

# Family Devotion – Week One

## Noah Builds the Ark

### Read Genesis 6:5-22

***\*\*For preschoolers, read "Noah's Ark" in the Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz. For this week, only read pages 26-28.***

Do you like to build things with Legos? Maybe you have built towers, buildings, cars, spaceships, planes, or maybe even a boat. How did you know how to build these things? Did you have instructions? Did your parents help you? Or did you just use your own imagination and creativity?

Noah was a man who was asked by God to build something. God asked Noah to build a really big boat called an ark. God asked Noah to build the ark because He was not very happy with how the people on the earth were acting. They kept doing bad things and did not once think about God. And that made God sad. All the people, except for Noah, had forgotten about God.

God told Noah that He was going to save him, along with his family, from the flood that was going to come upon the earth. But first, Noah had to build the ark. Now, I wonder what Noah was thinking when God asked him to build an ark. Did he wonder how he was going to do it? What supplies would he use? How big did it need to be? Would there be enough room for everyone in his family? These may have been the questions going through his mind at the time.

But Noah need not worry about any of that. God gave Noah specific directions on how to build the ark. He told him what type of wood to use, how many rooms to put in it, what to coat the rooms with, how long, wide, and tall it should be, how to finish the roof, and even where to put the doors of the ark. And then God told Noah to bring in two of every animal on the earth, as well as every kind of food to be eaten and stored away. Noah didn't have to try to come up with his own plan because God had already given him a plan.

Did you know that God gives us instructions on how to live? We don't have to try and figure out on our own how to live our lives. The Bible is our guide and God tells us exactly how to live our lives in it. Make sure to spend time reading your Bible in order to learn all about God and how to be a faithful follower of Him. And then listen, trust, and obey God, just like Noah did.

*Holy God, thank You for saving Noah, his family, and the animals. Help me to listen to your instructions just as Noah did. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Family Game - Week One

## Animal Charades

*Supplies Needed: animal charades list, basket*

Cut apart each animal name from the animal charades list. Fold and place in a basket.

Divide your family into teams. On your team's turn, draw an animal name out. Have one team member act out the animal without speaking. Other team members will try and guess the animal. If your team guesses correct, give your team a point. Repeat until all animal names have been drawn. Add up the points for each team to see who wins!

# Family Craft -Week One

## Build an Ark

*Supplies Needed: Legos or blocks (or cardboard boxes and duct tape)*

Build your own ark using Legos or blocks. See how big you can make it with the supplies you have. If you have small toy animals, fit them inside your ark.

If you want to make a bigger ark, use cardboard boxes and duct tape. Pull apart boxes and duct tape multiple boxes together to make one large boat. This would be fun to do so kids could have something they could sit in and feel like they are inside the story of Noah's Ark.

# **Family Snack - Week One**

## **Noah's Ark Snack Mix**

Animals Crackers

Goldfish

Popcorn

M&Ms

Mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl and serve.

# Family Devotion - Week Two

## The Flood

### Read Genesis 7

***\*\*For preschoolers, read "Noah's Ark" in the Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz. For this week read pages 26-31.***

After a very long time, the ark was finally finished. It is believed that it took Noah around 120 years to build the ark. God was patient and He waited until Noah had finished the ark before He sent the rain to flood the earth.

*Here comes the flood!*

That's what I envision Noah shouting to his family and to all the animals as the rain began to pour down. His wife, children, and their families entered the ark and made their way inside to their safety. They were so very thankful to be saved from the rain and flood that would come over the earth.

God told Noah to collect two of every animal, which included birds and creatures that moved on the ground. When you hear the story, you might think Noah had to go out and round up all the animals and get them onto the ark. But in Genesis 7:8-9, it says that the animals "came to Noah and entered the ark." It's almost like the pairs of each animal Noah was to collect knew they were to get on the ark. They knew where to go and what to do. And they went. Isn't that pretty amazing?

What animals do you think entered the ark? Take a few minutes to shout out the names of animals that were on the ark...

When the rains came, it poured for forty days and forty nights. I am not a fan of rainy days. I love the sun. So I can't imagine being on an ark with animals for forty days and nights (talk about a bad smell). Nowhere to go but inside the ark. No sun shining either.

The flood wiped out everyone on the earth and all the animals on the earth. The only ones that were saved were Noah, his family, and two of every animal that entered the ark. It would have been hard to be Noah and his family, but I know they were very grateful to God to have been saved. God was with Noah and his family as the rain continued to pour and the water began to rise. And I bet Noah was so thankful he listened to God and built the ark (even though other people thought he was crazy for doing it).

*Father God, thank You for saving Noah and his family. Remind us to trust in You at all times. Amen.*

# Family Game - Week Two

## Animal Matching Game

*Supplies Needed: animal matching cards*

*It's time for the animals to get on the ark, but first they have to be paired up with their partner! In this game, you will match the animals together.*

Cut apart each square. Mix the cards up and lay them face down. Take turns uncovering two cards at a time. If you find a match, you can keep it and then go again. If you don't find a match, turn the two cards back over and then move on to the next player. When you find a match, you must then shout out the noise that the animal makes! Play until all cards have been matched. The player with the most matched cards wins!

# Family Craft - Week Two

## Rain Stick

*Supplies Needed: empty paper towel roll, duct tape, uncooked rice or beans, aluminum foil, markers, crayons or stickers*

It rained and poured for forty days! Can you imagine hearing it rain for that long? In this activity, you will be creating your own rain stick so that you can hear the sound of rain.

Take an empty paper towel roll and duct tape one end of it. Next, tear off a piece of aluminum foil. Twist it then slide it inside the roll. Add in rice or beans. Duct tape the other end of the paper towel roll. Decorate the outside of your rain stick any way you like using markers, crayons, or stickers. Then flip your rain stick to hear the cool rain sounds!

# **Family Snack - Week Two**

## **Animal Crackers & Yogurt**

Box of animal crackers

Vanilla yogurt

Blue food coloring

Tint your vanilla yogurt by putting in a few drops of blue food coloring. Stir until completely blue. Then dip your animal crackers in the blue yogurt and enjoy a sweet treat.

# Family Devotion - Week Three

## The Dove

### Read Genesis 8:1-19

***\*\*For preschoolers, read "Noah's Ark" in the Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz. For this week read pages 26-32.***

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something to happen? Maybe you have waited for your birthday to arrive so you can have a party with friends, waited for a teacher to grade your test to see how you did, waited for your family vacation to the beach, waited in line at a restaurant in order to be seated, or waited for Christmas to arrive so you can get all the presents you asked for. We can wait for a lot of things and sometimes it seems to take forever.

Noah had to wait. It rained for forty days and nights. But did you know that Noah had to wait a long time to be able to get off the ark? The whole earth had flooded and the waters kept rising. There was a lot of water, and it took a long time for the water to go down so that Noah and his family could see dry land.

Want to know how long they were actually on the ark? A year! Noah and his family were finally able to come out of the ark a little over a year after they entered it. Now that's a long time on a boat! I can only imagine how stir crazy they might have gone while they waited.

One of the things Noah did to see if there was dry land anywhere was he sent out a raven and a dove. First he sent out a raven, but it just flew around in the sky until the waters receded. Then he sent out a dove three times. The first time it came back because there was nowhere for it to rest. The second time it came back with an olive branch in its mouth which told Noah that there was dry land. The third time it did not come back so Noah then knew for sure there was dry land.

Finally, it was time for them to get off the ark and I am sure they were dancing with joy! I bet even the animals did a little happy dance! The wait was over, and Noah and his family could live on dry land again.

The next time you have to wait for something, remember how Noah and his family waited for the rain to end and the floods to go down. Practice patience, and know that God is with you while you wait.

*Holy God, it's hard to wait. Help me to be patient and remember You are with me through the waiting. Amen.*

# Family Game - Week Three

## Hunt for Dry Land

*Supplies Needed: Dry Land Hunt List, plastic bag*

This is a scavenger hunt-type game. You will go on a search for signs of dry land outside in your yard.

Using the dry land hunt list, search your yard for the items listed. When you find one, place it in the plastic bag if you can or snap a picture of it. Bring these items back inside and show them to your family. Talk about how Noah might have felt as he searched for dry land and waited.

# Family Craft - Week Three

## Stick Painting

*Supplies Needed: small stick, acrylic paint, paintbrush*

*The second time Noah sent out the dove, it came back with an olive branch. To remember this part of Noah's story, you will be decorating your own stick.*

Go outside in your yard and find a small stick. Set up a painting station inside your home (use newspaper or butcher paper to keep your table from getting paint on it). Then paint your stick with any design you like. After you finish, allow it to dry. When it's dry, place it in your room to remind you of Noah and how he used the dove to help him find dry land.

# **Family Snack - Week Three**

## **Blue Sky Jello**

Large box blue Jello

8 oz Cool Whip

Make the Jello in a pan or bowl according to the directions on the box. Refrigerate until fully set. Then take a fork and scrape the Jello into clumps. Spoon Jello into a clear cup, alternating between Jello and Cool Whip.

# Family Devotion - Week Four

## The Rainbow

### Read Genesis 9:8-17

***\*\*For preschoolers, read "Noah's Ark" in the Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz. For this week read pages 26-33.***

Do you get excited when you see a rainbow in the sky? I do! I usually yell loudly for my kids to see it and try to take a picture if I can. I love rainbows in the sky!

Did you know that the rainbow is a sign from God? The beautiful bow of colors in the sky is a symbol of God's promise given to Noah (and all of us).

After Noah and his family were able to get off the ark, God told Noah and his sons that He was establishing a new covenant (which is a promise) with all of His people and with all living creatures. God promised He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood like He did with Noah. The way Noah (and all of us) would remember this promise is with a rainbow in the sky. Anytime Noah and his family saw this rainbow, they would recall and remember God's promise. And God said He would remember His promise when the rainbow was in the sky, too. God promised to never destroy all the earth again with a flood, and He always keeps His promises.

Do you keep your promises? Lots of times we say we promise we will do this or that, but we never follow through and we end up breaking them. We promise our parents we will clean our room. We promise our parents we aren't lying to them. We promise not to call our brother or sister a mean name. We promise God we will read our Bible and pray every day. Promises can be hard to keep sometimes.

But even though we may break our promises, we know with 100% that God NEVER breaks His promises. He will always be there for us. He will always protect us. He will always forgive us when we ask. He will always love us no matter what we do (even if we break our promises to Him). God loves us so much!

The next time you see the rainbow in the sky, stop and say a prayer. Thank God for always keeping His promises. And tell Him you love Him so much.

*Father God, thank You for sending the rainbow to us as a reminder of Your promise. Help me to follow You all the time. I love You, Lord. Amen.*

# Family Game - Week Four

## Taste the Rainbow

*Supplies Needed: bag of Skittles, blindfold*

*For this game, you will be eating Skittles and trying to guess the flavor.*

Parents, before you start, pour some Skittles into a cup for each member of your family. Blindfold each family member. Lay out the same color Skittle in front of each person. Before they eat the Skittle, have them say, "I remember God's promise." Then have them eat the Skittle and guess what flavor it is. Continue doing this with each Skittle (do as many times as you like).

*\*\*Another way to play this is to have them write down their guesses on a sheet of paper after they have eaten the Skittle (or use a crayon of same color and draw it on a piece of paper). You can keep score and the person with the most number correct, wins!*

# Family Craft - Week Four

## Skittles Rainbow

*Supplies Needed: Skittles, cup of warm water, plate*

This is a little fun science experiment to see a rainbow be made!

On a plate, have each child make a circle using the different colors of the Skittles. Have them make the circle so that they rotate the colors. For example, they can do this pattern: red, orange, yellow, green, purple. Any version of this is fine, but don't put the same colors next to each other.

Next, heat a cup of water in the microwave. Then have each child pour the cup of water into the center part of the circle. Then watch as a beautiful rainbow of colors is made!

After you are finished, remind your children how God placed a rainbow in the sky and when we see it, we are to remember God's promise to never bring a flood to destroy the earth again. We are to remember that God loves us and is always with us.

# Family Snack - Week Four

## Rainbow Fruit Cup

Strawberries, sliced

Oranges (Cuties or Halos make a perfect size)

Pineapple chunks

Green grapes, sliced

Blueberries

Cool Whip

In a clear cup, layer fruit in this order from the bottom: blueberries, green grapes, pineapples, oranges, and strawberries. Top with a spoonful of Cool Whip.

Enjoy this Rainbow Fruit Cup and remember the rainbow that God placed in the sky as His promise to us.