**May 16th, 2021: pre-k thru 2nd grade
NOAH AND THE ARK lesson 3: the great flood**

 **AS KIDS ARRIVE:** Have boxes of craft sticks (popsicle sticks) available for them to build small arks of their own, or have toy arks or boats for the children to play with.

**WORSHIP TIME AND BIBLE VERSE: "The Lord watches over all who love Him." Psalm 145:20a NIV**
Explain to the children how God watches over us all the time. Sometimes, He gives us a way to keep safe from harm, like He did for Noah during the flood.

**BIBLE STORY:** Gather the children around you for story time. After the introduction, read the story about the building of the ark directly from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

**Introduction:** Listen carefully as I read another story about Noah. It’s about a big flood and how God protected Noah and the animals.

**Read Genesis 7:12-20, 8:1-19, 9:8-17**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. In our story today how long did it rain?*(Forty days and forty nights.)*2. Who shut the Ark's door once Noah, his family and all the animals where inside the Ark? *(God.)*3. How deep was the flood? Did it cover the mountains?*(Yes, it was very deep, it even covered the mountains.)*4. Once it stopped raining what types of birds did Noah send out? *(A raven and a dove.)*5 . The dove came back the first time because it couldn't find dry ground. Noah waited seven days and sent the dove out again. What did the Dove bring back? *(A fresh olive branch.)*6. What did Noah do once the flood waters receded and the Ark rested on dry ground? *(let the animals out)*7. God promised never to flood the earth again. What does God put in the sky to remind us of this promise?*(A rainbow.)*

**FUN TIME: GOD’S RAINBOW CRAFT (Materials: paper plates, crayons/markers, optional: printed mobile pictures, yarn) *A free***

**PREPARATION:** Using paper plates cut out arches that resemble the shape of a rainbow. With a black marker write, "God keeps His promises." Make one for each child in class.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** The children will take the paper plate arches and color them all the beautiful colors of the rainbow. Instruct them to take one color at a time and follow the shape of the arch. It will be helpful to complete a craft along with the children so they can have an idea of how it should look. Once completed tell the children that they can take the rainbows home and hang them on the refrigerator or on the wall in their rooms. They should look at the craft each day and remember that God keeps His promises.

***(Option)*** You can easily turn this craft into a mobile by printing out a set of mobile pictures on card stock for each student. Have the kids attach one picture under each leg of the rainbow with yarn.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** As the kids work on their projects ask the following questions:
1. Have you ever seen a rainbow?
2. Do you remember the first time you saw a rainbow?
3. How do you think Noah felt the first time he saw God's rainbow?

**ALTERNATE FUN TIME: COLORS OF THE RAINBOW GAME (Materials: chairs)**

**PREPARATION:** Place chairs in a circle, one for each child less one chair.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** One child will start the game by standing inside the circle of chairs, while the other children take a seat. The one in the center will say, “I see a beautiful rainbow, and in it I see the color \_\_\_\_.” The child will select and say one of the colors of the rainbow, for example “green.” Then, everyone sitting down who is wearing anything that is green must stand. Then quickly, along with the child who was in the center, scramble to find and sit down in a different chair. Whoever does not find a chair to sit on goes to the center, and calls out another color in the same manner, by saying, “I see a beautiful rainbow, and in it I see the color \_\_\_\_.”

Continue to play if possible until everyone has a chance to go to the center and call out a color.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** Noah lived long ago, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. When God saw that the rest of the world was full of people doing bad things, He told Noah to build an ark. God was going to send a great flood to cover the earth. The ark Noah built was huge. It had plenty of space for everyone to come in and sit down. But no one except Noah’s family believed God would flood the whole earth. God would only save Noah’s family and the animals. Just like in Noah’s ark, there is plenty of room for all of us in Heaven. We don’t need to scramble for a seat.

Jesus told us a little about Heaven when he said, “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2) And I bet there will be pretty colors in Heaven too. What do you think?

**ALTERNATE FUN TIME: FLYING DOVE GAME (Materials: small leafy branch)
WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Have the children pretend that they are the dove that Noah sent out to look for dry land.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** Show the children the small leafy branch and tell them that they are to pretend that they are the dove that Noah sent out to look for dry land. Tell them that they need to tuck their hands up next to their shoulders and flap their arms as if they are wings. Ask the children to close their eyes while you set the branch out somewhere in the room. The first time hide the branch somewhere that they will not be able to find it. Tell the children to open their eyes, Noah is opening the window and has asked the dove to go find a sign of dry land. Can they find the small leafy branch?

After they have flown around for several minutes tell them their wings are getting tired and that they have to return to the Ark. Let them rest for a moment and then get ready to send them out again. Ask the children to close their eyes while you set the branch out somewhere in the room. This time hide the branch somewhere that they will be sure to find it. Tell the children to open their eyes, Noah is opening the window for the second time and has asked the dove to go find a sign of dry land. Can they find the small leafy branch?

 **PRAYER/SNACK:** Thank God for His love and protection. Give children graham crackers and frosting and allow them to create their own versions of Noah's Ark.

**CLOSING ACTIVITY: FAITHFUL NOAH SONG (Materials: printed song sheet)**

***Children have fun singing about the different animals and sounds aboard Noah's Ark. Sung to "Old McDonald Had a Farm."***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SONG LYRICS***Faithful Noah had an ark.Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!* |  |
| And on that ark he had a bear,Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!with a grr-grr here and a grr-grr there.Here a grr, there a grr, everywhere a grr-grr.*Faithful Noah had an ark.Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!* | And on that ark he had an elephant,Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!with a trump-trump here and a trump-trump there.Here a trump, there a trump, everywhere a trump-trump.*Faithful Noah had an ark.Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!* |
| And on that ark he had a dove,Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!with a flap-flap here and a flap-flap there.Here a flap, there a flap, everywhere a flap-flap.*Faithful Noah had an ark.Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!* | And on that ark he had a zebra,Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!with a whinny-whinny here and a whinnie-whinny there.Here a whinny, there a whinny, everywhere a whinny-whinny.*Faithful Noah had an ark.Oh yeah, Oh yeah, Whoa!* |

**What We Learned:** Today, your child learned about the flood and how God kept Noah, his family, and all of the animals safe aboard the ark. When we choose to follow God, we can feel safe. Your child also learned how God promised never to flood the earth again, and how He gave us the rainbow so we can remember His promise. (Scripture used: Genesis 7:12-20, 8:1-19, 9:8-17)

**Words to Remember:** "The Lord watches over all who love Him." Psalm 145:20a NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help your child to remember the verse, but also it will help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Talk about how hard it must have been for Noah to build the ark, and how difficult it must have been to get all of the animals inside and care for them for so long. Remind your child also that God made a promise when it was all done never to flood the earth again. He gave us a rainbow to remember this promise. Ask your child if he or she believes God will really protect us like He says He will.

**Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank You for saving Noah and his family and the animals. Thank You for the beautiful rainbow that You put in the sky to remind us of Your promise. Help me trust You whenever You ask me to do something for You and to not be afraid to do it. Amen.