

Bible background

Genesis 7 and 8

Aim of lesson

To show how God looks after people who love him.

Preparation required

You will need picture(s) from last week, activity sheet animals, scissors, colouring materials, cotton wool, glue and/or tape and coloured tissue paper or a paper rainbow outline, cut into sections, for each one to colour one part.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the children of last week's lesson by looking at the pictures they made or your joint picture, and asking them questions about the story.
2. With the children's help, stick your animals on to your picture of Noah and the ark as you tell them how all the animals came to Noah and went into the ark. Tell them that God brought the animals to Noah and that he shut the door on them. You could stick some cotton wool clouds on the picture.
3. Tell the children of the rain and have them raise their hands and lower them slowly, wriggling their fingers to represent the rain.
4. If you have put your ark in a separate quarter of the picture, cut out this area to show the children just the ark as it floats on the water, keeping Noah and his family and the animals safe. Tell them of Noah sending out a raven and then a dove when the rain had stopped and the water was going down. Stick these two birds on the picture as you tell what happened to each.
5. Rejoin the two parts of your picture as you tell of the land becoming dry and everyone coming out of the ark. Ask the children what they would do if they had been in a boat for over a year and now could walk on the land again - would they run, jump, skip or climb trees? How glad Noah and his family would be!
6. Sing the song 'Who Built The Ark?' including this week's verses.
7. Tell the children about God's promise never to flood the earth again. The children can now finish the picture by making a rainbow out of tissue paper or each colouring one section of a paper rainbow.
8. The children's individual pictures can now be finished if there is time, or they can take them home to finish if not.

Alternative activities

1. Mount pictures of animals on card and use to play pairs. Join in to help the children remember where cards are and to 'find' a few pairs if they are struggling.
2. Paint or print a stormy flood picture. Experiment with using cardboard scrapers, plastic knives, forks, combs or old toothbrushes to make wave patterns. Sponge print some clouds. Stick on or paint an ark.
3. Make animal masks with paper plates.
4. If it won't disturb anyone else have a go at making storm sound effects. Make some shakers by putting dried peas or rice in a tub or plastic bottle and securing the lid firmly. Crash some pan lids together and have a large sheet of thick card to wobble. Alternatively, just use voices. It's useful to establish a start/stop signal beforehand to keep the noise under control!
5. Play a circle game - 'On the ark there was a ...' Each person takes turns to add an animal.

Relevance to the children's lives

God took care of Noah and the animals. Ask the children how God takes care of animals and us today. Teach that everyone who loves God will be saved by being made alive for ever in his kingdom in the future.

Prayer

Ask what prayer Noah might have said to thank God for keeping them safe during the flood. You could use this to lead into a prayer to thank God for keeping us safe.

Verse

'By faith Noah ... built an ark to save his family.' Hebrews 11:7.

Song

Who Built The Ark? (Continued from Lesson 2)

- v.3 The animals came in two by two,
The ark was like a floating zoo.
- v.4 God saw Noah was kind and good;
He saved him from the terrible flood.

Note: You may like to include the following verses if your class is fond of singing.

- v.5 The animals came in two by two,
The pig said 'oink' and the cow said 'moo'.
- v.6 The animals came in two by two,
The big giraffe and the kangaroo.
- v.7 The animals came in two by two,
The penguins and the monkeys too.