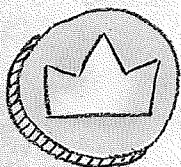


# THE GOSPEL

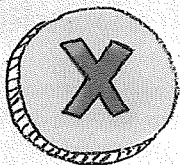
## GOD'S PLAN for PRESCHOOLERS

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help little minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



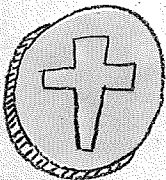
### **GOD IS KING.**

Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



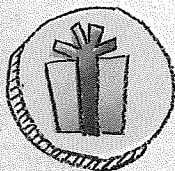
### **WE SINNED.**

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



### **GOD SENT JESUS.**

Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.



### **JESUS LOVES.**

Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

*Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.*

# Bible Study at a Glance



**Leader Bible Study**

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption.

**Preparation**

Pray for your preschoolers and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

- Pray for your preschoolers
- Send a parent e-mail
- Print/download printables
- Assemble supplies
- Prepare videos

**Small Group Opening**

Engage preschoolers and introduce the day's Bible story.


**Say what?**  
Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.

- Activity Page
- Opening Activities

**Large Group Leader**

Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.

- Bible Story
- Giant Timeline
- Big Picture Question
- Key Passage
- Sing

 **Suggested times**  
The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour and fifteen minutes. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

# 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 preschoolers to Bible study. Preschoolers 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. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



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 preschoolers learned from the Large Group Leader. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



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

# Unit 1: God the Creator

## Unit Description:

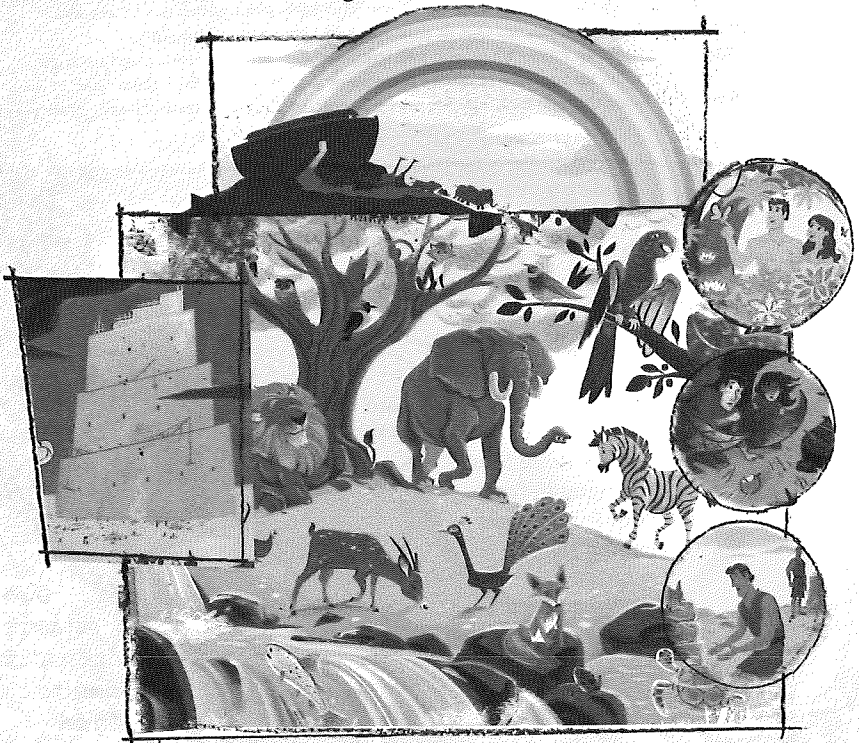
In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

## Unit Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 8:6

## Big Picture Questions:

Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.  
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.



# Unit 1: God the Creator

## Session 1:

**Bible Story:**

God Created the World

**Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 1:1-25*

**Main Point:**

God created everything.

## Session 2:

**Bible Story:**

God Created People

**Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 1:26-2:25*

**Main Point:**

God created people in His own image.

## Session 3:

**Bible Story:**

Sin Entered the World

**Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 3:1-24*

**Main Point:**

Adam and Eve sinned.

## Session 4:

**Bible Story:**

Cain and Abel

**Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 4:1-16,25-26*

**Main Point:**

God punished Cain for his sin.

## Session 5:

**Bible Story:**

Noah and the Ark

**Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 6:5-9:17*

**Main Point:**

God is holy.

## Session 6:

**Bible Story:**

The Tower of Babel

**Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 11:1-9*

**Main Point:**

God created people to give Him glory.

## God Created People

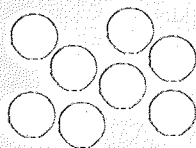
**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 1:1-25

**MAIN POINT:** God created everything.

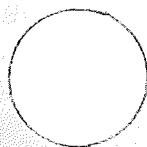
**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 8:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

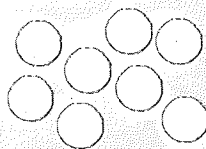
**SMALL GROUP OPENING**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 10**



**LARGE BIBLE STUDY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 12**



**SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES**  
(20–25 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 14**



## 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)

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve fruits and vegetables for snack. Remind preschoolers that Cain grew plants like those the fruits and vegetables came from.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of Adam, Eve, and Seth. Remind boys and girls that Jesus, the One who would rescue sinners, would come from Seth's family. Pray for the preschoolers.

**SAY** • Thank You, God, that You are good, and You punish sin. Thank You for loving sinners like us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. Help us to recognize when we sin and give us Your strength to control our sin. We love You. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families, Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

## Noah and the Ark

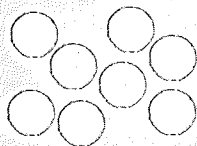
**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 6:5–9:17

**MAIN POINT:** God is holy.

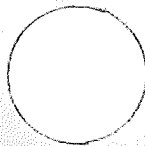
**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 8:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

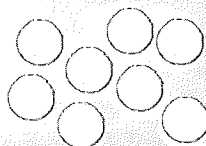
**SMALL GROUP OPENING**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 58**



**LARGE BIBLE STUDY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 60**



**SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES**  
(20–25 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 62**



### 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 did come. The floodwaters covered the earth. Every living thing was destroyed, but 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

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

# The BIBLE STORY

## Noah and the Ark

*Genesis 6:5–9:17*

Adam and Eve had children and grandchildren. Soon there were many people in the world. Every one of them did just what Adam and Eve had done—they made bad choices. They did not choose to do what God said. God saw that the people did mean things and thought bad thoughts. God was very sad.

God is holy and perfect. He was sorry He had made all the people who chose to sin against Him. God decided to send a big flood to clean up the world. Everyone would die in the flood, but God showed favor to a man named Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, and God told Noah to build an ark—a really big boat. God told Noah about His plan to send the flood. In the ark, Noah's family and many kinds of birds and animals that lived on the earth would be safe from the flood.

Noah did what God said. He began to build the ark just like God told him to build it. Noah worked for many years until the ark was finished. Then he filled it with food for his family and for the animals, just as God had told him. Every kind of animal came to the ark, males and females.

Rain began to fall, so Noah, his family, and the animals went into the ark. God closed the door of the ark, and Noah and his family were safe inside.

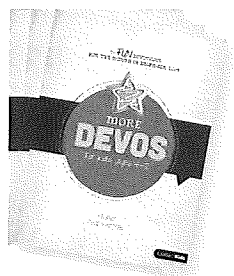
The rain came for 40 days and 40 nights. Water covered all the earth, even the highest mountains. The ark floated on the water, and everyone inside the ark was safe.

Finally, the rain stopped but the water was still very

deep. God sent a wind, and the water went down. The ark landed on a mountaintop, and everyone in the ark waited for the earth to dry out. Then God told Noah to bring his family and all the animals out of the ark. Noah gave an offering to thank God. God had saved Noah, his family, and the animals from the flood.

God told Noah's family to spread out and live in different places, to have children, and to take care of the world. God promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God put a rainbow in the clouds to be a reminder of His promise.

*Christ Connection: God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but God rescued Noah and his family. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. If we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S WORD?  
GET MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God promised Noah He would not flood the earth again, instead He would send Jesus to deal with sin. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Noah and the Ark

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 6:5–9:17

**MAIN POINT:** God is holy.

**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 8:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

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## Welcome time

- “God Makes Everything” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- “Just Add Water” activity page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers

Lead preschoolers to draw water around the boat in the picture. Encourage older preschoolers to draw rain as well as water.

**SAY** • A boat where there is no water seems rather silly, doesn't it? In today's Bible story, God told a man to build a boat—a really big boat called an ark, but there was no water. God is not silly. God always has a plan and a reason for everything He does. Let's find out who the man was and why God wanted him to build a boat.

## Jump in “puddles”

Tape pieces of blue construction paper to the floor close enough for preschoolers to jump from paper to paper. Guide preschoolers to take turns jumping in the “puddles.”

**SAY** • Playing in rain puddles is fun, even pretend ones! In today’s Bible story, God caused it to rain 40 days and 40 nights. This rain was not fun. It rained so much that the earth was flooded. God had a good reason for flooding the earth. We will find out why in our Bible story today.



- blue construction paper
- masking tape

## Gather pairs

Gather an assortment of items in pairs. Hide the items around the room. Encourage preschoolers to search for the hidden items. When all the items have been found, guide preschoolers to place pairs of items together.

**SAY** • A *pair* is a set of two. In our Bible story today, God had a man gather pairs of animals and put them on a great big boat called an ark. Let’s find out who that man was and why God had him gather pairs of animals.

- pairs of items

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite the children to find a friend and travel in pairs to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

# Large Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** Noah and the Ark

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 6:5–9:17

**MAIN POINT:** God is holy.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 8:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

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## Introduce the Bible story

- spray bottle
- blanket

Set a clean spray bottle to the mist setting and fill it with water. Place a blanket on the floor and invite preschoolers to take turns walking through the mist as a leader sprays.

**SAY** • Do you all like playing in the rain? In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a time it rained 40 days and 40 nights. You cannot play in that much rain. Water covered the whole world.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Noah and the Ark” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Open your Bible to Genesis 6–9.

**SAY** • Our Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. The Bible is the most important book there is. Everything in it happened in real life. It is not a pretend book. The Bible is God's words.

Show the Bible story video “Noah and the Ark,” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided.

Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

**SAY** • **God is holy.** That means God is most special of all, more than anyone or anything! He is perfect. God cannot sin, and He wants to get rid of sin. God sent

a flood to punish the world for sin, but He was kind and rescued Noah and his family.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Was God happy that people were making bad choices? (*No, He was sad.*)
2. What did God tell Noah to do? (*build an ark*)
3. Who was on the ark (*Noah, his family, and pairs of every kind of animal*)
4. What did God put in the sky as a reminder of His promise to never flood the whole earth again? (*a rainbow*)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • Our big picture question is, *What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.* People were breaking God's laws all the time in what they did and what they thought. Their hearts were evil. **God is holy**, and He must punish sin. God sent a flood to punish sin.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 8:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "There Is Only One."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "There Is Only One" song

**SAY** • The one God rescued Noah from being punished for sin. Later, there was an even greater rescue! The one Lord, Jesus Christ, came to save people from sin. If we trust in Jesus, He rescues us from being punished for our sin.

## Transition to small groups

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

**SESSION TITLE:** Noah and the Ark

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 6:5–9:17

**MAIN POINT:** God is holy.

**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 8:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

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## Look for rainbows

- clear wide-mouth jar
- small unbreakable mirror
- flashlight
- blanket (optional)

Fill a clear wide-mouth jar with water. Place a small unbreakable mirror into the jar at an angle. Dim the lights. Consider placing a blanket over a table to create a dark spot if the room is too bright. Aim a flashlight toward the mirror in the jar. Adjust the angle of the flashlight or the mirror until a rainbow appears on the wall or ceiling. Allow preschoolers to take turns aiming the flashlight at the mirror. Move the jar around the room to create rainbows in different locations.

**SAY** • Look at the beautiful colors in the rainbow! God made the rainbow. **God is holy.** God sent a flood to punish the world for sin. He promised to never flood the earth again and sent a rainbow as a reminder of His promise. God sent Jesus to be punished for sin, so people who trust in Him can be rescued.

## Put scenes in order

- "Sequencing Scenes" printable

Prepare and display "Sequencing Scenes" out of order. Guide preschoolers to place the scenes in the correct order as you review the Bible story. Encourage preschoolers to retell the Bible story to each other using the sequencing scenes to remind them of the Bible story's events.



**SAY** • God loved the people He created. The people loved to sin, and it made God sad. **God is holy.** Allowing people to continue to sin over and over again is not loving. God sent a flood to clean the world of sin. Later, God sent Jesus to be punished for sin.

## Color rainbows

Provide a piece of paper for each preschooler. Use masking tape or rubber bands to bind together several crayons of the preschooler's choosing. Demonstrate how to draw rainbow shapes on the paper using the bound crayons.

**SAY** • You all made some lovely rainbows. God put a rainbow in the sky to be a reminder of His promise to never again flood the whole earth. **God is holy** and punishes sin. Jesus came to rescue sinners like you and me.




- paper
- crayons
- masking tape or rubber bands

## Play in the “rain”

Place a plastic tub on a table covered with a plastic tablecloth. Fill a plastic pitcher halfway with water. Demonstrate how to pour water from the pitcher into a colander to make it “rain” over the plastic tub. Allow preschoolers to take turns pouring water into the colander and placing their hands in the rain. Consider providing a plastic boat, people, and animals preschoolers may use to play out the Bible story.

**SAY** • God caused it to rain 40 days and 40 nights. **God is holy** and punished the sin of the people with a flood. God is also kind. He rescued Noah and his family. God planned a way all people can be rescued from sin through Jesus.

- plastic tablecloth
- plastic pitcher
- colander
- plastic tub
- towels for cleanup
- smocks
- plastic boats, people, and animals



LOW PREP

- eight toy people
- toy animals
- hula hoop
- timer (optional)

## Gather people and animals

Place toy people and animals in plain sight around the room. Set a hula hoop on the floor. Explain to preschoolers that the hula hoop is the ark, and they must get all the people and animals on board. Form a line. Guide preschoolers to go one at a time and retrieve one person or animal and place it in the ark. Continue until all the people and animals are retrieved. Consider playing again, this time using a timer to see how fast preschoolers can load the ark.

**SAY** • **God is holy**, and He was right to punish the people's sin. God would have been right to punish everyone, but He chose to save Noah and his family. God has planned a way for us to be saved from the punishment for sin too. God sent Jesus to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from being punished for our sin.

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve animal cookies and pretzel sticks for snack.

Encourage preschoolers to build an outline of an ark with the pretzel sticks and place their animal cookies in the “ark.” Remind preschoolers that God instructed Noah to build an ark so he, his family, and many creatures could be rescued from the flood.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of rainbow. Remind boys and girls that **God is holy** and punishes sin, but that He sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. When we trust in Jesus, we can be rescued from sin.

**SAY** • God, You are holy and Your rules are holy. You must punish sin. Thank You for loving sinners like us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be punished for our sin. Help us to see our sin and help us to turn away from it and obey You. We love You. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*