



## LESSON 6

*God preserves Noah*

GENESIS 8:1-9:17



**God faithfully loves His people and keeps His promises.**



*“The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth” (Gen 9:16).*

## Supporting Truths

1. God keeps His promises.
2. God cares for His people.
3. The right response to God’s faithfulness is to trust and worship Him.
4. God values life.
5. God established the Noahic Covenant.

## Objectives

1. Describe how God ended the flood and the sign He gave to remind us of His promise.
2. List several of the five blessings God gave to Noah and his sons.
3. Describe how Noah trusted and worshiped God.
4. Explain why God values all life, but especially human life.
5. Explain how the Noahic Covenant renews and protects God’s original plan.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God preserves Noah • Genesis 8:1–9:17



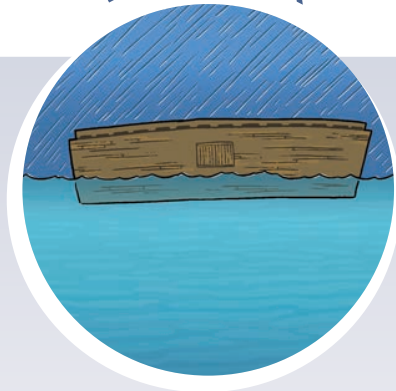
## Lesson Summary

God promised to save Noah from the flood. Noah obeyed God's commands, and God rescued Noah and his family. God remembered Noah. He ended the flood, accepted Noah's burnt offering, and blessed Noah and his sons with renewed purpose and with new laws to restrain sin. God set up the rainbow as a sign of His mercy and faithfulness, promising never again to flood the earth.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

God's covenant with Noah and the sign of a rainbow remind us that we are alive because God is faithful. If God were not faithful to His covenant, we would be without hope. But God has provided a way of salvation. He was faithful to Noah, and through Noah's descendants God faithfully raised up the promised seed. Now God continues to be faithful to all who trust in Jesus.

LAST WEEK



God floods the earth  
*Genesis 6:5–7:24*

THIS WEEK



God preserves Noah  
*Genesis 8:1–9:17*

NEXT WEEK



God judges the nations  
at Babel  
*Genesis 11:1–9*

FALL

## Lesson Commentary

### *God faithfully loves His people and keeps His promises.*

The final words of Genesis chapter 7 capture the totality of God’s judgment against sin: “[God] blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land” (7:23). This judgment encompassed everything that had breath—man, animals, insects, and birds. But God remembered Noah. Noah and those with him on the ark survived, floating on the water that covered the earth for 150 days (7:24). Noah obeyed God, and God graciously spared him, his family, and the animals with him.



#### THINK ABOUT IT

Noah did not trust in his own senses, but patiently waited for God’s command to leave the ark.

#### God remembered Noah (8:1–17)

God did not forget about Noah during those five long months on the ark. God remembered him, providing for his needs and preparing for his return to land (8:1). To “remember”

someone in the biblical sense is more than recalling facts to mind, but it also includes care and action to ensure God’s promises are kept. God was faithful to the **covenant**, an agreement between two or more people, like a promise, that He made to Noah before the flood (6:18).

Because God remembered Noah, the water on the earth began to recede. For the first time in this story, things began to get better. Up to this point (6:1–7:24), the situation had only gotten worse—mankind had become more and more evil, and God had responded with a flood that grew more and more severe. But beginning in chapter 8, God began to restore the earth. He caused a wind to pass over the water, and the water subsided (8:1). He closed the fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven (8:2) ending the outpouring of water that began in Gen 7:11. The waters steadily receded from the earth (8:3), causing the ark to rest on the mountains of Ararat (8:4). The

water continued to recede, revealing the tops of the mountains (8:5). Before long, God commanded Noah to leave the ark (8:16). God remembered Noah. He was **faithful**, or trustworthy, doing exactly what He said He would do.

#### Noah obeyed God and worshiped Him (8:18–22)

Noah responded to God’s faithful care with the same trusting obedience he had when getting onto the ark. While on the ark, he sent out a raven (8:6–7), a scavenger bird which was able to survive outside of the ark. But this did not mean the earth was ready to support life again, so Noah then sent out a dove three times (8:8–12). Doves cannot stay in the air as long as ravens, and they are more particular about the food they eat. So only after the third attempt did Noah know the earth was dry. Even so, Noah stayed on the ark for about another two full months, waiting for God’s command to go out (8:13–14). Noah did not trust in his own senses, but patiently waited for God’s command to leave the ark. God did not want Noah to leave the ark until the earth was completely dry; the words for “dry” in Gen 8:13 and Gen 8:14 are two different words, showing that though the surface was dry in Gen 8:13, the land was not yet ready for new life. Noah obeyed, just as he had before the flood.

As soon as Noah left the ark, he offered burnt offerings to the LORD (8:20). A **burnt offering** is an animal burned on an altar in order to show one’s commitment to God. This proved his faith, because he was sacrificing some of the very few remaining animals left on earth. It proved his love, showing his devotion to God. It also proved his desire for redemption, demonstrating his need for cleansing from sin. Because his first action after the flood was to make an offering, Noah reminds us that man was made in God’s image in order to worship

#### THINK ABOUT IT

God will destroy the earth again, but not with water. God will incinerate the heavens and earth with intense heat (2 Pet 3:10)



# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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God. The author of Genesis switches from “God” to “LORD” when referring to God in this section in order to emphasize God’s covenant name, the name associated with worship. That is why we exist—to worship God.

God was pleased by Noah’s offering. Even though the flood had not changed man’s sinful nature, God decided not to destroy the earth again with water (Gen 8:20–21). Because sin comes from within a person, not primarily from outside influences, the ultimate solution to sin is not to blame society or other people, but to seek God’s grace. As Noah’s offering shows, God gives that grace on the basis of an atoning sacrifice, which removes the guilt of sin.

## God blessed Noah and his sons and made a covenant (9:1–17)

In Gen 8 God reversed the effects of the flood, and in Gen 9 God renewed His original creation. It was almost like a second creation. Genesis 8:1 had already hinted at this: “God made a wind to pass over the earth.” The word for wind is the same as the word for Spirit in Gen 1:2. Again God was creating order where there was none. God then renewed His original commands to man to be fruitful and multiply (9:1, 7; cf. 1:28) and to rule over creation (9:2; cf. 1:28). God also provided all the plants as food, just as He did in the beginning.

But not everything was perfect like it was in the Garden of Eden. The flood waters could not wash away the stain of sin. Man’s rule over animals now involved striking fear into them and permission to eat them. Also, God gave specific commands concerning life. First, even animal life was to be honored by not eating the blood. God values animal life because He created animals and because blood atones for sin (8:17; 9:4; Lev 17:11).

Second, even more than animal life, God values human life. Humans may kill animals for food, but they may never kill another human, except as punishment for

murder (Gen 9:5–6). Even animals are to be killed if they kill a human (9:5). This command was a direct response to the violence that filled the earth before the flood (Gen 6:11). Because man is made in God’s image, those who murder are destroying God’s special creation, so God justly condemns murderers to death.

God gave mankind the responsibility to carry out this punishment (9:6), but He does not allow personal revenge. Rather, God established human government to have the authority and responsibility to investigate and execute murderers (Num 35:15–34; Rom 13:1–5). Failure to kill murderers is disobedience (Num 35:33). This is a strong warning not to let corruption or a faulty understanding of mercy stand in the way of justice. When sin goes unpunished, the whole community is affected.

The permission to eat plants and animals and the commands to multiply, to rule, and to respect life are all blessings from God (Gen 9:1). The story ends with one final blessing, God’s covenant to never flood the earth again, and the sign of the rainbow as a reminder of God’s promise (9:8–17). God chose to show favor to Noah (6:8), and now, after Noah’s faithful obedience, God has showered him and his sons with blessings—blessings we still enjoy today. Through Noah’s descendants God faithfully raised up the promised seed (Gen 3:15). May the rainbow always draw us to thank God for His blessings.

### THINK ABOUT IT

God established the sacredness of human life. Those who take life forfeit their own.



# Lesson Outline

*God faithfully loves His people and keeps His promises.*

## AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God remembered Noah and ended the flood (8:1–17).
2. God was happy when Noah offered sacrifices (8:18–22).
3. God gave a rainbow as a sign of the promise that He would never flood the earth again (9:8–17)

## AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. **God remembered Noah (8:1–17).**
  - When God remembered Noah, he caused the water to decrease (8:1–3).
  - The water decreased until the ark rested on a mountain (8:4–5).
  - Noah sent out a raven and a dove until he knew the earth was dry (8:6–14).
  - God told Noah he could now leave the ark (8:15–17).
2. **Noah obeyed God and worshiped Him (8:18–22).**
  - Noah obeyed by exiting the ark along with all the animals he had saved (8:18–19).
  - Noah worshiped by gratefully offering burnt offerings to the LORD (8:20).
  - The LORD was pleased and decided never again to flood the earth (8:21–22).
3. **God blessed Noah and his sons and made a covenant (9:1–17).**
  - God blessed them by renewing man's rule over the earth and giving animals for food (9:1–3).
  - God blessed them by renewing His command to have children to fill the earth (9:1, 7).
  - God blessed them by commanding them not to eat blood to show the value of life (9:4).
  - God blessed them by making a law to kill murderers (9:5–6).
  - God blessed them by giving the rainbow as a sign of His promise never to flood the earth again (9:8–17).





## Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who obeyed God and got into the ark?**  
Noah and his family (Gen 7:2–3).
- 2. What happened during the flood?**  
It rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and water covered the entire earth.
- 3. When Noah and his family got off the ark, what did Noah do?**  
Noah built an altar and burned an offering of thanks to God.
- 4. What was God's promise, and what did God put in the sky so that people could remember the promise?**  
God put a rainbow in the sky to remind people that He would never again send a flood to cover the entire earth (Gen 9:12–17).



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What two animals did Noah send out to see whether the land had dried?**  
He sent a raven and a dove.
- 2. How did Noah know when the land had dried?**  
The third time he sent out the dove, it did not return.
- 3. After he left the ark, how did Noah worship God?**  
He built an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings.
- 4. How did God respond to Noah's sacrifice?**  
He was pleased.
- 5. What command did God renew after Noah left the ark?**  
It was the same command that God had given to Adam and Eve—be fruitful and multiply.
- 6. What command did God give Noah concerning animals?**  
Man was now allowed to eat them, once the blood had been removed.
- 7. What law did God give Noah concerning man?**  
If any man or animal killed someone, he or it was to be put to death, because man was made in God's image.
- 8. God made a covenant with mankind and all living creatures. What was it, and what was the sign?**  
God said that He would never again destroy the entire earth with a flood. The rainbow was to be the sign of the covenant.

## Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

### RAINBOW MURAL

Draw a rainbow on a large sheet of paper. Have children tear colored construction or tissue paper and glue the pieces on the rainbow. Tell the children that today they will learn that the rainbow is a symbol of a very special promise from God.

### ARK RELAY

**Materials:** One-inch squares of brown paper, two glue sticks, and two drawings of an ark.

**Directions:** Divide the children into two teams. Tape the ark drawings to a wall, and place a glue stick and a pile of paper squares on the floor underneath each drawing. Have the teams line up, single file, on the opposite side of the room. When you say “go,” the first child from each team should race to their team’s ark. He should pick up one paper square, glue it to the ark, and return to the end of his team’s line. The first team to finish wins.



ILLUSTRATE

### HERE COMES A STORM

Fan the children with a cookie sheet to simulate wind blowing. Spray a water bottle above their heads to illustrate the rain. Flash the lights in the room to represent lightning. Have children stomp their feet quickly to simulate thunder.

### GOD'S PROMISE HAND MOTIONS

God made wind blow;  
(Hands on sides of mouth and blow).  
The waters went low:  
(Hold hands out to sides, palms down; slowly lower).  
Raven and dove flew to and fro.  
(Hook thumbs together, flap hands; move back and forth).  
God sent His bow,  
(Spread fingers; move hands overhead.)  
And now we know  
(Point to temple.)  
He won't again flood land below.  
(Shake head back and forth while wiggling fingers and lowering hands in rain motion.)



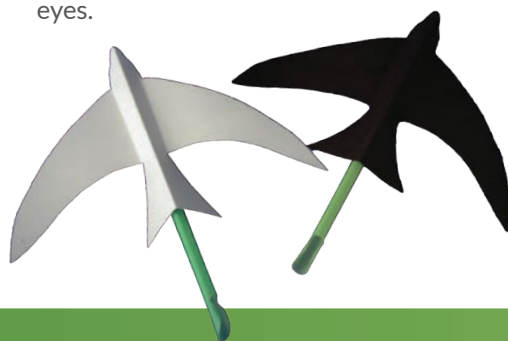
APPLY

### PAPER DOVE/RAVEN

**Materials:** Black & white construction paper, scissors, tape, and straw.

**Directions:** Cut sheets of black and white construction paper into 8 ½ x 5 ½-inch pieces. Fold them in half to make a 4 ¼ x 5 ½-inch rectangle. Cut a wing shape from the folded side to the other end. When you open the page, it should make the shape of a bird. Fold down each wing, leaving a half inch from the bottom. Tape a straw to the bird. Each child should go home with one dove and one raven. Practice various bird shapes before you make the template for the children.

**Variation:** The black and white construction-paper birds can be glued onto 8 ½ x 11-inch construction paper. Glue on plastic eyes.



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

## HUMAN RAINBOW

As the children enter the class, look for those wearing the various colors of the rainbow. Before beginning the lesson, call the children up and arrange them by color. The order of the rainbow is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Ask the children if they know what a rainbow represents. Tell them that in today's lesson they will learn about God's promise to Noah.

**Variation:** Bring different colored items and pass them out to the children.

## WAITING TO GET OUT

Review Gen 8:13–16 with the class. Note that Noah determined the land was dry but waited for God's command to leave the ark. That command came almost two months later. Have the children sit on the floor while another teacher sets the tables with snacks. Show the children that everything is ready, but tell them that they must wait for your instruction to get their snacks. When you give the command, it's only for going to the snack, not eating it. Tell the children that first, like Noah, they should thank God.



ILLUSTRATE

## UNDER WATER

At the beginning of the lesson, illustrate that the world was entirely immersed in water by dunking an inflated globe in a large bucket of water. Explain to the children that God made a wind blow to dry up the water. Ask the children to blow like the wind, and then remove the globe from the water.

## PRISM RAINBOW

Bring a prism or crystal to class. Hold it where it will catch daylight, and refract the light onto a wall or another lightly colored surface (maybe paper). When we move the prism around, are the colors always in the same order? What are we seeing? What have we seen outdoors that looks like this? The first rainbow was seen on what occasion? What did it mean?



APPLY

## GOD'S PROMISES

**Materials:** Cupcake liner, pipe cleaner, markers, rainbow stickers.

**Directions:** Let each child make an umbrella from a cupcake liner and a pipe cleaner. The children can color the liners with marker. Place a rainbow sticker on each umbrella. Push the pipe cleaner through the middle and make a tiny loop in the end over the top so it can't slip through. Form a curve in the other end of the pipe cleaner for the handle. Talk about God's promises in the Bible.



AGES 9–11



### PROJECTOR RAINBOW

Pour three to four inches of water into a clear plastic container, and set it on an overhead projector. Cover the front of the small upper projection lens with paper. Explain to the children that when white light passes between air and water, each color bends by a slightly different amount (a process called refraction). The result is the dispersion of white light into its many component colors.

### NEWSWORTHY FLOODS

Gather information about recent floods that have occurred around the world. Read excerpts from news reports that tell the extent of the areas damaged. Use this discussion to help children understand that these floods were quite small in comparison to the worldwide flood of the Bible. Emphasize that we can be confident that God will never again flood the entire earth. This is because of the Noahic Covenant, which we will study in today's lesson.



### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Ask the children to give you examples of important things they or their parents try to remember. Use this discussion to share the meaning of the word remember as used in Gen 8:1. Children may equate the word remember with simply “not forgetting.” Emphasize that “remembering” Noah meant God expressed concern for Noah and revisited him with gracious love.

### THE POWER OF WATER

Show the class a video clip from a documentary on hurricanes or floods. Here are some suggested videos:

- *20th Century with Mike Wallace. Underwater: The Great Flood of '93* A&E Entertainment, 1998.
- *Deadly Forces: Killer Storms/ Savage Seas* TLC Video, 2000.
- *Raging Planet: Flood* Discovery Channel Video, 1998.
- *Tornado! Hurricane! Flood! Wonders of Weather* Discovery Channel Video, 2000



### COMPARE AND CONTRAST

After the lesson, ask children to note similarities and differences between this lesson and previous studies in Gen.

1. Contrast the beginning of the flood in Gen 6:5–7:24 with the culmination of the flood in Gen 8:1–19.
2. Compare God's command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:26–31 with His command to Noah and his family in Gen 8:15–19, 9:1–7.
3. Compare Abel's sacrifice in Genesis 4:1–4 with Noah's offering in Gen 8:20–22.
4. Contrast what man could eat before the flood in Gen 1:29–31 with what man could eat after the flood in Gen 9:1–4.
5. Contrast God's curse on man and all creation in Gen 3:14–19 with God's covenant with Noah, his descendants, and all creation in Gen 9:8–17.