

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

CELEBRATE GOD SERIES

CELEBRATING GOD'S PROMISES — LESSON 2 (GENESIS 6-9)

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Bible Verse

“When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it. I will remember that my covenant will last forever. It is a covenant between me and every kind of living creature on earth.” *Genesis 9:16 (NIRV)*

Lesson Objectives

1. We can celebrate what God is doing, even during tough times.
2. We should obey God's commands and stay faithful to Him.
3. God loves us and will never leave us.
4. We might not always understand God's ways, but we can trust Him.
5. God always keeps His promises!

Teaching Aids

“Celebrating God's Promises” Power Point

Background Information

Humans were populating the earth. However, they were sinful and did evil things. God regretted having made humans and decided to destroy them, along with all the

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TEACHER'S GUIDE CONTINUED

creatures He had made. Noah and his family were the only humans who remained faithful to God. God therefore chose to spare them from the great flood He would send to wipe out all living creatures on earth.

Noah showed his faithfulness by obeying God's instructions to build a tremendous ark that would house he and his family, along with the animals God would save from the flood. It must have been frightening for Noah and his family as the flood waters closed in around them. Yet they trusted in God, and after 150 days the waters had gone down. Some time later Noah and his family and all the animals exited the ark and stepped onto dry land. Noah built an altar to honor God and made sacrificial offerings. God was pleased and made a promise that He would never destroy the earth again by a flood. The sign of His promise was a rainbow seen in the sky.

This covenant with Noah displayed God's mercy for humankind, which would be seen later in His sending Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world. We celebrate in God's promises, which He always keeps.

I. Introduction to the Bible Lesson

A. Have you heard the story about Noah and the flood?

1. It's a Bible story most of us first heard in Sunday school. Even people who haven't grown up in church know the story of Noah and the flood!
2. A lot happens in the story: Noah building the ark, gathering animals two by two, God flooding the whole earth, and sending a rainbow in the sky after the flood waters had gone down.
3. There are also lots of themes in this story: being obedient and faithful to God, trusting in Him during hard times, and celebrating His promises.
4. Let's go through the story of Noah and see how God brought him and his family through the flood.

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II. The Flood (*Genesis 6-7*)

A. There began to be many people on earth. But they were sinful and did evil things.

1. Because of Adam and Eve disobeying God and eating the forbidden fruit, all people are born with sin. (*Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12*)

B. God regretted having ever made humans. He said, "I created human beings, but I will wipe them out. I will also destroy the animals, the birds in the sky, and the creatures that move along the ground. I am very sad that I have made human beings." (*Genesis 6:7, NIRV*)

C. However, God was pleased with Noah.

1. Noah and his family were faithful and obedient to God. The Bible says that he was without blame among the people of his time. (*Gen. 6:9, NIRV*)

D. God saw how sinful the earth had become, and that the people were leading sinful lives.

1. God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to everyone...I am certainly going to destroy them and the earth." (*Gen. 6:13, NIRV*)
2. God went on to say that He would bring a flood to the earth that would destroy all life under the sky. Everything on earth would die. (*Gen. 6:17, NIRV*)

E. But, God made a covenant with Noah.

1. A covenant is a promise, and in this case it is a holy promise from God.

F. God gave Noah instructions to build a mighty ark.

1. God had very specific instructions on how the ark was to be made. It was to be made from cypress wood, with a door in one side and upper, middle and lower decks. The ark was to be 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, and 45 ft. high. (*Gen. 6:14-16, NIRV*)

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II. The Flood (*Genesis 6-7*) continued

2. Noah, his wife, their sons and their wives were to live in the ark when God flooded the earth. Noah was also to fill the ark with two of every kind of animal and bird, male and female, and every creature that moved along the ground. They were to take every kind of food and store it in the ark for themselves and the animals. (*Gen. 6:18-21, NIRV*)
3. Noah did everything just as God commanded him. (*Gen. 6:18, NIRV*) This is very important! Building a huge ark and filling it with animals might have seemed an impossible task. But Noah was faithful to God and was obedient to Him.
4. What times in your life have you been obedient to God?

G. God commanded Noah to take his family and the animals into the ark.

1. God said He would send the rains for 40 days and 40 nights, and everything on earth would be destroyed. (*Gen. 7:4, NIRV*)
2. Again, Noah obeyed God! He and his family went into the ark, as did all the animals and birds, male and female.
3. Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. Once he and his family and all the animals were in the ark, God shut the door. Then the rains came for 40 days and 40 nights. (*Gen. 7:11-12, NIRV*)

H. The earth was flooded for 150 days. The waters rose until all the high mountains were covered. The ark rose with the water and floated at the top. Every living thing on earth, including humans, died in the flood. Only Noah and his family and the animals in the ark were spared. (*Gen. 7:17-24, NIRV*)

1. Do you think Noah and his family were frightened as they heard the waters closing in around the ark? Would you have been frightened?
2. What can we do when we are scared and facing hard times? (*Pray, read the Bible, be in Christian community, trust God*)

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III. God's Promise (*Genesis 8-9*)

A. Even though the earth was flooded, God remembered Noah and all those with him in the ark. So, God sent a wind to sweep over the earth. And the waters began to go down. (*Genesis 8:1, NIRV*)

1. It took a long time for the waters to go down— 150 days! But by the seventh month, the ark came to rest on top of the mountains of Ararat.

B. After 40 days Noah opened a window in the ark. He sent out a raven, but it kept flying back and forth until the waters had dried up. Then Noah sent a dove to see if the waters had gone down. But the dove couldn't find any place to rest because the waters had not gone down yet. So, it returned to the ark. (*Gen. 8:6-9, NIRV*)

1. Noah waited seven more days before sending out the dove again. This time the dove came back with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Noah waited seven more days, and then sent out the dove again. This time the dove did not return. Noah then knew the waters had dried up, and the ground was visible again. (*Gen. 8:10-12, NIRV*)

C. Then God told Noah to come out of the ark with his family and all the animals. Noah came out with his wife, his sons and their wives, and all the animals. (*Gen. 8:15-19, NIRV*)

1. Noah built an altar to honor God and offered an animal sacrifice. God was pleased and He said, "I will never put a curse on the ground again because of human beings...I will never destroy all living things again, as I have just done." (*Gen. 8:21, NIRV*)

D. God blessed Noah and his sons. He commanded them to fill the earth again with people. God would also give them control over all the living creatures on earth. (*Genesis 9:1-3, NIRV*)

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III. God's Promise (*Genesis 8-9*) continued

E. God then made a covenant (a promise) with Noah and his sons. He said, "The waters of a flood will never again destroy all life, or the earth." (*Gen. 9:11, NIRV*)

1. God went on to say He would put His rainbow in the clouds as a sign of this covenant. God would remember His promise never to flood the earth again when the rainbow appeared in the sky. This was a covenant God made with Noah and all life on earth. (*Gen. 9:12-17, NIRV*)
2. Does God keep His promises? (**YES!**)
3. God made promises to others in the Bible. The best example is the promise He made to all of us, in sending His Son Jesus Christ to earth to die for the sins of the world. This promise can be found in ***John 3:16 (NIRV); "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life."***

IV. Conclusion

A. We can celebrate what God is doing, even during tough times.

1. Noah and his family were facing hard struggles. But when the waters had gone down Noah built an altar to praise God. It was a time to celebrate when God made His promise with Noah that He would never flood the earth again.
2. What are ways you can celebrate God during tough times?

B. We should obey God's commands and stay faithful to Him.

1. Noah was obedient and faithful to God, even with so much uncertainty. He knew that God was in control.

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IV. Conclusion continued

C. God loves us and will never leave us.

1. Just as God was with Noah and his family during the flood, God is with us during our struggles. Remember, He promised to never leave you!
(Matthew 28:20b)

D. We might not always understand God's ways, but we can trust Him.

1. We might not always understand why God allows certain things to happen. But we can trust that He is with us and loves us no matter what.

E. God always keeps His promises.

1. God never breaks a promise. Imagine if He broke His promise of sending Jesus Christ to die for us! We celebrate knowing that God is with us, and always keeps His Word.

Closing Prayer

God, thank You for loving us and promising to always be with us. We celebrate joyfully knowing that You are always with us! Help us to trust in Your ways, even when we don't understand. Guide us in our lives and help us to share Your Good News with others. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did God want to flood the earth?

- Human beings were doing evil things and God regretted having ever made them.

2. Why did God want Noah and his family to live?

- Noah was faithful and obedient to God and God was pleased with him.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

3. What did God command Noah to do?

- God commanded Noah to build a mighty ark and fill it with two of every kind of animal and bird, male and female, and every creature that moved along the ground. Noah and his family were to take every kind of food and store it in the ark for themselves and the animals.

4. How long did the rains last to flood the earth?

- The rains lasted 40 days and 40 nights, just as God said.

5. How did Noah know when the flood waters had dried up?

- Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had gone down. At first the dove returned to the ark, and Noah waited seven more days before sending out the dove again. This time the dove came back with a fresh olive leaf in its beak.
- Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove again. This time the dove did not return. Then Noah knew the waters had dried up.

6. What did Noah do to honor God once he was back on dry land?

- Noah built an altar and offered an animal sacrifice, to honor God for bringing them safely through the flood.

7. What promise did God make to Noah?

- God made a covenant, a promise, with Noah and his sons. He said, “The waters of a flood will never again destroy all life, or the earth.”
- God put His rainbow in the clouds as a sign of this covenant. God would remember His promise never to flood the earth again when the rainbow appeared in the sky.

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PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Noah and his family were frightened as they heard the waters closing in around the ark? Would you have been frightened?
2. What can you do when you are scared and facing hard times?
 - You can pray, read the Bible, be in Christian community, and trust God in all things.
3. What are some ways you can celebrate God in your life?

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