

LESSON 1

**NOAH**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Honors Right Living

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 6–9

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Sin in the world increases so greatly God chooses to destroy the world in a flood. Still, He remains faithful and honors righteousness by saving Noah and his family and establishing a covenant promise with them.

**Activity: Build a Boat**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**INVITATION**

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

Do you ever have moments where you realize that unless you step up, no one else will? Sometimes it's simple—in my home with my three kids, I often realize the sock on the floor will stay there forever unless I decide to take care of it. Or there are bigger things—a parent needs care, and you are the one available to help. Or it's Saturday night, and you get called to fill in for kids' ministry on Sunday.

I wonder if this is how Noah felt when he received God's instructions to build the ark. Out of all people on earth, God chose him for a monumental task that probably felt confusing and undesirable. But Noah was righteous, so he obeyed. God had seen in him the desire to do what is right—and because of this, Noah and his family were saved from the flood.

Living righteously isn't always fun, and it may not even seem rewarding at the time. The tasks God gives us often involve serving and giving of ourselves. And yet, as we do what God asks us to do, He honors us. He allows us to become more like Him, to grow in faith and good works.

So, whatever task God has called you to today, do it with a joyful heart, grateful that God honors righteousness.

**—Denise Morris Snyder**

Spiritual Formation Pastor

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**DID YOU KNOW?****FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

“[Noah] was without blame among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God” ([Genesis 6:9](#)). Noah’s righteousness is evident in his trust of God throughout the flood story, and God honors him for it. Noah sounds like the Hebrew word for comfort or rest.

**WHAT?**

The world was full of violence and evil. God regretted making human beings and decided to destroy with a flood all life except for Noah’s family and the animals in his care. God faithfully delivered creation by keeping them all safe on the ark and establishing a covenant with Noah after the flood.

**WHERE?**

Noah and his family most likely lived somewhere in Mesopotamia, which comes from the Greek word meaning “in the midst of the rivers.” This usually implies the Tigris and Euphrates river valley. They landed on Mount Ararat ([Genesis 8:4](#)), which is in modern-day Turkey.

**WHEN?**

[Genesis 6–9](#) comes shortly after the story of the first murder in [Genesis 4](#). By [Genesis 6](#), sin has corrupted the earth and filled it with violence. God has seen the worst of what humanity can be living under the reign of sin and has become greatly distressed by it.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY**

Noah walked with God, and God honored his righteousness by delivering creation from total destruction. In much the same way, Abraham walked with God. God honored his righteousness with the promise that would lead to Jesus, who delivers us from the power of death and makes all things new.

## Activity: Build a Boat

**SUPPLIES:** Play couch cushions

**Welcome! I'm so happy you're here! Today we'll learn about a man named Noah. God told Noah to build a big boat—called an ark—to keep him safe from a flood.**

Place cushions in the play area. Invite the kids to build a big boat using the play couch cushions provided.

**God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. God told Noah exactly what to use to build the boat and exactly how big to build the boat. It was huge! Let's use these cushions to build our own big boat.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HONORS RIGHT LIVING.****

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD HONORS**—*Point up.*

**RIGHT LIVING.**—*Put both hands on heart.*

## Clean Up

**At the end of free play...**

Play the Clean Up video to signify time to clean up toys and get ready for snack and story.

## Snack

**SUPPLIES:** Small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids at chairs around snack tables and pass out snacks and water. While kids are busy eating, begin the Bible story.

## God's Big Story

**Our part of God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Noah.** Encourage the kids to say, "Noah." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Noah!**

**In the beginning, God created everything! Years passed, and God saw that everyone was doing all the wrong things. But there was one man named Noah who made right choices and trusted God.**

**God told Noah to build a giant boat called an ark because God was going to make it rain for a long time. God also told Noah to gather every kind of animal onto the ark. Noah obeyed God.**

**Then it started raining hard! Noah and his family and the animals were safe on the ark. The waters flooded the earth. The ark eventually came to rest on dry land, and Noah, his family, and all the animals came out of the ark.**

**Noah worshiped God. Then God made a promise that He would never again flood the whole earth. He put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His promise.**

**Do you remember what God put in the sky to remind us of His promise?** Allow time for responses and show the drawing of a rainbow from God's big story. **Yes, a rainbow! God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Every time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's promise that he will never flood the whole earth again.**

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God.**

**God, thank You for loving us! Thank You that You help us do the right things. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** **May you be strengthened by the Holy Spirit each day to make right choices. May you remember that God honors right living. May you remain faithful to God because His love for you never fails.**

## Worship

**SUPPLIES:** Worship music videos

**God wants us to live His way and obey him, like Noah did. God is faithful to protect those who follow him. Let's praise God by singing!**

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.