

LESSON



Noah Builds a Boat

WORSHIP

We praise God for His loving care.

References

Genesis 6:5–18; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 90–97.

Memory Verse

“We will obey the voice of the LORD” (Jeremiah 42:6, NKJV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that we worship God when we follow His instructions.

Feel assured that God gives us instructions because He cares about us.

Respond by following God’s instructions in everyday life.

The Message



We worship God when we obey Him.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God warns Noah of the danger that is to come on the earth. He guides Noah in preparing a way of escape from that danger for himself, his family, and the creatures God has made. Listening to God’s instructions, doing what He says, and building the ark is one way Noah worships God.

This is a lesson about worship.

Through His Word God provides guidance for us as we face evil in the world today. We worship God today when we listen to Him and do what He wants us to do.

Teacher Enrichment

“The ship was to be built according to exact divine instructions. Its dimensions as given to Noah show the vessel to be of extraordinary size. Had it not been for these detailed instructions from God, Noah, a man of no previous experience in ship construction or sailing, could never have built it. . . . Because of the lack of precise information in regard to the form of the ship, it seems futile to compute the exact cubical contents of Noah’s ark. It is clear, however, from the given description, that it was a vessel of formidable dimensions, with ample space for the animals housed within and for a year’s

FIVE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Things That Float or Sink</i> B. <i>Constructing a Boat</i> C. <i>Listening to Directions</i>	basins/bowls, water, cork, rock, pumice, spoon, coin, aluminum foil, etc. building materials: Legos, blocks, sticks, or large cardboard box 8-½"x11" or A4 paper, pencils
* Prayer and Praise *	up to 10	See page 57. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	saw, hammer, nails, measuring tape, etc.; toolbox
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	ark pattern (see p. 140), Bible, scissors
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Following Instructions</i>	bag or box, fruit, bottle of water, pillow, Bible, empty medicine bottle, picture of a mother and father, pair of eyeglasses or sunglasses, ruler, coin purse or coin, words cut out of a newspaper, envelope
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Ark Puzzle</i>	ark diagram from memory verse (See p. 140.)

food for all" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 253).

"The record of instruction given Noah closes with the observation that he had done everything God had asked him to do. He showed no hesitancy in obeying God" (*ibid.*, p. 254).

Room Decorations

Suggested decorations include an ark, either on a bulletin board or as

a freestanding wooden or cardboard model; lots of animals (stuffed, plastic, paper, or whatever is available); raindrops hanging from the ceiling or on the walls; water; plastic tools and work bench (this could be a table, or two chairs with wood between them); a big angel by the ark; Mr. and Mrs. Noah figures, and rainbows. You might add decorations to the room as the story unfolds.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they’re pleased/troubled about. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- basins/ bowls of water
- things that sink and float (cork, bark, rock, pumice, bolt or other metal object, spoon, coin)
- aluminum foil

A. Things That Float or Sink

Have the children drop items into the water to see if they float. Crinkle aluminum foil into a ball. It will sink. Flatten it out, fold it in half, and close the ends to form a simple boat. It will float. Let the children try this. You can also let them experiment to see how many coins they can drop into their aluminum foil boat before it sinks.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Was it easy to tell which things would float and which would sink? Would you know how to build a boat? How about a big boat? God knows how! He told Noah, and Noah listened very carefully to God’s instructions. And Noah did exactly what God said. And this is what we want to remember:**



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- building materials (Legos, blocks, sticks, boards, or large cardboard boxes [tape several together if necessary])

B. Constructing a Boat

Help the children use the building materials to make a boat. If you use a large cardboard box, you may want to cut a door and windows ahead of time. Have the children color and/or decorate the box.

If you choose to construct an ark that is large enough for children to sit in, you may want to continue to use it during the rest of this month.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Do you like building/making things? How would you like to build a boat large enough to fit all the people at church inside? Would you know how? Today we are going to learn about Noah, who built a big boat. God told him how to build a boat so he and his family would be safe. God watched over Noah, and God watches over us too. God told Noah how to be safe. God tells us in His Word how to be safe.**



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.

C. Listening to Directions

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Tell the children you are going to give them instructions for drawing a special picture. They must listen carefully to your instructions and do exactly as you tell them. Adults assist as needed. Allow time as you read the following aloud one at a time:

1. Place the paper so the longer edges are at the top and bottom and the shorter edges are on the sides. (Demonstrate.)

2. Put your pencil in the middle of the paper. Starting there, draw a straight line going up to the top of the paper, but stop before you reach the top. (Demonstrate.)

3. Starting at the bottom of the line you just drew, draw another line going toward the side of the paper (either side). Stop before you reach the edge. Go back to the point where the two lines meet, and draw another line going toward the other side of the paper. Stop before you get to the edge. (Demonstrate.) (The children should have an upside-down T at this point.)

4. Starting at the end of the line you just drew, make a big smiley mouth that ends way across the paper at the other end of the line. (Demonstrate.)

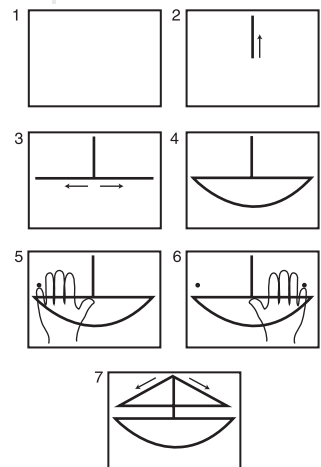
5. Keeping your fingers together, place one hand on the paper so that your thumb is at the bottom of the first line you drew, the one going from the middle of the page to the top. Make a small dot on your paper above the end of your little finger. (Demonstrate.)

6. Do the same thing with your other hand on the other side of the line.

7. Go to the end of the line at the top of the page. Starting there, draw a line to one of the dots. Go back to the top and draw a line to the other dot. Draw a line connecting the two dots. (Demonstrate.)

You Need:

- 8½" x 11" or A4 paper
- pencils



Debriefing

Say: **What do you have?** (Ask the children to show their picture.) **Does it look like a boat? Why?** (Some listened and followed the instructions and/or asked for help; others did not.) **It is important to follow the directions. God asked Noah to build a big boat so that Noah and his family would be safe. Noah listened closely to God's directions. God wants us to follow His directions too. He gives us His directions in the Bible.**



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 57.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Tell or read the following story to the children.

You Need:

- ❑ tools (hammers, nails, measuring tape, etc., real or toy)
- ❑ toolbox or a container for the tools

God looked down on the beautiful world He had made. The people were very wicked. Just a tiny group of people still loved God. Most people did every bad thing they could think of. It made God very sad to see so much sin and wickedness and suffering on the earth. God decided

He would have to destroy the beautiful earth and start over.

God went to Noah, for Noah’s family was one of the last groups of people who still loved Him. God said to Noah, “I have to destroy the earth because it is so wicked. I will send a flood of deep water to cover the earth. But I want to save you and your family and anyone else who will love Me. Make a big boat called an ark so people can be safe inside. Make it big enough that you can take animals into the ark too.”

God told Noah to make the ark out of wood from a certain kind of tree, called a cypress tree. The pieces of wood had to be very long.

(Line up all the children in class into one long line. If you have a very large class, divide into groups of 12–15. Ask them to hold their arms out to the side and stand fingertip to fingertip. If you need more space, go outside or use the hallway.)

Wow! That’s a really long line. Do you think the pieces of wood were that long? *(Take answers.)* I think they were even longer than that, for God told Noah to make the boat really, really big. Do you think the pieces of wood were heavy?

God also told Noah to make the ark really tall. *(Ask the children to stand on their tiptoes and reach as high as*

they can.) Do you think that would be tall enough? No. The boat was three stories tall. That means there was a downstairs, an upstairs, and then another upstairs. That would be as tall as *(refer to a building with which the children are familiar).*

Noah listened carefully to everything God told him to do, and then he obeyed and started building the ark. Do you think Noah built the ark all by himself? No, Noah had three sons who helped him, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And other people worked on the boat too. What kind of things do you think Noah and his family needed to build the boat? *(Allow the children to come and take tools out of your container. Talk about how Noah and his family might have used the different tools.)*

Noah and his family worked on building the boat for a very long time. And the whole time they worked on the boat, God was with them and watched over them and protected them. Noah was doing just what God told Him to do. And we want to obey God too. Remember:



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Noah felt when God talked to him? What did God say was going to happen to the whole world? How do you think Noah and his family felt when God told them they would be safe from the flood? (Glad, happy, said thank You) Their thank-Yous and praises were worship to God. Do you think**

Noah followed God's directions?**Remember:**

We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Genesis 6:5–18.

You Need:

- Bible

Point to the verses and say: **This is where we find today's lesson story in God's**

Word, the Bible. Point to each verse as you read it aloud. Ask: **What did God tell Noah to do? Did Noah do what God said? Do you want to obey God's voice too? How do we know what God wants us to do?**

(The Bible, parents, church leaders)

Memory Verse

Photocopy the ark pattern on page 140. (Use heavy paper.) Have the children color and cut out the ark. Help them cut it into a puzzle by cutting on the lines. Ask the children to put the puzzle together. Read the verse aloud: **"We will obey the voice of the LORD" (Jeremiah 42:6, NKJV).**

Mix the puzzle pieces and repeat the activity several times. Have the children save the puzzle pieces for use later today.

Say: **Noah obeyed the voice of the Lord, and we want to do that too. Remember,**



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible
- copies of ark pattern (see p. 140)
- scissors

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- large bag or box
- piece of fruit
- bottle of water
- pillow
- Bible
- empty medicine container
- picture of a mother and father
- eyeglasses or sunglasses
- ruler
- coin purse with coins in it or a coin
- words cut from a newspaper or magazine and sealed in an envelope

Following Instructions

Before class, put all the items into a bag or box the children won't be able to see into.

Say: **God kept Noah and his family safe because Noah followed God's directions for building the ark. God wants to keep us safe too. He has given us instructions that are meant to protect us. But we need to follow His directions. In my bag I have some things that represent some of God's instructions.**

Ask for volunteers (one at a time) to reach into the bag without looking and take out an item. Show the item to the class and see if they can figure out what direction from God the item represents. The children will probably need help with some of them.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why has God asked us to obey our parents?** (They know what's best for us.) **Why has God asked us to be careful about what we put in our bodies?** (So we don't harm ourselves.) **Why has God asked us to treat other people kindly? Why does God want us to study our Bibles?** (That's how we'll know what He asks us to do.) **How are all these instructions from God alike?** (They're all meant to protect us or to help us be happier.) **What does our memory verse say?** ("We will obey the voice of the LORD.")

Remember:



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me.

POSSIBLE RESPONSES:

- piece of fruit** — eat only foods that are good for you
- bottle of water** — drink only things that are good for you
- a pillow** — get enough sleep
- a Bible** — learn about God by studying His Word
- an empty medicine container** — be careful about the drugs/medicines you take
- a picture of a mother and father** — obey your parents
- eyeglasses or sunglasses** — be careful about what you read or watch on television
- a ruler** — the golden rule: treat other people the way you want to be treated
- a coin purse with coins in it or a coin** — share your money with those who have less/give to the poor/return a tithe to God
- words in envelope** — be careful about the words you use/a gentle answer turns away anger

4

Sharing the Lesson**Ark Puzzle**

Use the ark puzzle the children made during the Memory Verse activity. Have the children put the pieces together as the group says the memory verse again. Invite the children to take the puzzle home and use it to tell the story to someone else. Encourage them to emphasize that Noah followed God's directions. When we follow God's directions, we are worshipping Him.

Debriefing

Ask: **To whom are you going**

to tell the story of Noah and the boat? Why do we tell the story of Noah to others?

(Because it is a way to praise God for watching over us all the time.)

Remember our memory verse:

"We will obey the voice of the LORD." Say the verse together. Let's also remember:



We worship God when we obey Him.

Say that with me one more time.

You Need:

- copies of ark pattern (see p. 140)

Closing

Pray for the children. Ask God to help them praise Him by sharing the Bible story with others.

PRAYER AND PRAISE**Fellowship**

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.

Suggested Songs

"Arky, Arky" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 212)

"Come Praise the Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 211)

"My God Is So Great" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 112)

"Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 100)

"Noah Built a Great Big Boat" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 58)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

If possible, collect the offering in a wooden, plastic, or other toy boat.

Prayer

Ask the children to share a time God watched over them. In your prayer, name the children and praise God for watching over them all the time.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

STUDENT LESSON

Noah Builds a Boat

References

Genesis 6:5–18;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp.
90–97

Memory Verse

“We will obey
the voice of the
LORD” (Jeremiah
42:6, NKJV).

The Message

We worship
God when
we obey Him.

Do you know how to make a wooden boat? A long time ago God told Noah to build a big boat. But Noah didn't know how. Who do you think showed him what to do?

God looked at the world He had made. It had been very beautiful in the beginning, but the people had become very wicked. Just a few people still loved and worshiped God. Most people did every bad thing they could think of. It made God very sad to see so much sin and wickedness and suffering on the earth. God decided He would have to destroy the earth and start over.

God went to talk to His friend Noah, a good man, and one of the few people who still loved and worshiped God. God told Noah, “I have decided to destroy the earth because it is so wicked. I am going to send a big flood of deep water to cover all the earth. But I want to save those people who love Me. Make a big boat so you and your family will be safe. Make it big enough so more people and many animals can go into the boat with you.”

God told Noah how to make the boat. “Use wood cut from a cypress tree,” He said, “long pieces of wood. Cover the inside and outside of the boat with pitch, so water can't get in. Make the boat very, very long, and very wide, and very tall.”

God told Noah how to make the boat. “Use wood cut from a cypress tree,” He said, “long pieces of wood. Cover the inside and outside of the boat with pitch, so water can't get in. Make the boat very, very long, and very wide, and very tall.”

The boat was to be three stories tall, with a downstairs, an upstairs, and another upstairs. It was to be a big boat!

Noah listened carefully to everything God told him to do. Then he obeyed and started building the boat that we call an ark today.

Building such a big boat was a big

job, and it would take a long, long time. Noah needed help.

His three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, helped him. Others helped too.

They went into the forest and chopped down cypress trees. They cut the trees into boards and made them smooth. Then they began to fasten the boards together. Slowly, slowly, they put

the boat together. Just as God told them, they covered the boat with pitch, a kind of tar, so it would float safely.

Noah followed God's instructions very carefully. The Bible says he did everything as God commanded. God was with Noah and his helpers and watched over them. God wants us to follow His instructions too. Our Bibles tell us what God wants us to do. When we obey God, we are worshiping Him.



Do and Say



Sabbath

Read Genesis 6:5–8 and verse 18 together. Talk about God’s reasons for the Flood.* Say: God had a plan to take care of those who loved Him and He takes care of us too. Help your child think of ways God takes care of your family. Together, use the memory verse puzzle made in Sabbath School.

Sunday

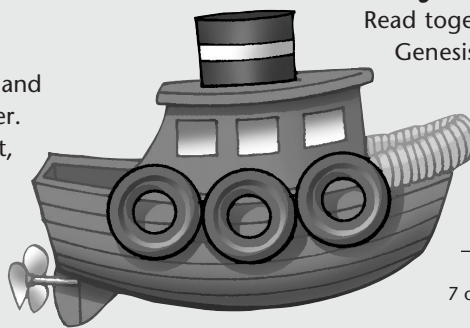
From the Bible (Genesis 6:14–16), read together the instructions God gave Noah. Where do we learn about God’s instructions for us today? Emphasize that obeying God is a part of worshiping Him. Ask: How do you obey? (Have the child give specific examples.) Say the memory verse together. Ask God to help your family follow His instructions as faithfully as Noah did.

Monday

Review Genesis 6:15, 16 together. If possible, point out to your child a building or structure of a similar size. Discuss the different kinds of people who work/travel often on boats/ships. Pray for their safety. Say the memory verse together.

Tuesday

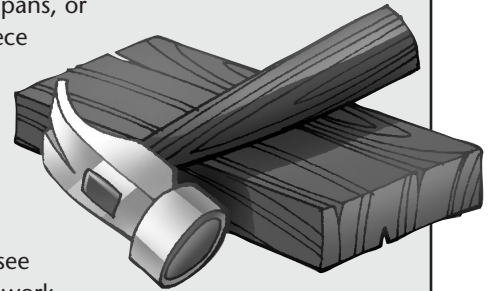
Use wood or a toy boat and let your child float it in water. Emphasize that, if built right, a boat will always float. Noah’s family was safe in the ark because they followed God’s instructions. Review the memory



verse. Thank God for keeping your family safe.

Wednesday

With pots and pans, or toy tools and a piece of wood, make the sounds heard while the ark was being built. If possible, visit a home construction site and see the wooden framework. Thank God for your home.



Thursday

Make an ark by gluing sticks or pretzels onto the ark pattern you brought home from Sabbath School. (Or draw a simple boat outline on paper.) Review the memory verse. Thank God for the instructions He gives us in the Bible.

Friday

Read together parts of the Bible story from Genesis 6:5–18. Ask: If you were Noah’s child, how would you feel about building a big boat? Sing a song about building the ark. Say the memory verse together and thank God for all you have learned this week.

*You might enjoy reading the first half of chapter 7 of *Patriarchs and Prophets*.