

LESSON 7

REFERENCES: GENESIS 7:6–24; 8:1–12; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, P. 105.

A Floating Zoo

What do you do when it rains day after day? The Bible tells about Noah and 40 days of rain. What did Noah do?

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oah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives rested safely inside the ark. So did the animals. God Himself had closed and sealed the door. For seven days they waited. And then the rain began, just as God had said it would.

Rain poured from the sky. It thundered onto the ark's roof. But Noah and his family—the people who loved God—were safe.

The rain poured down. All day. Every day. Soon water covered all the flat land, and the ark began to float.

Still the rain poured down. All day. Every day. But everyone inside the ark was safe. Noah and his family thanked God for keeping His promise.



Memory Verse

“Great is the LORD,
and most worthy
of praise.”

PSALM 48:1, NIV.

The Message

We thank God
for keeping
His promises.

And still the rain poured down. All day. Every day. Noah checked on the animals often. Some snored softly in their cages. They breathed slowly, in and out, in and out. Others nibbled on the food God had told Noah to put on the ark.

“How much longer is it going to rain?” one of Noah’s sons may have asked. “It feels as if it’s been raining forever.”

Noah likely smiled. “For 40 days,” he answered. “God said it would rain for 40 days. Don’t worry. Forty days is not forever.”

And still the rain poured down. All day. Every day.

Finally water covered the tops of the very tallest mountains. No land could be seen. Then God stopped the rain. It had rained for exactly 40 days.

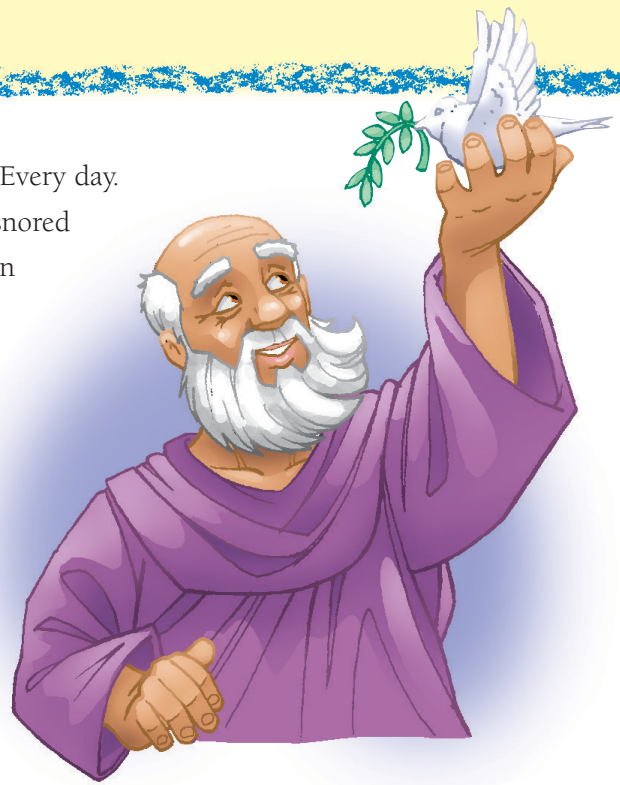
Slowly, slowly, the water began to go down. One day the ark settled on a mountain.

Noah waited for many, many days. Then he sent out one of the ravens. The bird soared across the water and kept flying back and forth until the waters had dried up.

Then Noah set one of the doves free. But it couldn’t find dry land, so it flew back to the ark.

Noah waited seven more days. Then he let the dove out again and watched it fly away. Noah waited. He waited and watched. Finally the dove returned to the ark. This time it had an olive leaf in its beak. “Things are beginning to grow again!” Noah exclaimed.

Seven days later Noah set the dove free once more. This time the little bird did not return. Then Noah knew that the waters had dried up. And Noah knew that God had kept His promise. The Flood was over. And they were safe.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Encourage your child to share the thank-you card made in Sabbath School with someone who takes care of him or her. Or help your child make a card that says thank-you to someone who takes care of them.

Review the memory verse.
(See page 61.)



SUNDAY

Together, read the lesson story from Genesis 7:17–20; 8:1, 6–12 so your child will know it is recorded in the Bible.

Make a weather calendar for the week. Start with today. According to the weather, add a sun, a raindrop, or a cloud to the square for each day.

MONDAY

Review the lesson story. Ask: What would it have been like to live in the ark? How do you think Noah and his family felt when the rain stopped? How would you have felt when the dove came back with a fresh olive leaf? What did God promise Noah? Did God keep His promise?

If possible, plan a trip to an aviary this week. Say the memory verse together.

TUESDAY

Use pebbles, dried beans, or similar objects to count the 40 days it rained. Place the objects

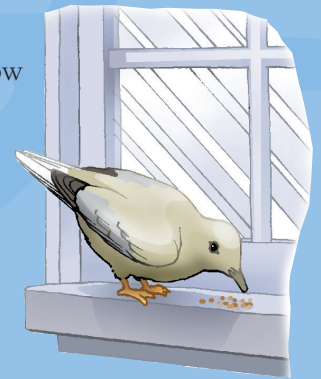
end-to-end to show that it rained for many days. Sing a song about rain. Thank God for taking care of your family on rainy days.

WEDNESDAY

Talk about promises. Make a promise to do something together later today. When done, ask who kept a promise today. Help your child understand that God keeps His promises to watch over us every day. Thank God for keeping His promises. Say the memory verse together.

THURSDAY

Put some crumbs or seeds outside near a window and watch the birds come and eat. (You may have to chase away the squirrels.) How many birds did you see? What colors were they? Say the memory verse together, then thank God for the birds.



FRIDAY

Act out being inside the ark while it rained. What would you do for 40 days? Pick some ideas and do them together.

Sing a song about rain. Thank God for keeping His promises. Have your child say the memory verse to the family.