

Bible Passage: Genesis 6-10

Key Passage: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Big Picture Question: *What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His Commands.*

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

The Bible is full of promises. As early as the first few chapters of Genesis, we begin to see God make, and even fulfill, His promises: promises for punishment and for blessing, for death and for life, for separation and for salvation. In Noah’s journey to build an ark, survive the flood, and begin to repopulate the earth, we find multiple reminders that the Lord is faithful to fulfill His promises.

When God destroyed the entire population of the earth except for Noah and his family, we are reminded that God keeps His promise to preserve a remnant of His people always. When Noah sent a dove to find dry land and it returned with an olive leaf, we are reminded of God’s promise to show His people the way at just the right time. And when God painted His bow in the sky, we are reminded of God’s promise that He will always keep His Word.

In a world filled with fake news and false prophets, we are often skeptical of the stories and promises that we hear and read about. When it comes to the promises and claims of the world, we should be discerning. But when it comes to the promises of God, we should be trusting.

As you survey Genesis 6–10, may it stir a great reminder in your heart and mind that God is always faithful and true. God is no liar, and He will not turn back from His word. May these chapters of Genesis also give you hope that though everything around you may fail, God’s Word never will.

God is a God of great and magnificent promises. And every single one of them we can trust completely. When in doubt of this truth, look to the cross of Christ and His empty grave.

As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:20, “every one of God’s promises is ‘Yes’ in [Jesus].”

God will fulfill His promises. This week, pray that God would stir in you many reminders of how He keeps His word.

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WELCOME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, ask kids about their week, and help new kids connect to your group.

Say: Have you ever had a day that started out so rotten you wished you could just climb back in bed and start over? [Allow kids to respond.] Sometimes there isn't anything we can do to change what is happening, but you can go to sleep at night and have a fresh start the next day. Today, we are going to hear about a time God gave the world a fresh start.

ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “Something Greater” on the activity page. Kids will use the keypad coordinates to decode each word.

Say: When you listen to today's Bible story, see if you notice some of these key words. They help tell an important story about a great flood.

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

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Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 3:23 together. Then cover two words with sticky notes and challenge kids to read the verse aloud, supplying the missing words from memory. Continue covering up two words at a time, allowing kids to say the key passage in its entirety. Allow volunteers to individually recite Romans 3:23 from memory.

SAY: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands. We all have sinned and need a Savior.

SESSION STARTER

ON THE BOAT

Before the session, use masking tape to create a square on the floor just big enough for your group to stand inside.

Explain that the area in front of the square is the main deck, to the right is the upper, to the left is the middle, and to the back is the lower deck. Consider writing the names of the decks on paper and display the signs on the corresponding sides.

When you call the name of a deck, everyone must quickly move to that deck. The goal is to not be the last one on the deck that is called. If you call “all aboard,” everyone must step inside the tape square. Call “all aboard” several times throughout the game. Play as time allows.

SAY: Today's Bible story is about Noah and the ark. The ark Noah and his sons built was very large, but after months on board with their family and all the animals, do you think they ever felt crowded?

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BIBLE LESSON

GOD SPARED NOAH

Adam and Eve had many children and grandchildren. Their grandchildren had children and grandchildren, and people began to fill the earth. God looked at all the people on earth and saw that they were choosing to sin more and more. Every person’s thoughts were evil, and God was sad that He made people. God decided to send a flood to destroy all the creatures on the earth.

But God showed favor to a man named Noah. Noah was a righteous man; he followed God. God warned Noah about the flood. He told Noah to make an ark to save himself, his family, and all kinds of animals.

God told Noah exactly how to make the ark, and He said that He would make an agreement—or covenant—with Noah and his family. Noah did everything God commanded. When the ark was finished, Noah went inside with his family and the animals, and God shut the door.

The rain started and water rose from the ground. Now the ark floated on top of the water. The water rose higher and higher until all of the mountains were covered. Everyone inside the ark was safe.

Finally, after 40 days and 40 nights, the rain stopped and the water started to go down. Noah waited inside the ark until the ground was dry. Then God told Noah to bring all the people and animals out of the ark. So Noah did. Noah built an altar and gave an offering to the Lord. God promised to never completely flood the earth again.

God told Noah and his family to spread out over the earth and fill it with people. God placed a rainbow in the sky as a special sign of the covenant He made with Noah. Every time Noah and his family saw the rainbow, they would know God remembered the promise He had made with all the living creatures on earth.

Christ Connection: God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. 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.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Small Group ACTIVITIES



Say • Raise your hand if you had heard this Bible story before today.

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 8. Explain that Noah was in the ark for about five months until the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (EHR uh rat).

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 8:18-20.

Say: Imagine being in an ark for 150 days! Noah worshiped God by making a burnt offering—not only because the water had gone down on earth but because God had kept him and his family safe from the flood in which so many other people had died.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Say Can we earn God’s favor? Why or why not?

Prompt kids to recall how Noah received God’s favor. Noah was not sinless; he was declared righteous because God chose to show him favor, and Noah responded in faith. Then God declared Noah righteous. God gives us righteousness as a gift when we respond to Jesus in faith.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)

Say Is God a God of judgment or a God of grace? Why do you think that?

Help kids recognize that God’s judgment does not come without love and grace. God clothed Adam and Eve, and they did not die immediately. God placed a mark of protection on Cain. God showed grace to Noah and his family. We see throughout the Bible that God is both gracious and just.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 5:24.)

Say What has God saved you from? How should you respond?

Remind kids that Noah was not spared from God’s judgment against sin because of anything he had done but because of God’s grace alone. Noah’s right response was to completely surrender to God. God wants us to totally surrender to Him. He is our loving and all-powerful God. God has saved us from death and separation from Him. In Jesus, we have forgiveness and life with God forever. We are right to respond with obedience and worship, living for Him and His glory.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:1.)

PRAYER TIME

Lead the kids in a time of guided prayer. Remind them that they do not have to pray aloud if they feel uncomfortable doing so. Encourage them to pray about more than just things they want, but also to pray as a way to praise God and thank Him.

Take prayer requests and pray for your group.