

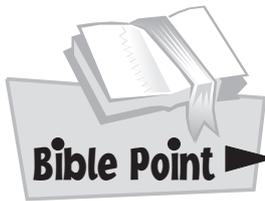
Noah

When God surveyed the earth he had so lovingly created, he saw that it was filled with wickedness and cruelty. God was deeply grieved to find his creation steeped in depravity. To cleanse the earth of such evil, God decided to send a flood that would destroy every living thing. Only one righteous man, Noah, found favor in God's eyes. So God told Noah to build an ark for his family and pairs of every creature that lived on land or in the air. Noah responded with faith and obedience, and God lovingly watched over the ark and its passengers as everything around them was destroyed.

Preschoolers are anxious to gain independence. They're proud of each new skill and eager to show you all the things they've learned to do on their own. But when they're confronted with a new and scary situation, they'll run to a trusted adult for comfort and shelter. Preschoolers need to know that God offers comfort and shelter through all the storms of life, and that they, like Noah, can trust God to watch over them and care for them with a loving hand.

Four Lessons on Noah

Lesson	The Point	Page	Bible Basis
5	God takes care of us.	69	Genesis 6:9-22
6	God takes care of us and helps us.	83	Genesis 7:1-16
7	God takes care of us in scary times.	97	Genesis 7:17-24
8	God takes care of us and keeps his promises.	111	Genesis 9:8-17



Bible Point ▶

God takes care of us.

Bible Verse

God takes care of us (adapted from 1 Peter 5:7).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- build their own ark,
 - talk about what it would be like if everyone were mean,
 - hear how God chose Noah and commanded him to build the ark, and
 - thank God for taking care of us.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Noah builds the ark.

Genesis 6:9-22



The sin begun by Adam and Eve must have multiplied even more in the generations that followed. The sin became so great, in fact, that the Bible describes the heart of humanity as “corrupt.”

Fortunately, one righteous man still loved God. The word translated “righteous” in verse 9 indicates that Noah sought both to worship and obey God.

Consider the immensity of the task Noah undertook. The ark was half again the length of a football field, as wide as a basketball court is long, and as tall as a five-story building. There were to be three decks inside and many rooms to house all the different animals. All of this was to be built of a particular kind of wood (which we can’t identify precisely) in an arid area where wood was not likely plentiful.

Fortunately, God knew what he was doing. Modern shipbuilding experts have confirmed that the dimensions given in the Bible would be ideal to ensure that a large wooden vessel would remain intact and upright while adrift in heavy seas.

Prayer

- Read Philippians 4:13.
- Noah must have turned to God for strength as he prepared the ark; what’s happening in your life that you need God’s strength and wisdom to accomplish?
- Pray: Lord, help me to be like Noah, obeying you without question and relying on you for everything. Help me to teach these children how to follow you.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Ark Name Tags" (p. 81), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Ark From a Box —Make a pretend ark from a box.	Large box, scissors or utility knife, brown crayons	
	Option 2: Building Like Noah —Pretend to build like Noah did.	Scissors, drinking straws, modeling dough, toy hammers or blocks	
	Option 3: Works of Ark —Use pudding "tar" to coat graham cracker "boards."	Instant chocolate pudding mix, quart jar with tight fitting lid, milk, graham crackers, paint shirts, wax paper, spoons	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Find one special person among their classmates.	Red construction paper, scissors	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —From Genesis 6:5-17, hear how Noah obeyed God and built the ark, and then sing a Bible verse song.	Bible, brown crayons, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Do an action rhyme about building the ark.		
Closing 	A Caring Touch —Teach Whiskers that God takes care of us.		
	Time to Be Glad —Thank God with a round of applause and a prayer.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Ark Name Tags” (p. 81), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they practiced what they learned last week. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about the world God made?” and “How did you take care of God’s world this week?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God takes care of us.**
- Give each child a photocopy of an ark name tag. Write children’s names on their name tags, and pin or tape the name tags to their clothing.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Have you ever been on a boat?” “What was it like?” or “Who are some of the people who take care of you?”

■ Option 1: Ark From a Box

SUPPLIES: large box cut in half lengthwise so that it resembles a boat, scissors or utility knife, brown crayons

Let children turn a large box into an ark. Tell children that the Bible story today is about a man named Noah who built a big boat called an ark. Explain that God told Noah exactly how to make it with a door and a window in it. Help children draw a door and a window on the box; then cut them out. (Ensure knife or scissors are kept in a safe place.) Encourage children to color the box with brown crayons or markers.

Invite the children to climb inside the box and pretend it’s a giant boat. Ask if they’ve ever been on a boat, and encourage them to describe their experiences. Explain that today’s Bible story is about a man who stayed on a boat for more than a year.



■ Option 2: Building Like Noah

SUPPLIES: scissors, drinking straws, modeling dough, toy hammers or blocks

Before class, cut several drinking straws in half. Give each child a lump of modeling dough or clay. Set out the drinking-straw pieces and something for the children to pound with, such as toy hammers or blocks. Let children choose several straws and a hammering tool. Explain that today’s Bible story is about a time God asked a man named Noah to build a big boat. Invite children to hammer the straws into the dough as they pretend to be Noah constructing his ark.





■ Option 3: Works of Ark

SUPPLIES: instant chocolate pudding mix, graham cracker squares broken in half, quart jar with tight fitting lid, milk, paint shirts, wax paper, spoons

Pour instant chocolate pudding mix and the appropriate amount of milk into a quart jar. Put the lid on the jar securely, and allow children to take turns shaking it. The pudding should be ready in two or three minutes.

Help children into their paint shirts, and then have them wash their hands and sit at a table. Give each child a square of wax paper and a spoon. Drop a large spoonful of pudding onto the wax paper. Demonstrate how to spread the pudding onto the graham cracker “board” the way Noah might have spread some sort of tar or sealant onto the wooden boards of his ark. As children work, tell them that today they’ll learn about Noah, the man who built the ark. Invite children to gobble up their pieces of ark!

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

teacher tips

Have wet wipes or damp paper towels ready to wipe little faces and hands after pudding play.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.**

**Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: red construction paper, scissors

Tell the children you’ll turn the lights off and then on in the classroom to get their attention. Explain that when you flash the lights, the children are to stop what they’re doing and wave back at you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Before class, cut out a 2-inch red paper heart, and place the heart out of sight behind you. Form a circle and ask:

- **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Played in a big box; hammered straws into clay; painted pieces of ark with pudding.)

Say: **Some of you made a big ark, some of you hammered, and some of you used chocolate pudding to paint boards for the ark. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Our Bible story today is about a man named Noah.**

A long time ago in Noah's day, people were mean. [Name of child], **can you show me a mean face?** Pause. **Oh yes, you look very mean.** [Name of child], **can you look mean, too?** Pause. Continue naming children until everyone is looking mean. Then say: **Now put on your happy faces again.** Pause. **Whew, you all look much better! If we lived in Noah's time when everyone was mean, we'd see people hurting each other. They would take things that didn't belong to them. They would lie to each other, too.**

Ask: • **How would you feel if you lived where everyone was mean?** (I'd be scared; I'd want to move; it would make me sad.)

- **How do you think God feels when he sees people being mean?** (Sad; mad.)
- **How do your parents feel when they see you being mean?** (Sad; sorry.)

Say: **It made God very sad to see so many people being mean. God looked and looked and finally found one person who was kind and loving and did the right things. Let's play a game where we'll look for one special person. Close your eyes and put your hands behind your backs. I'll tiptoe and quietly put a little paper heart in someone's hands. If you get the heart, don't show or tell anybody.**

Quietly walk around the circle, and place the heart in one child's hands. Then have children open their eyes. Say: **Now I'll pick someone to look very hard to find the person holding the heart.** Choose a volunteer. [Name] **will walk around the circle and ask, "Is it you?" If you don't have the heart, shake your head "no." If you do have the heart, hold it up and say "yes!"**

After the searcher has found the heart, play the game again. If children enjoy the game, you may want to play two or three more times.

Then say: **There are lots of children in our class, but only one child had the paper heart. In Noah's time, only one person was good. Noah was a good man who loved and obeyed God. Today we'll learn how God took care of Noah and his family and how *► God takes care of us.***



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today.**

Lead the children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



Be sure to emphasize to children that the story comes from the Bible, God's Word.



SING

I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 I'm so glad for God's book today.
 I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
 Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *rainbow stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *rainbow stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

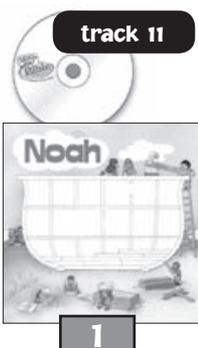
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

teacher tips

If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, brown crayons, CD player



Before class, remove *Noah poster 1* from the Learning Lab and set it aside.

Have children gather around you. Open the Bible to **Genesis 6:1-22**, and show it to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God’s special book. Our poster shows us pictures of our Bible story. We’ll look at our poster in just a minute. First, let me tell you a story about a man named Noah.**

God looked over the earth he’d made. Shade your eyes with your hand and look around. **What God saw made him sad. Do you want to know why? All the people God saw on earth were being bad. Their hearts were wicked and mean. They were hurting each other. They were thinking mean thoughts. They were saying mean things. Can you show me a mean face again?** Pause. **Well, everyone looked like that and worse.**

That wasn’t the way God wanted it to be! God wanted people to be kind and loving, not mean! God felt sad and angry. So God decided to send a flood to wash away all the bad things.

God saw a man named Noah. Noah loved God and was trying to do what was right and good. God decided to save Noah and his family from the flood.

God told Noah to build an ark. An ark is a big, big, BIG boat. Hold up the *Noah poster*. Point out the picture of Noah and his family building the ark. **Noah and his three sons worked hard to build the ark just the way God told them. They built a door big enough for elephants and giraffes to go through. And in the top of the ark they built a little window. Let’s all get out hammers and help Noah.** Pretend to hammer by pounding one fist on the other and making clicking sounds with your tongue. **Good job! Now let’s put our hammers down.**

God also told Noah to cover the ark inside and out with sticky stuff to keep the water out. Let’s pretend to brush sticky stuff on the ark. Make painting motions in the air. Then say: **There! Now the ark won’t sink in the water. Building the ark took a lot of work. But Noah was glad to do it because he loved God. God loved Noah, too, and wanted Noah and his family to have a safe place to live during the flood. God took care of Noah. ► God takes care of us, too.**

Look at the ark here on the poster. It seems like something’s missing. Give children time to tell you that the ark hasn’t been colored; then hand out brown crayons, and have children take turns coloring it.

When it’s colored, collect the crayons and say: **There! Now you helped with the ark, too. And Noah’s family will have a safe place to live when God sends the rain. I’m glad God took care of Noah. I’m glad ► God takes care of us, too.** Open your Bible to **1 Peter 5:7**, and show the verse to the children. **Our Bible verse today says that ► God takes care of us. Repeat the verse together. **God is strong and can keep us safe. Let’s sing a song about our Bible verse!****

Lead children in singing “God Takes Care of Us” (adapted from 1 Peter 5:7) to the tune of “God Is So Good.” Play the song several times until children can sing along with you and the *CD* (track 11).



◀ BIBLE POINT



◀ BIBLE POINT

◀ BIBLE VERSE



God takes care of us.
 God takes care of us.
 God takes care of us.
 He's so good to us.

God takes care of you.
 God takes care of you.
 God takes care of you.
 He's so good to us.

God takes care of me.
 God takes care of me.
 God takes care of me.
 He's so good to us.

Say: **Thanks for that singing! Now let's have some more ark-building fun!**

Put the *Noah poster* away.

■ *Do the Bible Story*

SUPPLIES: none

Have the children stand in a circle.

Say: **Let's march around in a circle and say, "We are the ark builders! We are the ark builders!"** Lead the children twice around the circle, and then have them stop and face the center. **OK, ark builders, take out your hammers. Let's pound our fists together and say, "Pound, pound, pound!"** Pause for children to imitate your actions. Then say: **Good job! Now let's cut the wood. Swing your saw back and forth and say, "Saw, saw, saw!"** Pause for children to repeat. **Now swing your paintbrushes and say, "Sticky, sticky stuff!"** Have children repeat.

Now let's put all the words and actions together. Follow me and do just what I do.

We are the ark builders! (*March in place.*)

We are the ark builders! (*March in place.*)

Pound, pound, pound! (*Pound fists together.*)

Pound, pound, pound! (*Pound fists together.*)

Saw, saw, saw! (*Swing a pretend saw.*)

Saw, saw, saw! (*Swing a pretend saw.*)

Sticky, sticky stuff! (*Make painting motions.*)

Sticky, sticky stuff! (*Make painting motions.*)

We are the ark builders! (*March in place.*)

We are the ark builders! (*March in place.*)

Now we're done! (*Dust off hands.*)

Now we're done! (*Dust off hands.*)



Repeat the action rhyme once or twice. Then say: **You were happy ark builders, just like Noah. God wanted Noah to build the ark so he could take care of Noah.** Have children sit in a circle. Then say: **In Noah's time, there were lots of people doing lots of bad things. But Noah didn't join in with them. Sometimes our friends want us to do things that we know we shouldn't do. But Jesus is with us and helps us do what's right. We're never alone, even if we aren't doing what everyone else is doing.**

We're going to let everyone in the room know that Jesus takes care of us and is with us all the time. I'll start by giving myself a big hug and saying, "Jesus takes care of me!" Then the person next to me will do the same thing, and then the next person and the next until we've gone all the way around the circle.

When the actions are completed, close by saying, "We love you, Jesus!" together.

Say: **It's a good thing that Noah loved God and wanted to do what was right! God was with Noah and took care of him. ► *God takes care of us*, too. I think it's time for Whiskers to visit. I wonder if Whiskers knows why Noah built the ark.**



Closing

■ *A Caring Touch*

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and follow the puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: What was all that pounding? It gave me a headache! Were you building something?

Teacher: We were pretending to build an ark. I'm sorry you have a headache.

Whiskers: What's an ark? Would an ark make my headache go away?

Teacher: Children, can you tell Whiskers what an ark is?
(*Help the children tell Whiskers that an ark is a big boat.*)

Whiskers: A big boat? Can we go for a boat ride?



Teacher: We just built a pretend ark, Whiskers, so we can't go for a ride in it. But long ago God told a man named Noah to build a real ark, and it was BIG!

Whiskers: Why did Noah need a big ark?

(Help the children tell Whiskers that God wanted Noah to build an ark so that his family would be safe from the flood.)

Teacher: You see, Whiskers, God loved Noah and wanted to take good care of him. God knew that Noah and his family would be safe in the ark.

Whiskers: Noah was lucky. It feels nice when someone takes care of you.

Teacher: God didn't just take care of Noah, Whiskers. ► God takes care of us, too.

Whiskers: Really? Will God tell us to build an ark? I think all that pounding would make my head hurt worse!

Teacher: I don't think God will ask us to build an ark. But God has other ways of taking care of us. God gives us people like parents and teachers who love us and take care of us. I'd like to take care of you, Whiskers. Would you let me rub your neck a little bit? It might make your head feel better. *(Begin stroking Whisker's neck.)*

Whiskers: *(Rolling his head around)* Ooh...that's so nice. My head feels better already.

Teacher: I'm glad I could take care of you, Whiskers.

Whiskers: *(Snuggling)* Me, too. I'm glad God gave me someone nice like you to care for me. And I'm glad God gave me all my wonderful friends here. I just feel like hugging everybody! *(Have Whiskers hug each one of the children.)*

Teacher: God cares for us, and that makes us want to care for each other. Isn't that nice?

Whiskers: It sure is! I'm gonna run home right now and tell my brother about how God cares for us. Maybe I'll even rub his neck the way you rubbed mine. 'Bye, everybody!

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■ Time to Be Glad

SUPPLIES: none

Say: **Today we learned that ► God takes care of us. That makes me happy. Let's clap for God!** Lead children in clapping. Then say: **That was a noisy way to say thank you to God. Now let's thank God in a quiet way. Fold your hands and close your eyes and pray with me.**

Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for taking care of Noah and thank you for taking care of us. We love you! In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

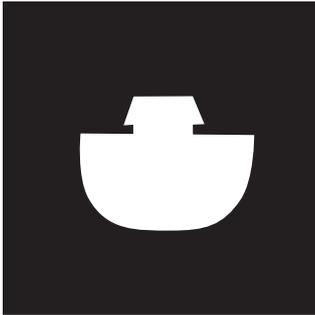
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Measuring Madness**

Bring in different measuring devices such as rulers, yardsticks, and tape measures. Explain that God told Noah just how big to make the ark. Let children take turns “measuring” objects in the classroom. Show them that the big marks are inches and the little ones are parts of inches. Have children stand against a large sheet of newsprint taped to a wall. Mark each child’s height.

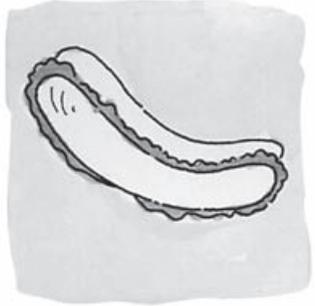
Explain that God told Noah to build the ark 150 yards long. If it’s a nice day outside, take the children on a walk to see how long 150 yards is. Remind them that God wanted Noah to build the ark because God wanted to take good care of Noah, and ► God takes care of us, too.

■ **Make to Take: Ark Art**



Before class, cut out the *inside* of an ark shape to make a stencil. Make one stencil for every two children. Set out a small bowl of brown tempera paint and a few small sponges with clothespin “handles.” Working with half the children at a time, let each child choose a bright colored sheet of construction paper. As children are waiting for a turn, review how Noah built the ark. Clip the stencils to the construction paper. Help children dip the sponges into the brown paint and then dab the paint on their stencils. When the ark shapes are covered with paint, remove the stencils, and show the children their ark art. Set the paintings aside to dry.

■ **Treat to Eat: Banana Boats**



Give each child a paper plate, half a banana sliced in half lengthwise, jam, and a plastic knife. Show children how to spread the jam between the pieces of banana and then put the pieces back together to make a banana boat. As children enjoy their banana boats, remind them that God took care of Noah by having him build a big boat and that ► God takes care of us.

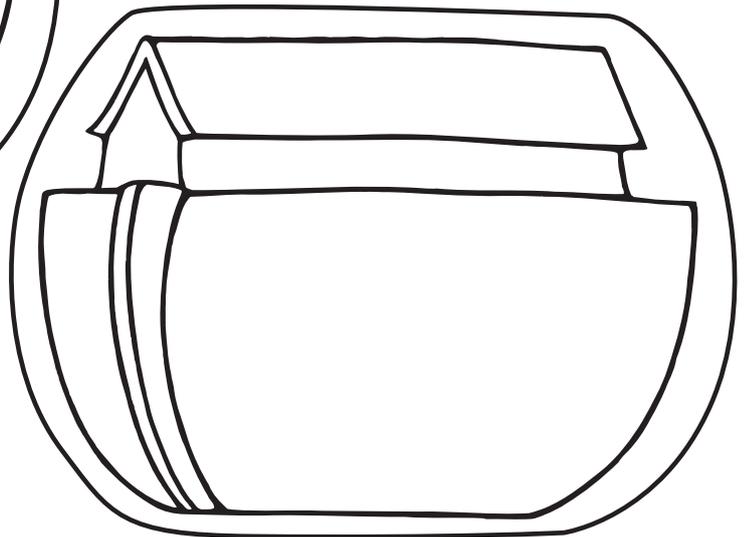
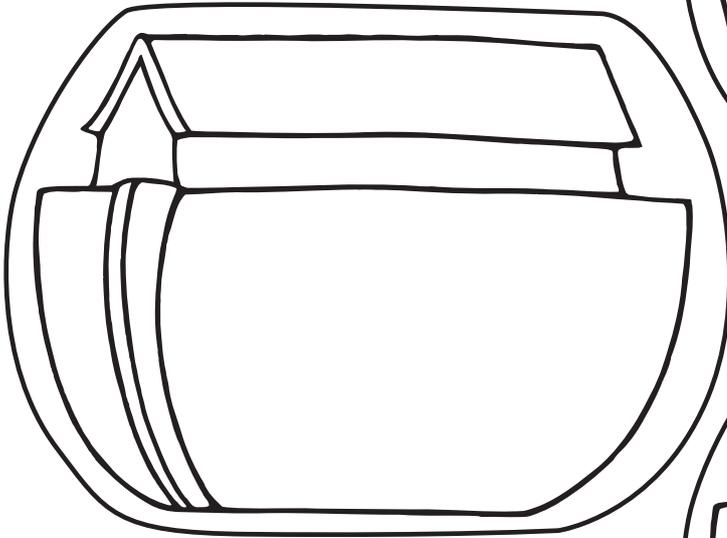
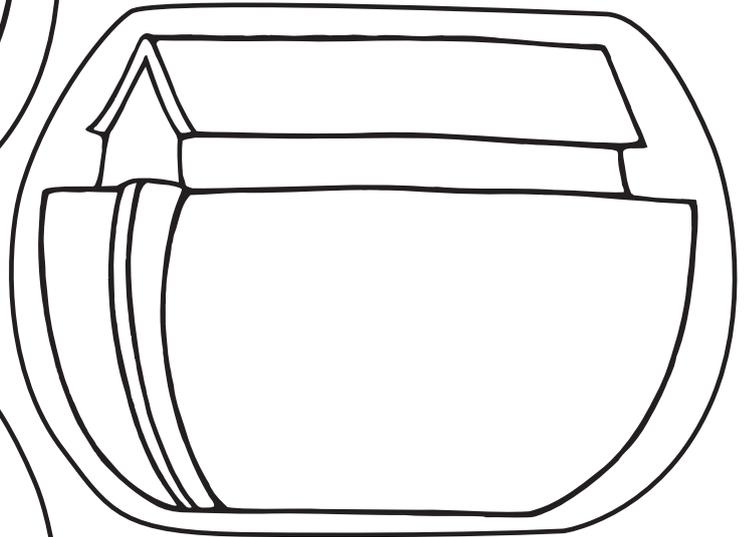
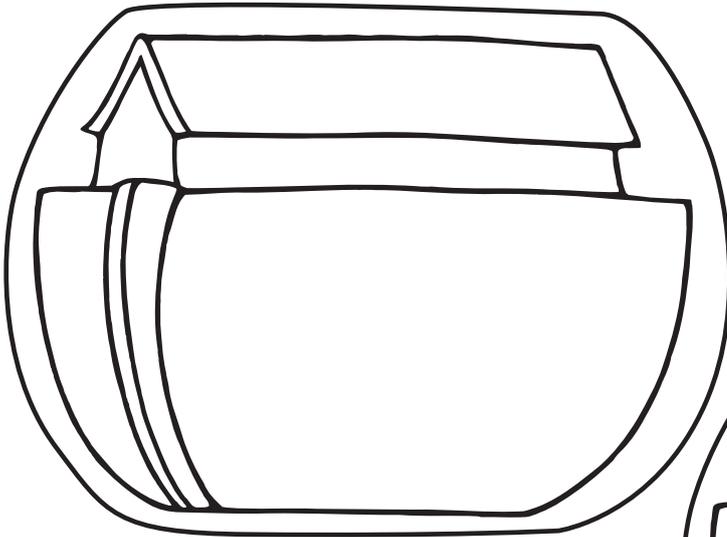


■ **Story Picture: Noah Builds the Ark**

Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons and markers, and let children color the picture. Then set out small strips of brown construction paper for the children to glue to the ark. As children glue their strips, remind them how Noah built the ark.

Ark Name Tags

Photocopy and cut out the name tags.



Today I learned... @

@ God takes care of us.

Help me learn this:

God takes care of us (adapted from 1 Peter 5:7).

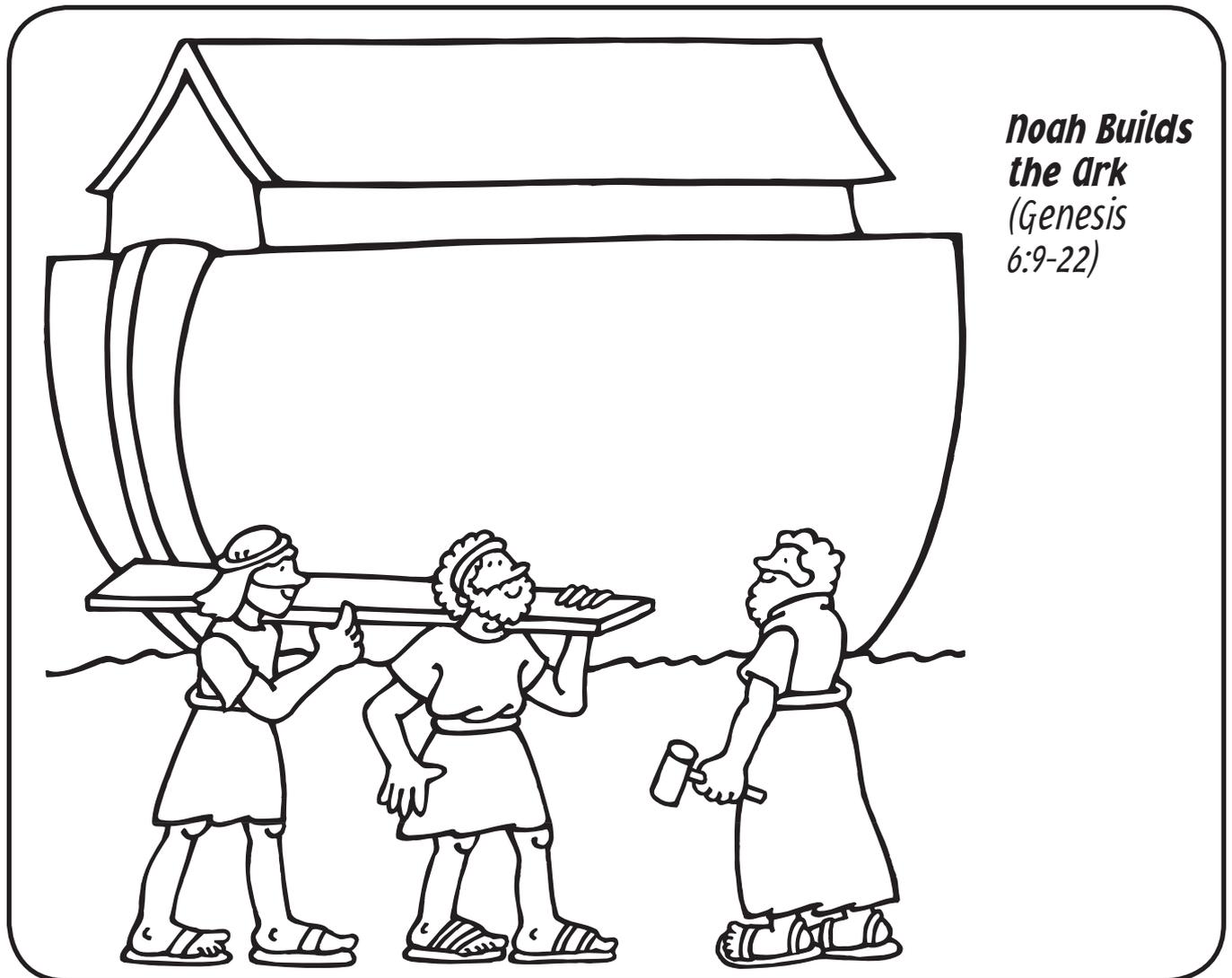
Ask me:

- How did God feel when he saw all the people on earth being mean and bad?
- Who do you know who loves God and does good things as Noah did?
- How can our family help each other remember that God takes care of us?

Family Fun @

- Together with your child, make a pretend ark with large boxes or by arranging old blankets and pillows in an ark shape on the floor. As you work, let your child tell you about why God told Noah to build an ark. Bring favorite stuffed animals as passengers in your ark.

Lesson 5
Today your child learned that **GOD TAKES CARE OF US.** Children made a pretend ark, and heard how God took care of Noah by directing him to build an ark that would save his family from the flood.



Noah Builds the Ark
(Genesis 6:9-22)