

LESSON



An Animal Parade

WORSHIP

We praise God for His loving care.

References

Genesis 6:19–7:24; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 97–104.

Memory Verse

“For what you have done I will always praise you” (Psalm 52:9, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God cares for people and the animals.

Feel thankful that God cares for us just as He cared in Noah’s day.

Respond by praising God for His loving care for us and the animals.

The Message



We thank God for taking care of us.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God tells Noah to save the animals by making a place for them in the ark and by storing up food for them. Noah obeys God, and at the right time, just before the rain begins, angels lead the animals to the ark and they enter it. After the Flood the animals leave Noah and his family. They scatter throughout the earth.

This is a lesson about worship.

We praise God because He cares for us today just as He cared for Noah and the animals.

Teacher Enrichment

“Noah had faithfully followed the instructions which he had received from God. The ark was finished in every part as the Lord had directed, and was stored with food for man and beast. And now the servant of God made his last solemn appeal to the people. With an agony of desire that words cannot express, he entreated them to seek a refuge while it might be found. Again they rejected his words, and raised their voices in jest and scoffing. Suddenly a silence fell upon the mocking throng. Beasts of every description, the fiercest as well as the most gentle, were seen coming from moun-

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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>Animal Parade</i> B. <i>Animal Survey</i>	none large sheet of paper, pen or pencil
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 63. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	large cardboard box with door cut into it (optional), area set up as the ark, paper sacks stuffed with paper or pillows or nonperishable food items
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>God Cares</i>	bag or box; pictures of (or toy) parents, teachers, home, church, food item, clothing
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Finger Puppets</i>	finger puppets (see p. 142), crayons, scissors, glue or stapler

tain and forest and quietly making their way toward the ark. A noise as of a rushing wind was heard, and lo, birds were flocking from all directions, their numbers darkening the heavens, and in perfect order they passed to the ark. Animals obeyed the command of God, while men were disobedient. Guided by holy angels, they 'went in two and two unto Noah into the ark,' and the clean beasts by sevens. The world looked on in wonder, some in fear. Philosophers were called upon to account for the singular occurrence, but in vain. It was a mystery which they could not fathom. But men

had become so hardened by their persistent rejection of light that even this scene produced but a momentary impression. As the doomed race beheld the sun shining in its glory, and the earth clad in almost Eden beauty, they banished their rising fears by boisterous merriment, and by their deeds of violence they seemed to invite upon themselves the visitation of the already awakened wrath of God" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 97, 98).

Room Decorations

See lesson 5.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they have anything they want to share about last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

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

A. Animal Parade

Say: **Let’s stand in a circle and pretend that we are animals.** (Name a child), **you choose an animal that you’d like to pretend to be, and we’ll all copy what you do.** Get the children to guess the animal. Take turns until each child has had a chance to choose which animal everyone will be.

Debriefing

Ask: **Which animal did you like best? Why? Would you like to see a real live** (name appropriate animal) **? Who made all the animals? God made the animals. How would you feel if you saw a lion or a tiger walking down your street? In our story today that is just what happened. God had special plans to take care of His animals, and He takes care of us too.**



We thank God for taking care of us.

Say that with me.

B. Animal Survey

Prepare in advance a chart as below.

You Need:

- board or a large piece of paper
- marker or pen or pencil

Type of animal	Number	Total
Cat		
Dog		

Total: all animals _____

Say: **Today we are going to find out what animals we have at home and how we take care of them. Put your hand up if you have a pet. What do you have?** Add other pets, if any, to the table.

When the table is completed, ask the children to tell you how they take care of their animals. If time allows, ask volunteers to move around the room like their animal and have the others guess what it is. If a child does not have a pet, they can choose to be any animal.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **We have lots of animals at our homes. We have . . .** (go through the list). **Who made the animals? God did. Do you always like taking care of your animals? How would you like to have a whole zoo to take care of, with just seven other people to help you? In our story today God asked eight people to take care of His very special zoo. God still cares for animals and for people too. Our message to remember today is:**



We thank God for taking care of us.

Say that with me.

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

Say: **Today we are happy because we know that Jesus takes care of us and our animals. But there are lots of boys and girls who don't know about Jesus. Our mission story is about**

(introduce the main character or plot). Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

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

Say: **When we give our offerings, the money helps send teachers and preachers and mechanics and all sorts of people to help other people learn about God.**

Prayer

Ask the children if they can think of a way God has cared for them this week. Invite a child or two to pray with you, and thank God for taking care of us. In your prayer, mention the children's responses and thank God for the many ways He cares for us each day.

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

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- large brown cardboard box with a door cut into it (big enough for children to crawl through) or a space designated as the ark (arrange chairs, tables, benches or other furniture to designate a space as the ark)
- sacks of "food" (brown paper sacks stuffed with paper or pillows) or a variety of nonperishable food items

Read or tell the following story to the children.

At long last Noah and his sons had finished building the ark. Noah was pleased. He knew that they had followed all God's plans to build the big boat. Now they needed to get all the food ready. *(Ask the children to carry the sacks of "food" or the nonperishable food items into the space you have designated as the ark.)* Now everything was ready.

The people just ignored Noah. They had no idea what a flood was. These people didn't love and worship God. They didn't believe Him.

Suddenly someone shouted and pointed. "Look at the lions!" Walking out of the forest and toward the ark were a pair of lions.

"And the rabbits!" shouted another. Others shouted, "And the dogs! And the kangaroos! And look at the birds!"

(Arrange the children in pairs and have them imitate different animals as they enter the ark.)

The people silently watched the strange parade. Animals were walking and hopping and flying into the ark. How did they know to come, and where to go? It looked as if no one was leading them. The people couldn't see the angels God sent to

lead the animals. Noah and his family put the animals into their cages and pens on the ark. *(Arrange the children and pretend to put them in cages.)*

After the last animals entered the ark, Noah may have come to the door and said, "Please come in and be safe." But no one came. Then Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives went into the ark. Finally God sent an angel to shut the door, sealing them safely inside. *(If you are using an ark space with a door, shut it now and have the children try to open it. Have a strong adult on the other side holding it closed.)* God would watch over Noah's family. They would be safe.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How would you have felt if you had been watching Noah building the ark? What would you have chosen: to go in the ark or to stay? How do you think Noah felt when he saw all the animals coming to the ark? What do you think would have been the most fun thing to do on Noah's boat? Who was taking care of both the animals and Noah and his family? (God) Who takes care of us? (God) That's right, and**



We thank God for taking care of us.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

You Need:

- Bible

Open your Bible to Genesis 6. Point to chapters 6 and 7 and say: **This is where today's story is**

found in God's Word, the Bible.

Read selected verses from Genesis 6:19–7:24, paraphrasing as necessary. (The children will especially enjoy chapter 7, verses 1–5.) Ask: **Who went into the ark? Who didn't go into the ark? Why did the animals go into the ark?**

Memory Verse**You Need:**
 Bible

Open your Bible to Psalm 52:9. Point to the verse and say:

This is where we find today's memory verse in God's

Word, the Bible. Point to each word as you read the text aloud.

Divide your class into two groups.

Have the first group say and clap:
"For what you have done"

The second group responds:
"I will always praise you"

Have everyone say together:
"Psalm 52:9"

Switch roles and repeat until the children know the verse.

3

Applying the Lesson**God Cares****You Need:**

- a bag or box
- items and/or pictures of things or people God uses to take care of us (parents, teachers, food, house, church, clothes, etc.)

Prepare in advance by putting the items or pictures into a bag or box into which the children will not be able to see.

Say: **God used Noah and his family to take care of the animals. There are things and people God uses to take care of us today. In my bag [or box] are some things and pictures of people or things that**

God uses to take care of us.

Invite different children to come one at a time, draw something out of the bag, name it, and show it to the rest of the class. Ask: **How does God use this to take care of us? Can you think of anything else God uses to take care of us? Let's praise God for taking care of us. Say with me, "We praise You, God, for taking care of us."** Encourage the children to praise God loudly. Repeat several times.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Finger Puppets****You Need:**

- photocopies of finger puppets (p. 142)
- scissors
- glue or stapler
- crayons, markers, etc.

Photocopy the illustration on page 142 onto heavyweight paper. Give one to each child along with scissors and crayons or markers.

Say: **Today we are going to make an animal finger puppet. You can choose your animal and color it. When**

you have colored it, a teacher will help you stick the sides together.

Say: **God can use you to help take care of someone or an animal. Think of something you can do this week. Show your finger**

puppet to someone and tell them how God took care of Noah and how He takes care of you too.

Allow the children to cut out and color their puppet. Help them glue or staple it together.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Can you put your animal on your finger? Can you make the noise of your animal? God cares for us, and we can help care for each other too. Remember:**



We thank God for taking care of us.

Say that with me.

Closing

In your prayer, thank God for loving and caring for each one of us all the time, just as He cared for Noah and the animals.

STUDENT LESSON

An Animal Parade

References

Genesis 6:19–7:24; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 97–104

Memory Verse

“For what you have done I will always praise you” (Psalm 52:9, NIV).

The Message

We thank God for taking care of us.

Isn't it fun to watch a parade? A long time ago Noah and his neighbors watched a strange animal parade. This is how it may have happened.

Noah's son stacked the last sack of grain with the other food in the ark, then came to stand beside his father at the open door. Noah was quiet for a long time. Finally he said, “It is finished. We have done everything the Lord told us to do.”

Noah marched down the ramp. A small crowd of people had gathered around it. People often came there to hear Noah tell about the coming flood.

“Water has never covered all the earth,” they may have shouted. “Why should we believe that it ever will?”

“Because God told me it will,” Noah always answered. But these people didn't love God. They didn't care about what God said.

“It's almost time,” Noah said to the people. “The ark is finished. The flood is coming! Come into the ark,” he may have begged. “God wants so much to save you!”

Nobody believed him. Nobody believed God.

Then suddenly someone may have shouted, “Lions!”

Everyone turned to see. Two lions padded together toward the crowd. But the lions didn't even seem to see the

people. They had their eyes fixed on the ark. They walked right up the ramp and disappeared inside.

“Elephants! Elephants!” a little boy yelled. Two big gray elephants trotted toward the ark. They also climbed up the long ramp and disappeared inside.

“What kind of trick is this?” someone shouted. “How are you making the animals do that?”

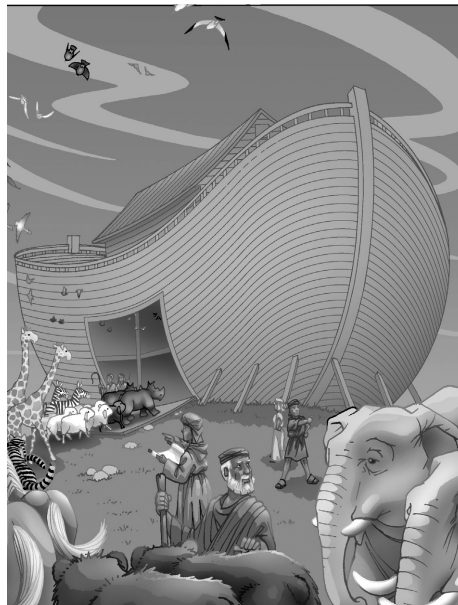
Noah's face spread into a huge smile. “It's the Lord!” he exclaimed. “The Lord is leading the animals aboard. I don't have anything to do with it!”

All that day animals came into the ark. The crowd watched in silence. When the last animal was safely inside, Noah once again came to the door of the ark.

“This is your last chance,” Noah may have pleaded. “Please come inside and be safe.”

But no one moved. So Noah turned away and walked quietly back into the ark. Then God Himself shut the big door and sealed Noah's family and the animals safely inside.

God had a plan to take care of Noah's family and the animals. And He has a plan to take care of us too.



Do and Say

Sabbath

To review the memory verse, ask your child to teach you the way he or she learned it in Sabbath School. Read together Genesis 7:1–3 and 7–9. Thank God for giving us the Bible.

In Sabbath School your child made a finger puppet to tell someone about God's care. Help him or her to do so.

Wednesday

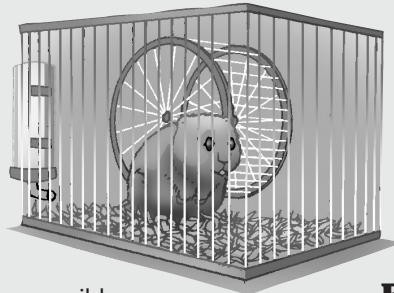
Help your child describe ways God cares for people and animals. Sing a "praise" song to thank God for His care. Sing an animal song too.

For fun, "bark" like a puppy to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me," then "meow" it like a cat. Then sing the words.

Sunday

Together, name ways God uses parents to take care of children. Talk about ways to take care of animals. Encourage your child to help care for an animal. Providing food and water is a good beginning.

If possible, plan a trip to a zoo or wild animal park. Thank God for the animals.



Thursday

Ask your child to make some animal sounds. Guess which animals are being imitated. Make some animals sounds yourself. How many can your child identify? Use animal crackers or a picture book to help your child identify the animals. Say and clap the memory verse together.

Friday

Use stuffed animals to act out the story of Noah. Make an ark by putting a blanket over a table. (Have lunch or supper as you sit together in the "ark.")

Review the memory verse and then sing "Jesus Loves Me." Thank God for taking care of us and for saving the animals for us to enjoy.



Monday

Tell the Bible lesson to your child. Ask: How many people joined Noah in the ark? Who? What did Noah do to get ready for all the animals? How do you know that Noah loved God? How can we show we love God?

Tuesday

Help your child draw a picture of the ark. How many animals can you draw going into the ark? Sing an animal song, then thank God for making animals for us to enjoy.