

# LESSON



## God's Rainbow Promise

### WORSHIP

We praise God for His loving care.

#### References

Genesis 8:20–9:17; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 105–110.

#### Memory Verse

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be [a] sign" (Genesis 9:13, NIV).

#### Objectives

##### The children will:

**Know** that the rainbow is a sign of God's promise never again to destroy the earth by a flood.

**Feel** they can trust God to keep His promises.

**Respond** by praising God for His promises to us.

#### The Message



We thank God for His promises.

## Getting Ready to Teach

#### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After the Flood Noah builds an altar and praises God for His protection during the Flood. God sets a rainbow in the sky and declares it to be a promise that He will never again cover all the earth with a flood. Noah thanks God for that promise. The rainbow reminds us of God's promise, still being kept all these years later.

#### ***This is a lesson about worship.***

We worship God when we believe His promises and praise Him for keeping them.

#### Teacher Enrichment

"What a condescension on the part of God! What compassion for erring man, to place the beautiful, variegated rainbow in the clouds, a token of the covenant of the great God with man! This rainbow was to evidence the fact to all generations that God destroyed the inhabitants of the earth by a flood, because of their great wickedness. . . . This symbol in the clouds was to confirm the belief of all, and establish their confidence in God; for it was a token of divine mercy and goodness to man; that although God had been provoked

# EIGHT

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
<b>Welcome</b>	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
<b>1</b> <b>Readiness Activities</b>	up to 10	A. <i>Fingerpaint Rainbow</i>  B. <i>Gravity</i> C. <i>Make a Rainbow</i>	red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple paint; aprons or old T-shirts to cover the children; plastic or newspaper to cover the table and floor; butcher paper or newsprint; soap and water, wipes, or wet paper towels; rainbow (see p. 143) rubber balls prism or sun catcher or spray bottle of water or bubble mixture; magazine pictures, large paper, and glue
<b>*</b> <b>Prayer and Praise*</b>	up to 10	See page 86. <b>*Prayer and Praise</b> may be used at any time during the program.	
<b>2</b> <b>Bible Lesson</b>	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	large wall calendar, glass jar with lid, dirt, stones, twigs, water, stones or boxes to make an altar, rainbow, picture of a beautiful area before and after a disaster.
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible; paper; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple markers
<b>3</b> <b>Applying the Lesson</b>	up to 15	<i>Promise Branch</i>	twigs, tape or glue, thread, small weights such as washers, a small branch thick enough that you can't break it
<b>4</b> <b>Sharing the Lesson</b>	up to 15	<i>Waiting</i>	heavyweight paper, crayons

to destroy the earth by the flood, yet His mercy still encompasseth the earth. God says when He looketh upon the bow in the cloud, He will remember. He would not have us understand that He would ever forget; but He speaks to man in his own language, that man

may better understand Him" (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, pp. 77, 78).

### Room Decorations

Add a rainbow to the ark scene. You may want to use the handprint rainbow from Readiness Activity A.

## Teaching the Lesson

### Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

# 1

## Readiness Activities

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

### A. Fingerprint Rainbow

Photocopy the rainbow on page 143 for each child. Have the children dip a finger into finger paint and use their fingerprints to fill in each color of the rainbow. You will need to wash hands or wipe fingers with wipes or wet paper towels between each color.

#### You Need:

- red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple finger paint
- smocks, T-shirts, or old shirts
- newspaper or plastic
- photocopies of rainbow outline on page 143
- soap and water, wipes, or wet paper towels

#### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Which color is your favorite? How many things can you think of that are red? Who made the colors? Who made the rainbow? God made the rainbow to remind us of a promise.**



We thank God for His promises.

**Say that with me.**

**B. Gravity**

Hold the balls. Ask: **What will happen if I drop this?**  
Accept answers. Let the children take turns dropping the balls.

**You Need:**

- rubber balls

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **What happened when you dropped the balls? If we keep on dropping them, will they always fall down? Are you sure? Yes, they always fall to the ground. When God makes a promise to us, it is just the same as the ball bouncing on the ground. You know it will happen. We can trust God always to keep His promises.**



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Say that with me.

**C. Make a Rainbow**

If you have access to a prism, bring it to Sabbath School and place it in a sunny window. Let the children examine the rainbow it makes. Options: hang a sun catcher glass in the window; spray a fine mist of water in the sun and look at the rainbow it makes; blow bubbles in the light and look for the rainbows; make a rainbow collage by gluing pictures of things God has made in color bands.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **Which color is your favorite? How many things can you think of that are red? Go through all the colors. Who made the colors? Who made the rainbow? God made the rainbow to remind us of a promise.**



We thank God for His promises.

Say that with me.

**You Need:**

- a prism or a sun catcher or glass
- or spray bottle of water
- or bubble solution and blower
- or pictures in a variety of colors, large paper, glue



**NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 86.**

2

**Bible Lesson**

**Experiencing the Story**

*Begin the story time with everyone sitting in the "ark."*

**You Need:**

- large wall calendar
- space designated as the ark
- glass jar with a lid
- water
- dirt
- stones (colored ones if possible)
- twigs
- large stones or small boxes painted to look like stones or pillows or cushions (enough to build an altar)
- rainbow, from a Readiness Activity or room decoration
- picture of a beautiful area before and after a disaster

Noah and his family and the animals had been living in the ark for a whole year. *(Turn the pages of a calendar to show a year.)* It had been seven months since the ark had come to rest in the mountains. *(Count seven months on the calendar.)* It had been almost three months since Noah had released the dove for the third time, and she hadn't come back. When the dove didn't come back, do you think Noah thought they would be getting out of the ark soon? Yes, I think so too. But it had been almost three months, and they were still in the ark. *(Count three months on the calendar.)* Do you think Noah was beginning to wonder if God would ever open the door to the ark?

The animals were restless too. The elephants probably trumpeted to each other nervously. Can you trumpet like a nervous elephant? *(Trumpet like an elephant.)* The donkeys may have brayed. *(Heehaw like a donkey.)* The lions and tigers probably roared. *(Roar like a lion.)* The monkeys may have scampered and chattered. *(Ooh-ooh and ee-ee like a monkey.)* Everyone was ready to get out of the ark.

Finally God said to Noah, "It's time. Come out of the ark, you and your family, and all the animals." Then God opened the heavy door, just as He had shut it.

The animals were so happy to get out of the ark. *(Let the children run out of the space you have designated as the ark*

*by making animal noises and hopping or moving as the animal of their choice. You may need to help younger children choose an animal.)*

Noah and his family were very happy and very sad at the same time. They were very happy to be out of the ark and to be starting their new lives. They may have been very sad at what they found outside the ark. Big boulders covered the land. Even though new green grass sprouted almost everywhere and baby trees were beginning to poke up through the ground, it didn't look anything at all like the beautiful world they had left when they entered the ark.

*(If possible, find pictures of an area that was beautiful but then was ravaged by a flood or some other natural disaster. Show a picture of this place BEFORE such occurrence.)* This would be what the earth looked like before the Flood.

*(Show a picture of the place you showed earlier AFTER a natural disaster involving water. Example: storm, hurricane, tsunami, etc.)* What is different? All the same things are there, but it looks different. What made the difference? This may have been what happened to the world when God sent the Flood. All the rocks and earth got mixed up and moved around, so when Noah came out of the ark, everything looked very different.

Noah gathered some of the big rocks lying around and built an altar. *(Have the children help you gather the rocks, boxes, or pillows and build an altar.)* Then he and his family gathered around the altar and worshiped God. They thanked God for keeping His promise to protect them and for saving them from the terrible flood. *(Have the children kneel around the altar you have made and hold hands. Say a short prayer of thanks to God for caring for us and keeping His promises.)*

God appreciated Noah’s sacrifices. He blessed Noah and his family. “Have many children,” God said. “Fill up the earth.” God also told Noah, “I am making a promise to you and to your family and to all the animals. I will never again destroy the whole world with a flood. Look in the sky, and you will see the sign of My promise.”

Noah and his family looked up. (Point to whatever rainbow you have made or used as a decoration.) A gorgeous rainbow stretched clear across the heavens. Noah and his family had never seen anything like it before. It looked like all the colors in the world were there in the beautiful rainbow.

“Whenever you see the rainbow in the clouds,” God said, “you can be sure that I am remembering My promise to you.”

Noah and his family stood by the altar for a long time. They probably sang songs of praise to God for saving them. They may have prayed prayers of thanksgiving. And then they got busy building their new lives.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

**How do you think Noah and his family and the animals felt when they were able to leave the ark? What would have been the first thing you did when you left the ark? Why do you think the first thing Noah did was to build an altar? How do you think Noah and his family felt when they saw the first rainbow? Yes, I think they were thankful because God had kept His promise.**



We thank God for His promises.

**Say that with me.**

**Bible Study**

Open your Bible to Genesis 8 and 9. Point to the verses and say: **This is where we find today’s story in God’s Word, the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: **What did Noah and his family do when they left the ark? Did God keep His promise to Noah? Does God still keep His promises? Where can we find His promises?** (In the Bible)

**You Need:**  
 Bible

**Memory Verse**

In advance, use colored markers to write the following, one color/phrase per piece of paper:

**I have set** ..... red  
**my rainbow** ..... orange  
**in the clouds,** ..... yellow  
**and it will be** ..... green  
**[a] sign** ..... blue  
**Genesis 9:13** ..... purple

**You Need:**  
 Bible  
 six sheets of paper  
 markers (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple)

Open your Bible to Genesis 9:13. Point to the verse and say: **This is where we find today’s memory verse in God’s Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. Then distribute the papers and ask the children to put them in order of the colors of the rainbow. Help them read/say the verse. Then mix the papers and repeat until most children know the verse. (Large class: create a set of papers for each group of six.)

## PRAYER AND PRAISE



### Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

### 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)

"Who Made the Rainbow?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 60)

### Mission

Say: **God is a God of color. He used it in everything He made, even in people. He made some of us with brown hair and some blond, some light- and some dark-skinned. But not everyone knows that God loves them. Today we are going to hear about \_\_\_\_\_, who learned about God's love.**

Use the story from *Children's Mission*.

### Offering

Use the same toy boat you have been using to collect the offering. Say:

**When we give our offering, we help people like \_\_\_\_\_ in our story learn about God and His promises.**

### Prayer

Ask the children if they can think of a promise God has kept. In your prayer thank God for specific promises He has given us, such as to give us eternal life. Ask God to help the children trust Him and His promises.

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

3

**Applying the Lesson**

**Promise Branch**

Give each child two twigs. Ask them to break one. Then help them glue or tape the broken twig back together.

**Debriefing**

Ask: **Which twig do you think is stronger, the one you taped together or the one that isn't broken?** If they are uncertain, tie a small weight to a broken twig and to an unbroken twig. **This twig is like our promises. Sometimes we keep**

**them and sometimes we break them.** Show the thick branch. **Do you think we could break this branch?** Allow them to try if they want. **This branch is like God's promises. God never breaks His promises.**



We thank God for His promises.

**Say that with me.**

**You Need:**

- two small twigs for each child (that they can easily break)
- tape or glue
- thread
- small weights such as metal washers
- small branch thick enough that you can't break it

4

**Sharing the Lesson**

**Waiting**

**You Need:**

- heavy-weight paper
- art supplies

With the other Sabbath School teachers, plan a special activity for the children for next Sabbath or some other time this week. Tell the children to invite a friend and help them make an invitation in the shape of a rainbow. As you talk to the children about what you have planned, say, **I promise we will do this.** Be sure you follow through on your promise.

**we** [whatever activity you have planned]? **Are we going to do \_\_\_\_ right away? No, we have to wait a while. Just because we have to wait, does this mean it won't happen? No, it will happen even though we have to wait. Sometimes we have to wait for God's promises, but He always does what He promises.**



We thank God for His promises.

**Say that with me one more time.**

**Debriefing**

**Do you think it will be fun when**

**Closing**

In your prayer, thank God for promising to care for us and for always keeping His promises, even if we sometimes have to wait for Him to fulfill His promises.



## STUDENT LESSON

# God's Rainbow Promise

## References

Genesis 8:20–9:17; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 105–110

## Memory Verse

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be [a] sign" (Genesis 9:13, NIV).

## The Message

We thank God for His promises.

*Have you ever seen a rainbow? Sometimes you can see one after it rains. Noah and his family saw the very first rainbow God made. Do you know why?*

Noah and his family had been living in the ark for a whole year, and they were, most likely, eager to get out. The animals were probably wanting to get out too. Finally God said to Noah, "It is time. It is time to leave the ark."

So God sent an angel to open the heavy door. The animals thundered down the ramp. Horses kicked up their heels as they ran. Kangaroos bounced happily back and forth. Eagles soared, and lions roared.

Noah and his family felt happy and sad at the same time. They were very happy to be out of the ark. But they were sad at what they found outside the ark. Even though new green grass sprouted almost everywhere and young trees were beginning to poke up through the ground, it didn't look anything at all like the beautiful world they had left when they entered the ark. But they were safe. God had kept His promise.

So Noah built an altar and gathered his family around it. They thanked God for keeping His promise to save them from the terrible flood. They praised God for His protection. God gave Noah's family a special blessing. "Have many

babies," God said. "Fill the earth."

Then God gave them a promise. "I am making a promise to you, and to all who come after you. Even though rain will fall, I will never again destroy the whole world with a flood. Look in the sky, and you will see the sign of My promise."

Noah and his family looked up. A brilliant rainbow stretched across the heavens. They had never seen anything like it before. "Whenever you see the rainbow in the clouds," God said, "you can be sure that I will keep My promise."

Noah and his family stayed near the altar for a long time. They may have sung songs of praise and prayed prayers of thanksgiving. They had a rainbow sign. They knew God would always keep His promises. And we know that too. God has never again covered the whole earth with water. He still keeps His rainbow promise. Just as God kept His promise to Noah and his family, God will keep His promises to us today. We can find His promises in His Word, the Bible. And we can be sure He will keep them because He loves us very much.

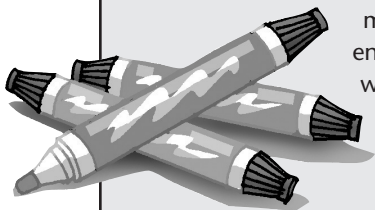


# Do and Say



## Sabbath

Go for a walk today. Look for colors in nature. Did you and your child find all the rainbow colors? Using red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet markers (in that order) write the memory verse, using a different color for each word. Cut the words apart, then put the words in rainbow order and say the verse together. Save the words for another day.



many are there? Name or find some fruit and flowers in different colors. Thank God for His rainbow promise and for all the colors that make our world beautiful. Say the memory verse together.



## Sunday

Together, read Genesis 8:15–21; 9:13–15. Ask: How do you think Noah felt when he came out of the ark? What do you think the animals did when they came out? Why did Noah thank God? Has God kept His promise? Thank God for keeping His rainbow promise.

## Monday

Find a piece of colored cellophane and have your child look through it. Ask: What happens to everything you see? Would you like everything to be the same color? Put the rainbow-colored memory verse words in order, then say the verse together. Repeat the rainbow finger play on page 64 of the student Bible study guide. Thank God for all the colors He put in the world around us.

## Tuesday

Name all the colors of the rainbow. Ask: How

## Wednesday

Help your child draw and color a rainbow. Use the colors of the rainbow in the correct order. Write the memory verse on it and hang the drawing in their room to remind them of God's promises. Sing "Who Made the Beautiful Rainbow?"

## Thursday

Early today, promise your child you will do something special later. Keep your promise, then talk about one of God's promises. Tell about one of God's promises that helped you. Together, say the memory verse, then thank God for keeping His promises.

## Friday

Act out the lesson story for family worship, emphasizing God's rainbow promise. When you pray, ask each person to thank God for keeping a specific promise, then close by thanking Him for His rainbow promise.