

Noah and the Ark

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“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:8

Scripture Reference: Genesis chapters 6-9

Objective: Children will be able to know and understand the story of Noah as told the Bible. They will be able to identify characteristics of Noah that made him find grace with the Lord.

Vocabulary:

Grace: favor and love

Introduction:

Materials needed:

- Toy ark/boat or picture of boat
- Male doll representing Noah or picture of Noah
- Stuffed animals or pictures of animals

1. Begin by showing the items to the children and ask them if they know any Bible stories that might have to do with a boat and a man. After they have made guesses show them the stuffed animals and ask them again if this helps them remember any stories from the Bible. If they do not come to it on their own guide them to the name of Noah and how he built an ark as God directed him to.
 2. Tell them they have probably heard the story of Noah before, but can they think of anything special about Noah. Can they think of any reasons God would be pleased with Noah? The children may or may not be able to come up with reasons. Let them know by the end of the lesson they will find these answers.
 3. Introduce the memory verse: “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:8. Explain to them the meaning of grace. Ask them if they can think of a time when they found grace in someone’s eyes. Guide the conversation to that of their parents. When did their parents feel favor and love toward them? What did they do to earn that?
 4. Explain to children that by the end of the lesson they will memorize Genesis 6:8 and be able to explain why Noah found that grace.
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Memory Verse Activity:

Materials needed:

- Large piece of paper with verse printed on it, or written on a board in the room
- Prepare ahead of time strips of paper with the verse already printed on them, or write it yourself, enough for each child to have one. Leave extra space between each word, as shown below, because these will be cut out individually

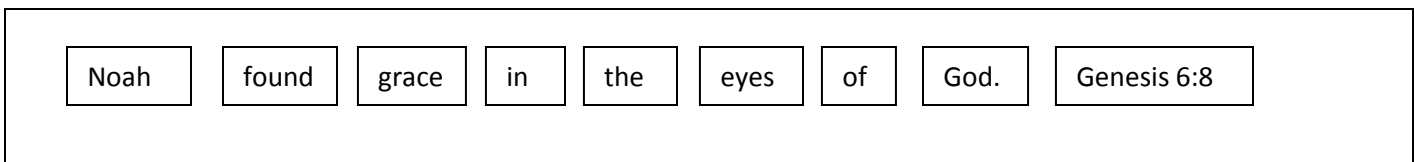
Noah	found	grace	in	the	eyes	of	God.
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Genesis 6:8

- Strips of construction paper (large enough to glue the memory verse on in order), 1 per child +1 to use as a demonstration
- Scissors, 1 per child
- Glue sticks, 1 per child (or they can share, but it's easier if everyone has their own)

1. After showing the large paper with the verse printed on it, post it somewhere in the room where the children can see it during the activity.
2. Explain to the children they are going to be doing an activity to help them remember their memory verse. Reread the verse then have all the children read or repeat it again with you.
3. Show them the strips of paper with the verse printed on them. Explain to them that they are going to cut out each word individually. Demonstrate this using your strip of paper. Then they will glue them to the strip of construction paper in the correct order. Demonstrate gluing the first two words to the paper.
4. Give each child the memory verse and a pair of scissors. Remind them to keep their words track of their words and keep them together so they can complete the activity. When they have finished cutting their words collect their scissors. Then give them the larger strip of construction paper and a glue stick. Have them glue the words in order. Remind them the verse is posted in the room to help them.
5. They can decorate around the verse if you choose, or time allows.

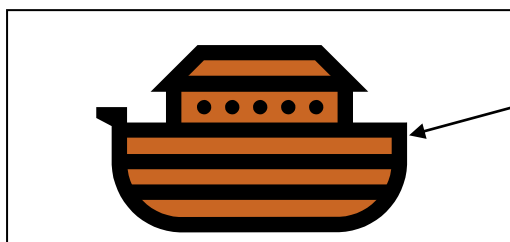
Example of completed memory verse:



Noah and the Ark Lesson Craft:

Materials needed:

- Prepare ahead of time large ark shaped cutouts for each child out of sandpaper or brown construction paper. They should be large enough to fill most of the construction paper being used for the background.
- Construction paper for background (any color), 1 per child. Prepare the paper ahead of time by cutting a slit at the top of the paper, just under the place where the deck of the ark will be when it is glued to the paper. The length of the slit should be just about the same width as the ark. Example:



Cut slit here,
just behind ark

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Glue
- Wooden craft sticks, 1 per child

- Prepare ahead of time a cutout to be used as Noah. You may draw your own or find a picture to copy and use. There are many online websites with free pictures to be used in Sunday school classes. This figure should be about 2-3 inches tall.
- Construction paper cutouts or stickers of animals to be placed on the ark. Or the kids may draw their own animals and you can skip this step.

1. After reading through the story of Noah and the ark the children will make pictures depicting the ark with animals. Begin by passing out a sheet of paper to be used as a background to each child. It always helps to have a sample craft already prepared to show the children.
2. Pass out the ark cutouts and glue. Help the children glue the ark onto the paper. Be sure the slit behind the ark stays open. This is where the Noah figure will go so he can move along the top of the ship.
3. Have the color the Noah figure. Then pass each child a craft stick and glue the completed Noah figure to it. This is now a simple puppet. When the ark is complete, Noah is inserted in the back through the slit, and can be moved across the ark guided by the craft stick.
4. Pass out the animal cutouts or sticker and have the children place them on the ark. Or have them draw the animals at this time.
5. Children may also decorate the construction paper background by adding water, etc.

Noah and the Ark Lesson:

1. Begin telling them the story of Noah and the ark by asking a few questions to get them thinking about what they will be learning. Why did God want Noah to build an ark? What did he bring with him on the ark? After talking through their answers begin telling them the story of creation. You may want to read it directly from the Bible and clarify it for younger children as you go. You can also find a copy of a children's Bible and read the story from there, or simply tell it in your own words. Or you can use the story below. If you are using this story, or another without pictures, it helps to have some pictures to go along as you read. There are many sources for free pictures that can be used for Sunday School lessons online (www.akidsheart.com/bible/, www.ebibleteacher.com/children/ , <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibleles.htm>) these are just a few there are many more if you do an online search.
2. After reading the story discuss with children what things Noah did that made God decide to save him and no one else. These are the reasons he found grace in God's sight. (He did the right thing even when no one else did. He followed God's commandments even when it wasn't easy. He trusted in God and built the ark even though he never saw rain. He was thankful for the blessings God gave him and his family.)

Noah and the Ark

Long ago after God had created the earth it began to be filled with people. The earth was full of people just like us, living a lot like we do now. Families spent time together. People got married. Babies were born. Life was busy, but not everything was good on the earth. People were not living the way God wanted them to. In fact almost everyone was acting wickedly all the time. They spent all day, everyday doing things that were wrong. God looked down upon the earth and was very sad. The people He had created had become so evil they didn't care about Him or his commandments anymore.

They wouldn't stop hurting each other. It became so bad that God decided he had to destroy the earth and everything that lived there.

Even though the earth was a terrible place to live, there was one man who was different from all the rest. God looked down at the earth and saw there was someone who wasn't like everyone else, a good man who loved God and kept his commandments even when no one else did. His Name was Noah. One day God told Noah He was tired of all the sin on the earth and was going to destroy it and start over, but because Noah had followed God's commandments he and his family would be saved. The Lord was going to send rain, enough rain to cover the whole earth. This rain would cause a great flood that would destroy everything on the earth. God told Noah to build a giant boat called an ark that he and his family would be safe in. God explained to Noah exactly how to make the ark and how big it should be. Noah believed God and did as He said. Now, this wasn't an easy thing to do. At the time Noah lived it had never even rained a drop, let alone enough to cover the entire earth. Even though Noah had never seen rain, he believed God when He said He would send it. So, Noah built the ark exactly like God told him to. It took a long time to build the ark, but Noah never gave up. He listened to God's directions and got everything ready for when the rain came.

God gave Noah very specific directions of how to prepare for the time when the rain would come. He wanted to be sure Noah and his family would be able to live not only while they were in the ark, but afterwards when the rain would stop and they would once again be able to live on the land. To make sure they would have everything they needed God told Noah to collect food for his family and seeds to plant when the flood was over. God also still wanted animals after the flood, so he told Noah to bring some of every kind of animal onto the ark with them. Noah brought two of some kinds, and seven of others. As you can imagine the ark had to be very big to hold all those animals!

Finally the ark was finished. The food was packed and the animals were loaded onto the ark. Noah and his family also entered the giant boat. Then before the rain began God shut the door to the ark. The rain began to fall. It rained without stopping for forty days and forty nights. The entire earth was covered with water, even the mountains. Everything living thing that was not on the ark died, but all the people and animals inside the ark were saved. Then one day the rain stopped and the sun began to shine again. It took a long time for the water to begin to dry up and the mountains and land to appear again. After awhile Noah sent a bird out to see if it would find land, but it came back because it couldn't find any. Seven days later Noah sent the dove out again and it brought back an olive leaf so they knew the water was dried up and plants had begun to grow again. So the family was able to get off the ark and begin their new lives on the earth. They were all very thankful to God for saving their lives. God also made a promise that he would never again destroy the earth by a flood. So God placed a rainbow in the clouds to show that even when it rains he will never destroy the earth through a flood. The rainbow is still there as that promise to us.

Noah and his family survived the flood because they had kept God's commandments. Noah was a righteous man who did the right thing even when no one else did which is a very hard thing to do. Noah was faithful to God and found grace in his sight because he lived his life the right way.

Noah and the Ark Lesson Review Activity:

Doing the Right Thing...No Matter What

1. Ask the children what they could do to find grace in God's eyes in their own lives. When is it hard to do the right thing especially when no one else is? Write their ideas down on a board or large sheet of butcher paper if no board is available in a numbered list.

Example:

1. When the teacher walks out of the room during a test and someone wants to copy your work.
2. When you break something at home and your mom asks who did it.
3. When your friends want to watch a movie or TV show you know you aren't allowed to watch and they tell you not to tell your parents and watch it anyway.
4. You're at the store and one of your friends wants you to put some candy in your pocket and not pay for it.

2. After the list is made have one of the children roll a die. Have them read that number from the list. Then have the kids all come up with a way they could handle that situation and do the right thing even when no one else is. Just like Noah did so long ago.