Discovery Channel Video, 1998

Raging Planet: Flood

Discovery Channel Video, 1998

Raging Planet: Tidal Waves

Discovery Channel Video, 1998

Savage Planet: Storms of the Century

Granada Television/Thirteen/WNET New York, 1973, 2001

Tornado! Hurricane! Flood!

Wonders of Weather

Discovery Channel Video, 2000

Note that even the best sailors are no match for a strong storm, much less a global flood. When God sent the flood, He didn't just send rain. He sent the ultimate storm!



1

Here Comes a Storm

Talk with the students about wind, rain, lightning, and thunder. Fan the students with a large piece of cardboard or a cookie sheet to simulate wind blowing. Spray a water bottle above their heads to illustrate the rain that came down. Flash the lights in the room to represent lightning. Have the students stomp their feet quickly to simulate thunder.



Under Water

At the beginning of the lesson, illustrate that the world was entirely immersed in water by dunking an inflated globe in a large bucket of water. Explain to the students that God made a wind blow to dry up the water. Ask the students to blow like the wind, and then remove the globe from the water.

Praise and Worship

A Shield about Me

Arky, Arky

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Great Is the Lord

I Love You, Lord

Mighty Is Our God

O Worship the King

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Trust and Obey

We Bow Down

Who Built the Ark?

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



2
3

“How Long Was Noah in the Ark?”

Use this work sheet to help students understand just how long Noah and his family were in the ark. This work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



“God Preserves Noah”

Use this work sheet with students during your small-group time, or send it home for them to use with their parents. This work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: “God Keeps His Promises”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. Students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth” (Genesis 9:16).



How Long Was **Noah** *in the* **Ark?**

*Read Genesis 7:4–8:19 and fill in the blanks below
to find out just how long Noah was in the ark.*

1. Noah entered the ark during his ___ ___ ___th year, ___nd month, ___ ___th day.
2. The flood began on Noah's 600th year, 2nd month, ___ ___th day.
3. It rained for ___ ___ days and ___ ___ nights.
4. The waters prevailed on the earth for a total of ___ ___ ___ days.
5. The waters began to recede on Noah's 600th year, ___th month, ___th day.
6. The waters receded so that the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat by the 600th year, 7th month, ___ ___th day.
7. The waters receded so that the tops of mountains were visible by the 600th year, ___ ___th month, ___st day.
8. Noah sent out the raven and the dove ___ ___ days after seeing the tops of the mountains.
9. Over the next ___ ___ days, Noah sent out the dove two more times.
10. Noah determined that the earth was dry in his ___ ___ ___st year, ___st month, ___ ___st day.
11. God told Noah to go out of the ark in his 601st year, ___ nd month, ___ ___th day.
12. How long was Noah in the ark before the flood began? ___ days.
13. To prevail means to gain victory over. How long did the waters prevail over the earth? ___ ___ ___ days = ___ months of ___ ___ days.
14. After he saw that the earth was dry, how long did Noah wait before getting off ark? ___ month and ___ ___ days.
15. How long had Noah been in the ark? ___ year and ___ ___ days

God Preserves Noah



Genesis 8:1–9:17

Name _____

1. What did God do in Genesis 8:1? _____

2. Circle the two birds that Noah sent out of the ark.

raven

pigeon

dove

parrot

3. In Genesis 8:16, God commanded Noah to “be _____ and _____.”

4. What did Noah build after he left the ark?

house

boat

altar

5. With whom did God make a covenant? _____

6. What did God give as a sign that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood?

rainbow

star

sun

7. What does God remember when He sees the rainbow? _____

God Keeps His Promises

Draw a rainbow in the space below.

God Keeps His Promises

Draw a rainbow in the space below.

**“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”
(Hebrews 10:23).**

Look up the promises found in the verses below, and in the space provided, write the promise God has made.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 28:20

John 10:9

James 1:12

Philippians 4:19

1 John 1:9

**“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”
(Hebrews 10:23).**

Look up the promises found in the verses below, and in the space provided, write the promise God has made.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 28:20

John 10:9

James 1:12

Philippians 4:19

1 John 1:9

For a few minutes, think about the promises God has given in His Word. Take a few minutes and thank Him. In Psalm 92:1, we are told that it is good to give thanks unto the Lord and to sing praises to His name. In the space below, write a prayer of thanks or words of praise to His name.

For a few minutes, think about the promises God has given in His Word. Take a few minutes and thank Him. In Psalm 92:1, we are told that it is good to give thanks unto the Lord and to sing praises to His name. In the space below, write a prayer of thanks or words of praise to His name.



After 40 days, Noah sent out a dove from the ark to see whether the waters had receded from the earth (Gen. 8:6-12).



God set the rainbow in the cloud as a sign of His promise to never flood the earth again (Gen. 9:12-17).

