

Lesson 3

The Flood

Lesson aim: to show that God hates sin, but has made a way of escape for those who obey him.

Preparation



1. Read Genesis 6:5 - 8:22; 9:8-17.
2. Answer the following questions:
 - how many people went into the ark? (6:10,17)
 - how many of each kind of creature went into the ark? (6:19-20; 7:2-3)
 - what were the clean animals? (Leviticus 11)
 - who shut the door? (7:16)
 - what does the rainbow signify? (9:8-17)



A long time ago, there lived a man called Noah. Noah and all his family loved God. Noah did what God told him to do.

But the other people in the world did not love God. They were mean and selfish. (Talk about the sort of things the people did, e.g. fighting, stealing, etc.) This made God sad, and angry too, because they were spoiling the earth he had made.

God told Noah that he was going to send a flood to cover the whole earth. (You may need to explain 'flood'.) All the animals, birds and people would die. But God would save Noah and all his family.

Then God told Noah how to make a big boat called an ark. Noah listened carefully. Then Noah made the ark just as God told him to.

When the ark was finished Noah collected every kind of bird and animal to go in the ark too. God told Noah how many of each kind of animal and bird to take into the ark. Noah took 7 pairs of every kind of bird, 7 pairs of some animals and 1 pair of other animals, just as God told him.

When they were all safely inside, God shut the door. Then the rain came. It rained, and rained, and rained and rained. Soon there was water everywhere. The water covered all the trees and all the mountains. The ark bobbed up and down for days and days. Finally God stopped the rain and the water began to

go down. Then the ark landed on a mountain. Noah, his family, all the animals and all the birds came out.

Then Noah said thank you to God for keeping them safe.

As he did, God put the first rainbow in the sky to tell them and us that he would never flood the whole world again.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for saving Noah's family and the birds and animals. Thank you that you have promised never to flood the earth again. Amen.

Visual aids

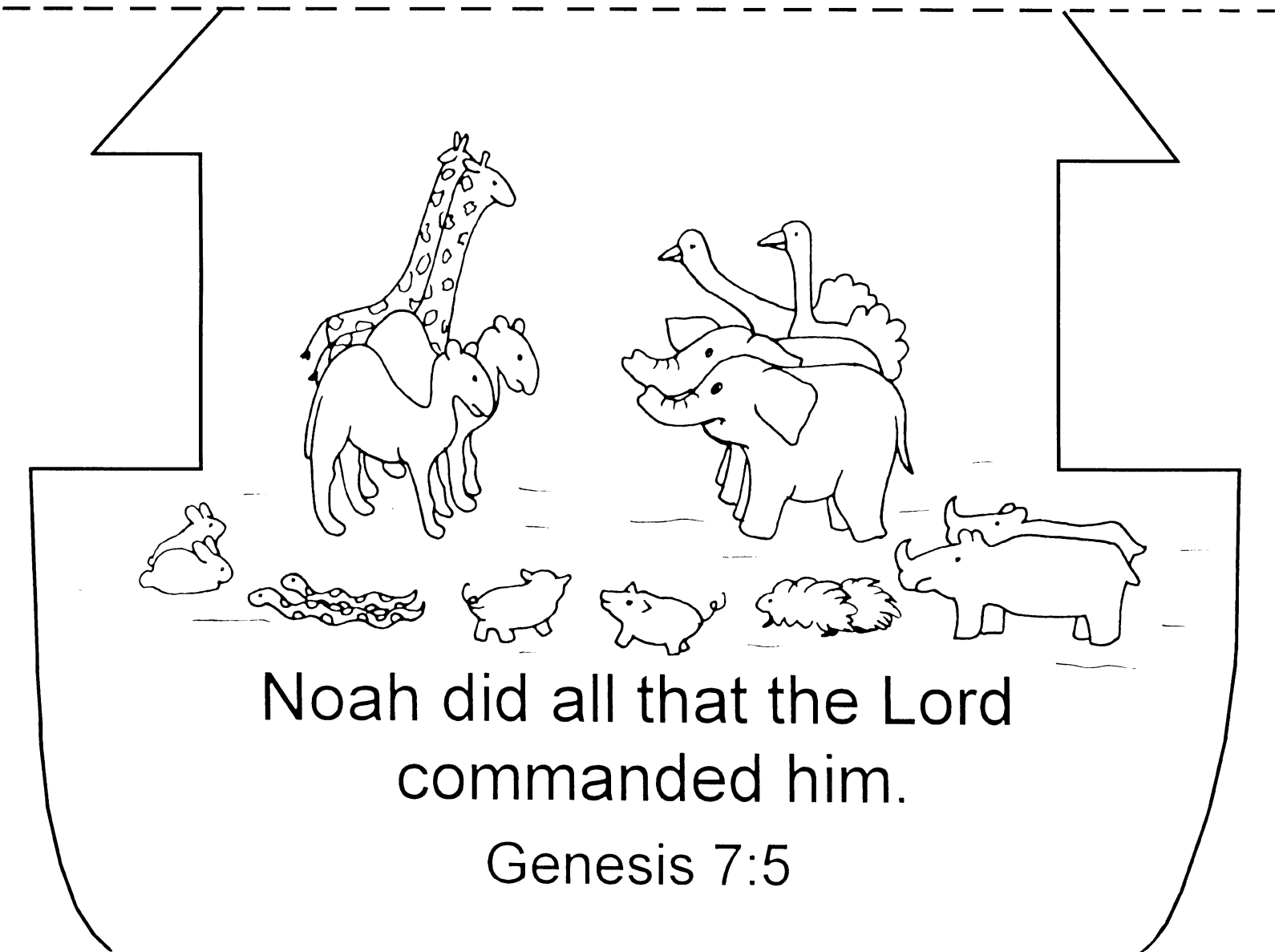
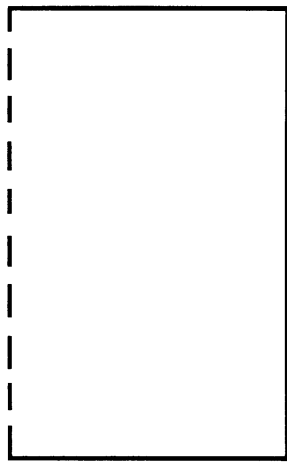
Pictures from a Child's Story Bible.

Activities

1. Photocopy page 13 for each child.

Prior to the lesson, fold the page in half along the dotted lines and cut around the shape of the ark. Cut along the unbroken lines around the door and window and fold back along the dotted lines. The children colour the ark and the animals. The animals appear in the door and window when opened. Ask the children if they can remember the things that Noah did which God told him to do.
2. Designate an area of the room to be the ark. Mark the boundaries in some way, e.g. with a rope on the floor, masking tape, etc. Divide the children into pairs and tell them which animal or bird each pair is. The teacher takes the part of Noah and rounds up the animals and birds to go into the ark. The children make appropriate animal noises, flap their arms if they are birds, etc.
3. Make a mural to put on the wall.

You need a length of plain wallpaper or large sheet of paper with a big rainbow drawn on it, animals, birds, people and scenery cut from magazines, and a cut-out of an ark. The children colour the rainbow and background appropriately. Glue the cut-outs onto the background to show what happened after the flood waters receded.



Noah did all that the Lord
commanded him.

Genesis 7:5