

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 1

Noah

Scripture: Genesis 6:5-8, 22; 9:8-19; Hebrews 11:7; II Peter 2:5

Objects to have:

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and indigo crayons; and a large sheet of paper

OR

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and indigo chalk; and a chalkboard

A hammer and a board

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Start drawing a rainbow on the board or paper. Make the top arc red; continue with the other colors in order as above. While you are doing this, talk. Ask the children:) How many of you have ever seen a rainbow? (For a minute or two let the children tell you about seeing one.) Whenever we see a rainbow, we can remember a promise that God made to Noah. Whenever God makes a promise, He always keeps it. We'll learn in our lesson today what that promise was that God made to Noah. (Complete the rainbow.)

Telling the story:

(Pick up your hammer and board. Put your head down and call out:) "Hey, Noah, what are you doing?"

(Put your head up as if you're looking at someone while you are pounding.) "I'm building a boat."

(Stop pounding. Put your head down.) "Building a boat? Where do you think that you're going to sail it?"

(Pound and put your head up.) "Right here."

(Stop pounding, put your head down.) "Right here? There is only dry land here. Why are you doing it?"

(Don't pound; raise your head.) "Listen to me very carefully, and I will tell you why." (Put down your hammer and board.)

Noah explained, "When God first made everything, He saw that it was very good. He made the light, the heavens, the earth, the trees, flowers, grass; the sun, moon, and stars; the animals, fish, birds, and people. Everything that He made was very good. But, now look at the world. There's sin in the world. People do bad things. They lie and cheat and have bad thoughts and fight." Noah went on saying, "God told me that He feels so terribly sad when He sees how people are acting. He's sorry that He made them and the earth. God has decided to kill everything and everybody living on the earth except my family and me. God's going to save us because we trust God and want to do what He says to do. God's going to drown everything else with a flood."

Then Noah began to preach, "I'm building this big boat. Whenever it is finished it will be a place for people and animals and bugs to stay while God causes the rain to come down. It will rain so much that the houses, the hills, and the mountains will be completely covered with water. Everything that is not in the ark will be drowned.

Nothing will be left living. My friend, you better tell God that you're sorry for your sin." The man would not listen to Noah. Noah kept on building the ark, and he preached while he worked; he preached to everyone who came to talk with him while he was building the ark.

Noah and his sons sawed wood, pounded nails into the wood, and made a huge boat. It was as big as a great big ship. It had the first floor, the second floor, and the third floor, and stairs between. Noah made some rooms in the ark. There were rooms for him, his wife, his three sons, and their three wives. There were rooms for the animals and the bugs and the birds. There were rooms to keep all the food that Noah brought into the ark.

Then Noah rubbed some thick stuff all over the outside of the ark and on the inside. This pitch would keep the water from getting into the ark. On the inside it would keep the ark smelling good.

Noah made a door in the side of the ark. He also made a window in the top.

One day, about a year after Noah started to build the ark, God said to Noah, "It's time to start moving into the ark. I want you to take living things into the ark with you. You will, of course, take your wife, your three sons and their wives because I am going to save you. I want you to take some of every kind of animal with you—two of some kinds and seven of other kinds. Take two of every kind of bug. Take two of some kinds of birds and seven of other kinds."

Animals and creeping things and birds came to Noah, and he took them into the ark. He got enough food for every member of his family, eight people altogether and enough food for all the animals and birds and bugs. He led the animals and bugs and birds to their own rooms. The people went into their own rooms.

Then God shut the door.

After everybody had been in the ark for a week, the rain began coming down. Oh, how it rained! It rained one day and night as hard as it could rain; it rained the second day and night as hard as it could rain; it rained the third day and night as hard as it could rain. There were puddles of water standing in all the streets. Soon all the streets were full of water; the water was running just like a river in front of everybody's house. Soon the water began coming into the houses. The rain kept coming down. It rained the fourth day and the fourth night. The water got as high as the kitchen table and beds and the lower branches of the trees. Still the rain kept coming down and even going up through the ground. I think that people began hurrying from their houses to places on the hills. I imagine that they also kept wishing that the rain would stop.

Probably a lot of people said, "Noah must have been right. There he is safe in the ark, and here we are running from the rising water." No one else could get into the ark, could they? God had shut the door. It was too late for the people to think that Noah had been right. They had their chance to go into the ark while Noah was preaching to them.

The rain kept falling. The animals and birds ran and flew to the mountains. The people couldn't rest, but kept climbing higher and higher with their families, trying to get away from the water that kept getting deeper and deeper until it was covering the tops of the houses, the tops of the trees and the tops of the hills. And still it kept raining. It rained for forty days and forty nights.

After the forty days and forty nights of rain, even the tops of the mountains were covered with water. Everything and everybody was drowned in the water—that is, everything and everybody that was not in the ark. Everybody and everything in the ark was safe and dry. The big ark just floated on top of the water.

The rains stopped. The ark hadn't leaked one little bit. For days and days the ark just floated on the waters.

The water started going down. Finally, after being in the ark for a year, Noah opened the window and let a bird called a raven fly out of the ark. The raven did not come back. The ark had come to rest on land. Noah let a bird called a dove fly out, but the dove came back because the ground wasn't dry enough yet for the dove to land. A week later Noah opened the window and let the dove fly out again. This time the dove came back with a leaf in her beak. She had found a tree that had leaves on it and in which she could make a nest. Noah knew by this that it was about time for him and his family and all the animals and bugs and birds to leave the ark. After seven more days he opened the window and let the dove fly out again. This time she did not return. Noah took the covering

off the ark and saw that the ground was dry! Everybody and everything could now leave the ark! Oh, what a happy day that was.

Noah opened the door in the side of the ark. Everybody and everything walked out on dry ground. Noah built an altar. He and his family stopped and said “thank you” to God for keeping them safe when everything else had been destroyed. Noah and his family had been kept safe because Noah had obeyed God and built the boat that God had told him to build. His family also trusted God and obeyed Him; they went into the ark with Noah.

Then God said, “I am going to put my bow in the sky. Whenever you see that, you can remember a promise that I am making to you. This is My promise: I will not anymore destroy the whole earth with a flood of waters. That is My promise to you.” God said, “I am going to put something in the sky to let you know that I will always keep My promise.” He put the rainbow in the sky. Sometimes we get to see it. Whenever we see the rainbow in the sky, we can remember God’s promise to Noah. God said that He would not ever again destroy the whole earth with a flood.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Genesis 7:5, “And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.”