

=BIBLE PROMISES=

Lesson 1

Bible Promises About God's Creation

Scripture: Genesis 8:22; 9:8-17; Genesis chapters 6 through 9

Objects to have:

Paper and pen
Saw and hammer, if desired
Pictures of floods, if possible; if not, at least pictures of much water
A picture of a rainbow
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

I'm going to make a promise to you. (Give the children a promise which you can keep to them right after you tell the story.) If I do what I have just promised, you can say that I am keeping my promise. If I do not do what I just said I will do, you can say that I broke my promise. If we do not keep promises which we make, that is the same as telling a lie, isn't it? Yes. We should be careful not to promise anything which we cannot keep. Now, just so that I do not forget the promise which I just made to you, I am going to write it down on this paper. (Write it, saying the words aloud so that you keep the attention of the children while you are doing it. Perhaps it would be better to write it on the chalkboard where those who can read can see what you have written.) Now, I am going to sign my name to the promise which I just made. That is called writing my signature. With my signature there, you are sure that I will keep my promise. God made a promise one time. In fact, God has made hundreds and hundreds of promises. I want to tell you about one promise which God made. At the end of the story, I would like to have you tell me whether this promise has been kept. Are you ready to listen to the story?

Telling the story:

God had to do something very hurtful one day. God had to do something sad to the world which He had made. God loved the people in the world which He had made. God saw the people in the world which He had made. God saw that the people were not behaving properly. God saw that the people were sinful. There were not many people who even thought about God. There were fewer people who loved Him. There was one man who loved God, however. Noah loved God. So did Noah's wife and Noah's three sons and their wives.

God said, "Noah, I have to do something very sad. I love all the people; that is why it is so sad. I see that the hearts of all the people are very wicked. They will not change. I have to destroy them. I do not want to destroy you, Noah. If you follow my directions, you will not be destroyed."

I think that Noah said, "What should I do, Lord? I do not want to be destroyed. I do not want my family destroyed."

God said, "Get your saw and your hammer in good shape. Be sure that they are both clean and in good condition to do a lot of work for you. I want you to build a great big ark, a ship-like boat. There are to be three different floors in this boat. Listen to My plans." Noah listened to God's plans. Noah began building the boat. I think that maybe Noah was wondering something. I think that Noah was wondering where he was going to sail that big boat. He did not live near a big river nor a big ocean. He was building the ark in his own yard, I think. Noah sawed and hammered, hammered and sawed. The boat was beginning to look like a big boat. While he was building this boat, Noah had many chances to tell other people what he was doing. Like all other people, maybe they asked him what he was building; maybe they were curious.

Noah said, "You should listen to me. God is going to make it rain. The rain will fall one day, two days, three days, four days, five days, six days, seven days, eight days, nine days, ten days." Boys and girls, that would be too many rainy days to have all at one time, wouldn't it? It would make us feel rather dreary to have so many rainy days all at one time. Noah said, "That is not all. There will be many more rainy days than that." Oh, my, more rainy days! "Yes, more rainy days. So many rainy days that the water will begin to stand in great big puddles on the ground. Then the water will completely cover all the streets. Water will get into people's basements. Then the water will start to cover the bottom step on the porch, then the next step on the porch; it will get into people's houses. The rain will still be coming down, and water will start to get into people's houses. The rain will still be coming down. The water will rise in people's houses until the whole inside of the house will be covered with water. The beds and chairs and tables will be covered with water. Then the whole houses will be covered. Then the tops of all the trees will be covered. Then the mountains and hills will be covered. What will happen to the people? They will all drown. If any people will turn from being so wicked and ask God to save them, then He will." None of the people wanted to ask Jesus to be their Saviour. That made Jesus sad! (Teacher, read Luke 13:34 for verification of this.)

Noah finished his ark. He still could not go into the ark to stay. He had another job to do first. He had to gather some animals into the ark. He had to gather two of some kinds of animals and seven of some other kinds of animals. Whew! That was a big and hard job to do. He also had to get two of every kind of creeping thing! That means that he had to get two worms, two bees, two ants, and so on. He also had to catch two of every kind of bird. Can't you see that Noah was busy getting all these things to go into the ark? Each kind of animal and bug and bird had its own room in which to stay. That was pretty nice, wasn't it? Noah had to take food into the ark for the animals and birds and bugs and for his family. Finally, Noah and his family could go into the ark. God saw that everybody and everything was in the ark that belonged there. So, He shut the door. Then He let the rain start to fall. When the waters got as deep as a river, the ark floated on top of the river and did not sink! I imagine that Noah was glad he had followed God's orders exactly as he should, don't you? When the waters got as deep as a lake, the ark still floated on top of the waters. When the waters got as deep as an ocean, the ark still floated on top of the waters. What was happening to the people and the animals and the birds and the bugs that were outside the ark? They were not safe. The people had their chance to come in, but they would not. They all drowned. God had to destroy them. Everything outside the ark was under water and was getting broken up and ruined.

One day, the rain stopped coming down. The ark floated peacefully upon the waters. Everybody and everything in the ark was happy and dry. They had enough food to eat. They had places to sleep and play. The ark kept floating. One day, the ark seemed to come down with a thud! Oh, that could mean that the waters were almost gone. Noah waited for a few more days. He would give the earth plenty of time to dry so that he and his family would not get their feet wet.

When Noah and his family came out of the ark, I think that they stretched under the pretty sunshine. They built an altar and thanked God that He had kept them safe. God said, "Yes, and I want to make a promise to you, Noah. I am never going to destroy the whole earth and all the people and animals in it with a flood. There will always be day and night, summer and winter, hot and cold. Food will always grow and food can always be picked and brought into the house for eating. That is My promise." God's promise is written down, boys and girls. It is written here, in the Bible. (Show them the place.) God said, also, "I want to remember My promise. I am going to put the rainbow in the sky. Whenever there is a cloud, My rainbow will be in that cloud. The rainbow will be a reminder that the earth and everybody and everything in it are never to be destroyed by a flood again." Here is a picture of a rainbow. Have you ever seen one, boys and girls? Learn our Bible verse. (Teach Genesis 8:22 to the children. Then ask them the following:) What was God's promise? Has He kept His promise? Yes, God always keeps all His promises.