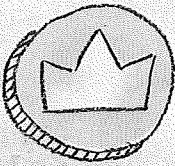


THE GOSPEL

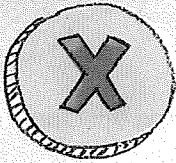
GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



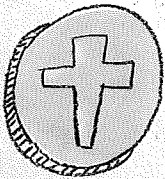
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



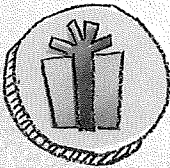
WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



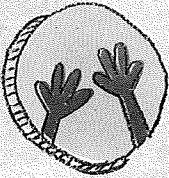
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

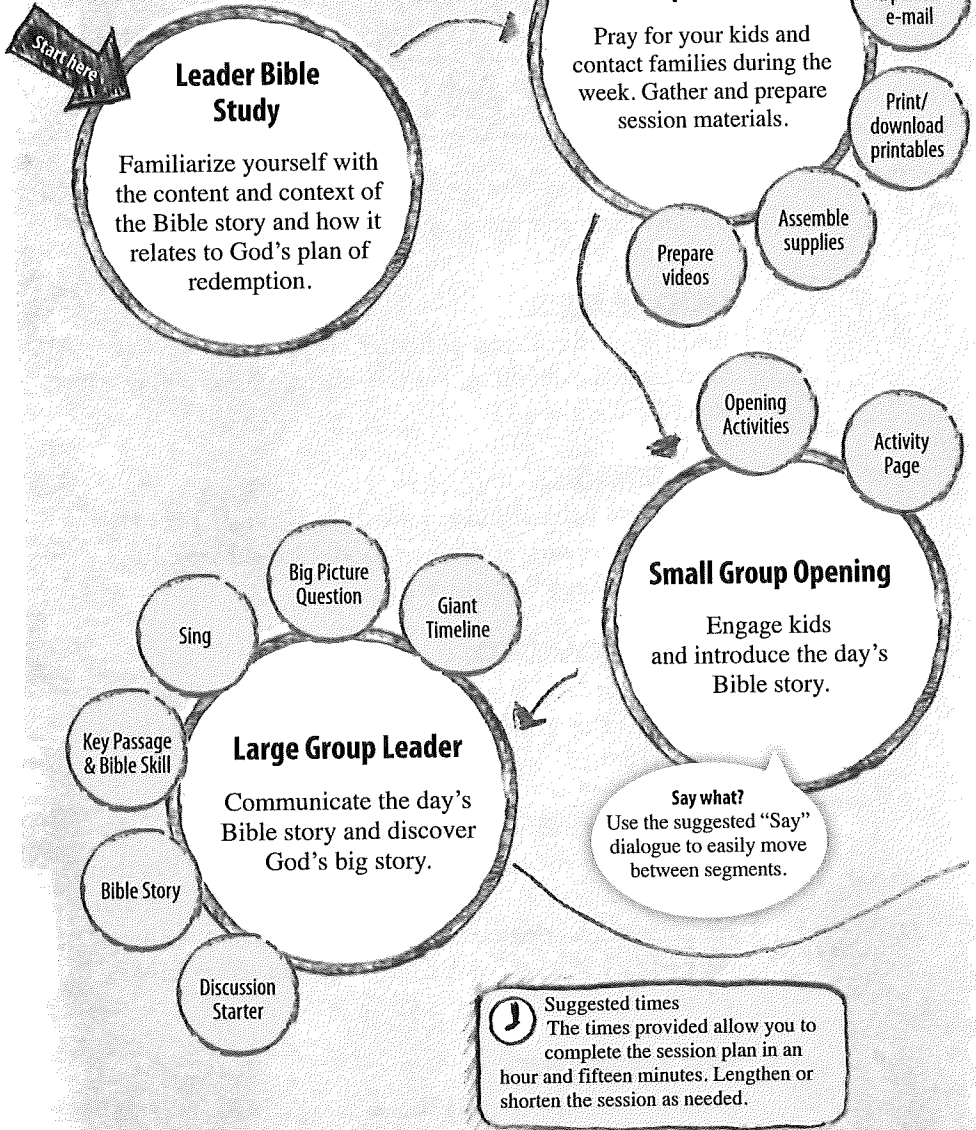
Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Bible Study at a Glance



Make it fit

Customize the session plan to fit the needs of your church or classroom.



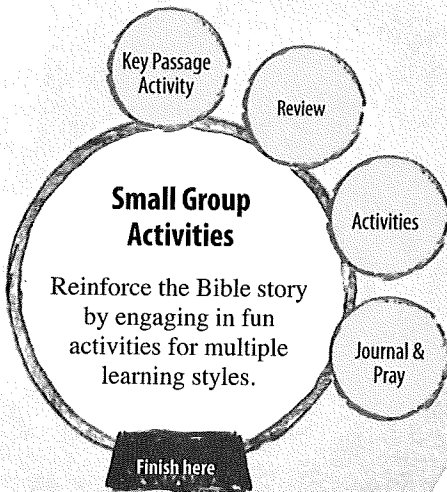
1 room

- 1) Use the Small Group Opening to welcome kids to Bible study. Kids may work the activity page and/or complete an activity together.
- 2) Transition to an area within your classroom that can be designated as the Large Group Bible story area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the small group area by using a countdown video, or gather around a table as you reinforce the Bible story's main point and Christ connection.



1 or more rooms

- 1) Use the Small Group Opening to welcome kids to Bible study. Kids may work the activity page and/or complete an activity together.
- 2) Use the countdown video or other transition signal as you move your small group to join the other small groups in the large group area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the small group rooms where you will reinforce what the kids learned from the Large Group Leader, review the key passage, and practice Bible skills.



Check out our tips and resources for an additional hour in the Worship Guide!

Unit 1: God the Creator

Unit Description:

In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

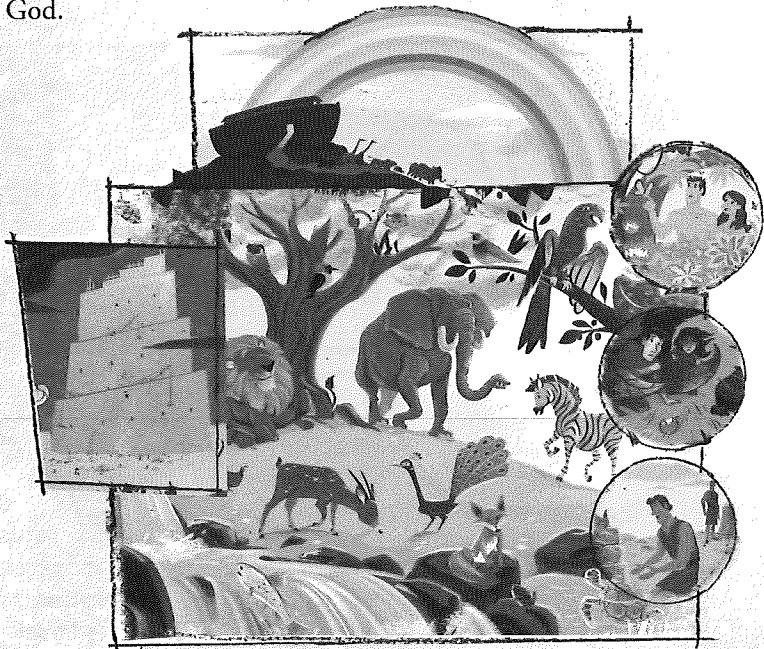
Unit Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions:

Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.



Unit 1: God the Creator

Session 1:

Bible Story:

God Created the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:1-25

Main Point:

God created everything for His glory.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

God Created People

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:26-2:25

Main Point:

God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 3:1-24

Main Point:

Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Cain and Abel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

Main Point:

Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

Noah and the Ark

Bible Passage:

Genesis 6:5-9:17

Main Point:

God is holy, and He punishes sin.

Session 6:

Bible Story:

The Tower of Babel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 11:1-9

Main Point:

God created people to give glory to Him alone.

God Created the World

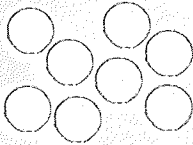
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

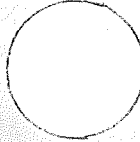
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

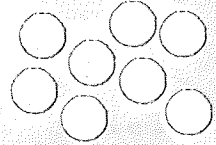
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 18



Leader BIBLE STUDY

In the beginning, God created everything. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, or “out of nothing.” All of creation began with a word. When God spoke, it happened. Light, land, sky, stars, plants, and animals. God made them all, and they were good. Creation was perfect, just as God intended.

Every story in the Bible is a small piece of a much bigger story—God’s redemptive story. Sin would enter the world and affect everything, but God already knew. He already had a plan to show His grace to people through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9), to rescue and restore. In fact, the Bible says that God’s plan existed before He created the world. (Eph. 1:4-6)

- sons? (*Cain and Abel, Gen. 4:1-2*)
2. What job did Abel do? (*Abel was a shepherd, Gen. 4:2*)
 3. What job did Cain do? (*Cain worked the ground, Gen. 4:2*)
 4. What did Cain and Abel give to God? (*an offering, Gen. 4:3-4*)
 5. Whose offering did God accept? (*Abel's, Gen. 4:4*)
 6. Whose offering did God not accept? (*Cain's, Gen. 4:5*)
 7. What did Cain do to Abel? (*Cain killed his brother Abel, Gen. 4:8*)
 8. How did God punish Cain? (*God told Cain that Cain would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth. Cain would not have a home; he would have nowhere to rest; Gen. 4:10-12*)
 9. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Are you the one?

Guide kids to form a circle. Explain the game and give a few examples of rhythm movements such as clapping, snapping, or stomping.

1. You will choose a volunteer to turn around and cover his eyes. Then silently choose a player in the circle to be the leader. The leader will use her hands or feet to develop a simple rhythm. Everyone in the circle should copy the rhythm.
2. After a few seconds, the leader will change the rhythm. The rest of the group should copy her movements.



3. Invite the volunteer to uncover his eyes and stand in the middle of the circle. He should watch everyone's motions to try to figure out who is the leader.
4. When he thinks he knows, he should point to the player and ask, "Are you the one?" If he is correct, the leader becomes the guesser and covers his eyes. If he cannot figure out the leader in three guesses, he may choose another player to take his place.

Play again as time allows.

SAY • God had promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. Cain was not that descendant. Cain killed his brother, and **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.**

Adam and Eve's children were sinners like them. So the people kept living and trusting God to keep His promise. At just the right time, God would send His Son into the world to save sinners.

OPTION 2: Build a dam

- long, shallow plastic containers, 1 per group
- sand
- small rocks or aquarium gravel
- craft sticks
- water
- Bible

Form groups of three or four kids. Give each group a plastic container. Fill the bottom of each container with sand and instruct each group to dig the path of a river in the sand.

Supply craft sticks and gravel. Explain that a dam is a structure that stops a river from flowing. Challenge each group to build a dam that will stop or slow the flow of their river. Give groups several minutes to work. Groups may test their dams by pouring water down the path of the river.

Help a volunteer find Romans 5:12 in the Bible, and ask him to read the verse aloud.

SAY • Were you able to stop the water? Sin entered the world through one man—Adam—and no one could stop it. Sin and death spread to Adam and Eve's

children and their families. Cain sinned, and **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.**

Sin and death have spread to us even today. Everyone has sinned. Our sin separates us from God and from each other, but God had a plan to bring people back to Himself. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Give each kid his journal page. Remind kids that **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.** Sin not only hurts our relationship with God, it hurts our relationships with others. Prompt kids to think of someone who might feel hurt by something they did. Kids should write that person's name on the journal page. Encourage kids to seek forgiveness this week.

SAY • We should ask our friends to forgive us when we sin against them. Everyone sins against God, and He would be right to punish us. But God loves us and sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Cain's Code" on the activity page. Help kids use their Bibles to list the names of the first six books of the Bible. (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua*)

Then kids will fill in the letter for each symbol to decode the Bible story main point. (*Answer: Cain's sin separated him from God and people.*)

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Cain's Code" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Noah and the Ark

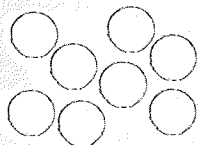
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6:5–9:17

MAIN POINT: God is holy, and He punishes sin.

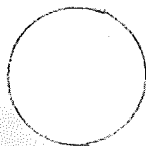
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God’s law, and sin separates people from God.

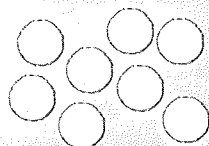
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 74



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 76



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 82



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Adam’s son Seth lived 912 years. Despite their sin, the Lord sustained generation after generation. Seth’s sixth-great-grandson, Noah, was born less than 20 years after his death. With each generation, the earth’s population grew.

By the time Noah lived—10 generations after Adam—people had stopped following God. In fact, Scripture describes a deplorable situation: “Man’s wickedness was widespread on the earth ... every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time” (Gen. 6:5).

God was right to punish this sin. He decided to send a flood to cleanse the earth. The waters would cover the earth and

destroy everything. God graciously chose to save one man and his family, so he warned Noah about the flood and told him to build an ark.

Noah believed God's warning about the coming judgment. He obediently worked to build the ark that would save himself, his family, and the animals. But the work took years, and Noah likely faced ridicule from his friends and neighbors. Was Noah crazy? He was building a boat where there was no water!

When the ark was complete, God's judgment came. The floodwaters covered the earth. Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. God rescued Noah's family—the family His own Son would be born into. Jesus would warn of God's coming judgment too, but instead of condemning the world, Jesus would give up His life to rescue sinners.

Apart from the grace of God, every thought we have is nothing but evil all the time. Our wickedness is widespread, and God would be justified to destroy us immediately. What grace that He has provided a Rescuer!

Before you teach, pray that the Lord would help you clearly communicate the gospel to children. Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead them to receive Jesus, who rescues us from God's anger toward sin. (1 Thess. 1:10)



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

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punishes sin. So God decided to send a flood to wipe every creature off the earth.

Instead of God sending a flood and starting over, He decided to save Noah. The Bible says Noah was a righteous man. Does that mean Noah was perfect? No. Did Noah ever sin? Yes. Noah was a sinner, but he loved God and trusted Him. God chose to rescue Noah by grace, not because Noah deserved to be rescued.

Ask the following review questions about the Bible story.
Call on kids who raise their hands to answer.

1. Why did the Lord regret that He had made man on the earth? (*The Lord saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, Gen. 6:5*)
2. What did God decide to do? (*God decided to wipe off people and animals from the face of the earth, Gen. 6:7*)
3. Who found favor in the sight of the Lord? (*Noah, Gen. 6:8*)
4. What did God tell Noah to build? (*an ark, Gen. 6:14*)
5. What did God tell Noah to put in the ark? (*his family members and some of all the living creatures, male and female; Gen. 6:18-19*)
6. How long did rain fall on the earth? (*40 days and 40 nights, Gen. 7:12*)
7. How did Noah know the waters had gone down? (*the dove brought back a fresh olive leaf, Gen. 8:11*)
8. How did Noah worship God when he left the ark? (*Noah built an altar and gave an offering to the Lord, Gen. 8:20*)

9. What was God's promise to Noah? (*Never again will every creature be wiped out by the waters of a flood, and there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth; Gen. 9:11*)
10. What sign did God give as a reminder of His covenant? (*a rainbow, Gen. 9:13-15*)

LEADER • God punished sin by sending a flood, but God chose to rescue Noah and his family from the flood. Only they lived. The story of Noah points ahead to a greater rescue. God's Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves. Jesus died so that we can live.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • When the floodwaters went down and Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the ark, Noah built an altar to the Lord. He gave offerings to God as worship. God provided an ark to rescue Noah from the flood, and He provided Jesus to rescue us from sin. Let's sing together and worship God.

Sing together "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)."

• "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)" song

- Key Passage Poster
- “There Is Only One” song

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the slide or poster of 1 Corinthians 8:6. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse. If any kids have memorized the verse, invite them to recite it from memory. Then sing together “There Is Only One.”

- “Unit 1, Session 5” discussion starter video

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • **God is holy, and He punishes sin.** God is right to punish people for sin. *What is sin? Sin is breaking God’s law, and sin separates people from God.* The bad news is that we can’t save ourselves from sin. Watch this video.

Show the “Unit 1, Session 5” discussion starter video. Lead kids to discuss how Emiliano could be rescued.

LEADER • What are some ways people try to save themselves? They might give money, go to church, or do good deeds. All of these are good, but we can never be good enough to earn God’s favor. Our sin separates us from Him, and we cannot rescue ourselves. The good news is that Jesus can! He came to earth to rescue from sin those who trust in Him.

Prayer (2 minutes)

Before dismissing to small groups, lead kids in prayer. Thank God for giving us His Word, the Bible, so that we can know Him and His plan for us. Affirm that God is holy and right to punish sin. Praise Him for His grace in saving sinners like us.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6:5–9:17

MAIN POINT: God is holy, and He punishes sin.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God’s law, and sin separates people from God.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- shallow pan of water
- craft sticks
- permanent marker
- paper towels
- “There Is Only One” song (optional)

Use a permanent marker to write the words of the key passage on separate craft sticks. Scatter the craft sticks in a shallow pan of water.

Challenge the kids to take turns pulling the sticks from the water. Kids should search through the sticks to pull the words in the correct order. If your group is large, prepare more than one pan of water. When kids collect all the sticks, guide them to say the key passage aloud together. Display the key passage poster to check their work. Then mix up the sticks and play again as time allows.

Consider playing the key passage song, “There Is Only One,” in the background. Provide paper towels for cleanup.

SAY • This passage is in the New Testament in a letter that Paul wrote to the church at Corinth. He reminded the people why we were created. Everything that exists came from God, and we exist for Him. The Lord Jesus holds everything together.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- Main Point Poster
- index cards
- pencils

Give each kid a Bible, a pencil, and three index cards.

Instruct kids to number their cards 1 to 3 in the bottom left corner and to write their names on the back of their cards.


For each card, choose one or two volunteers to find in their Bibles the verses listed and read them aloud. Then allow a few minutes for kids to draw the scene. As kids work, share additional details from the story.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

1. Read Genesis 6:11-14.
 - God told Noah to build an ark.
 - God told Noah to make the ark 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. That is one big boat!
2. Read Genesis 7:11-12,17-19.
 - The floodwaters covered the earth.
 - Rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights.
 - Water covered the earth for 150 days.
 - Noah was 600 years old when the flood came.
3. Read Genesis 9:1,12-15.
 - God promised Noah that never again would a flood destroy the earth.
 - When Noah got out of the ark, he built an altar and worshiped God.
 - God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His covenant with Noah and his descendants.

When kids finish all three cards, allow them to form groups of two or three and use their cards to retell the Bible story in their own words. Suggest that kids in each group display their drawings as they tell the story.

SAY • God is holy, and He punishes sin. God is right to punish sin. God is so kind to rescue us from sin through His Son, Jesus.



LOW PREP

• construction paper,
4 colors

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

• “Animal Pairs Cards”
printable

Tip: If your group is large, play with multiple sets.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Rainbow reactions

Challenge kids to play a memory game. Hold up each color of construction paper. For each piece, explain or demonstrate an actions. (Examples: red—touch your toes; blue—do a jumping jack; yellow—pat your head; green—turn in a circle) Let kids practice the actions.

Hold up the colors one at a time. Kids should perform the corresponding action. For an added challenge, hold up two colors at once (kids perform actions simultaneously) or assign actions such as reciting the key passage or saying today’s main point for the Bible story.

SAY • God is holy, and He punishes sin. God is right to punish sin. God sent a great flood to punish sin, but He graciously chose to save Noah and his family. After the flood, God promised Noah that never again would a flood destroy the earth. God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His covenant with Noah and his descendants.

When you see a rainbow, remember Noah and the greater rescue we have in Jesus. Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.

OPTION 2: Animal concentration

Prior to small group, print and cut apart the animal pairs cards. Invite kids to play a game of concentration. Explain that rather than matching identical cards, kids will try to match male and female pairs of animals. Show the cards to review the correct matches.

1. Mix up the cards and arrange them facedown in a 3-by-4 grid. The first player will turn over any two

cards, leaving the first card faceup until he turns over the second.

2. If the cards match, he turns them facedown in a pile in front of him and plays again.
3. If the cards do not form a pair, the player turns the cards facedown in their original spots and the next player takes a turn.

The player to collect the most matching pairs wins.

SAY • God is holy, and He punishes sin. God told Noah to put pairs of animals on the ark. God was gracious to rescue Noah and his family from the flood.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Encourage kids to use crayons or markers to write the words of Genesis 9:11 on the journal page.

SAY • God is holy, and He punishes sin. Who can tell me, *What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.* The flood did not take away sin; Noah and his family were still sinners. The bad news is that we are all sinners. The good news is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin. Let's pray.

Pray, confessing that we have all broken God's law. Thank God for not leaving us alone. Thank Him for sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin by dying on the cross.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Great Rescue" on the activity page. Prompt kids to use the code to uncover the hidden question. Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet: 1 = A, 2 = B, 3 = C, and so forth.

After kids figure out the question, challenge them to write the answer. (*Who took the punishment for our sin? Jesus took the punishment for our sin.*)

- Journal Page
- crayons or markers
- "The Great Rescue" activity page

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.