

Bible Point

God takes care of us and helps us.

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

- play a game in which they need help accomplishing a task,
- talk about times they need help,
- sing a song about the animals on the ark, and
- thank God for his help.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ **Noah and the animals enter the ark.**

**Genesis
7:1-16**



God gave Noah a big job when he asked Noah to build the ark. But imagine how much more difficult it would have been if Noah had been forced to go out and round up the animals—a male and female of “every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground” (Genesis 6:20)! God was kind to Noah—God brought in the animals himself. That saved Noah a ton of work, and made sure that Noah didn’t miss any creatures!

Notice that when all the people and all the animals were loaded into the ark, God himself closed the door (Genesis 7:16). God was taking care of those who were serving him. When the rains started and the floodwaters began to rise, Noah didn’t have to refuse entrance to the people shouting outside; God had closed the door, and Noah wasn’t responsible—or possibly even able—to open it for anyone.

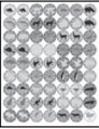
Prayer

- Read 1 Peter 5:7.
- How does God demonstrate his care for us like he demonstrated his care for Noah?
- Pray: God, thank you for caring for me. Help me impress upon the children in my class just how much you really love them.

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: Animal Finger Puppets —Make animal finger puppets, and talk about the animals that went on the ark.	“Animal Finger Puppets” handout (p. 95), scissors, crayons, tape	
	Option 2: Animals, Animals! —Play with animals, and hear about the animals on the ark.	Blocks, stuffed and plastic toy animals	
	Option 3: Sticker Match —Play an animal matching game, and hear about the animals on the ark.	Construction paper, scissors, small container	
	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 —Attempt a task that’s too difficult without help.	Large cardboard box, book or rocks, finger puppets from Option 1, tape	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear the story from Genesis 6:18–7:16 of how God brought the animals onto the ark.	Bible, finger puppets from Option 1	
	Two-by-Two...and More... and More —Use a kaleidoscope to see lots of animals, and then sing a Bible verse song.	Bible, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Sing a song with animal actions and sounds.	CD player	
Closing 	Even Little Mice —Help Whiskers learn that even mice are important to God.		
	God Saved the Animals —Sing a song, and thank God for taking care of us.	Bible, CD player	

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 put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “What did your family do to show that they take care of you?” and “What did you tell your family Noah had to do?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God takes care of us and helps us.**
- Hand out the ark name tags children made during Lesson 5, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extras on hand for children who weren’t in class that week and to replace damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

◀ BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

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 between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Who are some of the people who take care of you?” and “Can you tell me about a time when you needed help doing something?”

■ Option 1: Animal Finger Puppets

SUPPLIES: “Animal Finger Puppets” handout (p. 95), scissors, crayons, tape

Before class, make photocopies of the “Animal Finger Puppets” handout, and cut out a puppet for each child. Make sure you have two of each animal. Let children scribble color their puppets. As they finish coloring, tape together the puppet tabs, and show children how to slide the puppets on their fingers. Explain that today they’ll hear how God helped Noah bring lots of animals onto the ark. Remind them that ► God takes care of us and helps us.

Make extra finger puppets for children who choose not to make them. Collect the puppets, and set them in the box you’ll use later in “Setting the Stage.”

◀ BIBLE POINT



■ Option 2: Animals, Animals!

SUPPLIES: blocks, stuffed and plastic toy animals

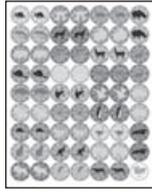
Set out blocks and a variety of stuffed and plastic toy animals. Invite children to sort the animals and build block walls around the groups of animals they sort. Encourage children to “feed and care” for the animals. As children play, explain that ► God takes care of us and helps us just like they’re taking care of the animals. Tell them that today they’ll hear a Bible story about how God took care of animals.

◀ BIBLE POINT



■ Option 3: Sticker Match

SUPPLIES: construction paper, scissors, small container



Before class, cut construction paper into pieces approximately 2x4 inches. Set out two pieces for each child. Hold up the *Noah's ark stickers* from the Learning Lab, and have each child choose a pair of matching stickers. Help each child place one of the stickers onto each strip of construction paper (they will now have two strips of paper with identical stickers). Gather one strip of paper from each child, and place the strip in a small container. Then collect the remaining strips, and set them randomly around a table.

Explain that the sticker strips are tickets to get on the ark. Let each child choose a strip of paper from the container, find the strip on the table with the matching sticker, and sit down in the chair by that sticker strip. When everyone is seated, say that the ark is full, and Noah is happy! Explain that today they'll learn how God helped Noah get all the animals on the 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.

■ 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.



**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: large cardboard box, book or rocks, finger puppets from Option 1, tape

Before class, fill a cardboard box with something heavy such as books or rocks. Make the box too heavy for a child to lift alone, but light enough for an adult and child to lift. While children are cleaning up their Let's Get Started activities, place the animal finger puppets from Option 1 on top of the heavy items. Then tape the box shut.

Tell the children you'll flash the lights to get their attention. Explain that when you flash the lights, the children are to stop what they're doing and wave 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.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Played with animals; made finger puppets; found matching stickers.)

Say: **Some of you made animal finger puppets, some of you played with animals, and some of you matched up Noah's ark stickers. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're going to learn more about the job God gave to Noah.**

Gather the children around the box you've prepared. Say: **Right now I have a job for you. This box has some special things in it. But we have to move it to the story area before we open it. Who would like to move this box for me?** Let several children try to lift the box.

It looks like you need help. What if I help you lift the box? Let's do it together. Let several children help you lift the box and carry it toward the story area. When you're halfway there, set the box down, and let other children help you carry it. Make as many stops as necessary to give each child a chance to help.

When you reach the story area, ask:

- **Why couldn't you lift the box by yourself?** (It was too heavy; I'm too little.)
- **How did we get the job done?** (With your help; we had to help each other.)

Say: **This is the same thing that happened in our Bible Story for today! We'll find out that Noah had a job to do, but the job was too big for him to do by himself. God wanted Noah to bring animals into the ark—two of every kind—that's a lot of animals! Whew! What a big job! Noah needed God's help. It's a good thing that ► God takes care of us and helps us. Now let's open this heavy box and see what's inside.**

Open the box, and let each child choose one finger puppet. Say: **Find a partner who has the same kind of animal you have. You and your partner can sit together for our Bible story.** Help the children find partners. If you have an uneven number of children, you can be a child's partner.



■ 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.



**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.)

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



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 in this class.** 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

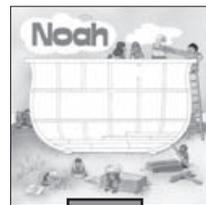
**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together. Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

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.**

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, finger puppets from Option 1



1



2

Remove *Noah posters 1* and *2* from the Learning Lab. Set them on the floor with only the first poster showing. Open the Bible to **Genesis 7:1-16**, and show it to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our posters show us pictures of our Bible story. Look at our first poster. Who can find the ark?** Pause for children to respond. **We learned last week that God looked at the earth and saw that all the people were being mean and bad.**

Ask: • **How did God feel when everyone was mean?**
(Sad; sorry.)

- **What did God decide to do?** (Send a flood; make lots of rain.)
- **Did God find any good people?** (Yes; Noah.)

Say: **God found one good man on the whole earth. That man's name was...Noah! Noah loved God and did what was right. God decided to send a flood to wash away all the bad things on the earth, but God wanted to keep Noah and his family safe. So God told Noah to build an ark.** Point to the ark on the poster that the children colored last week.

Noah and his family worked hard to build a big, BIG boat—big enough to hold a pair of every kind of animal on earth. Let's pound our fists like hammers. Pause for the children to imitate your actions. **Now let's swing our saws and saw the wood.** Pause. **Now let's paint sticky stuff all over the ark so the water won't get inside.**

Finally, the whole ark was finished. Let's all wipe our brows and say, "Whew! Good job, Noah!" Pause for children to repeat your words and actions. **BUT do you know what? Noah wasn't done yet. He had another big, big, BIG job to do. He had to bring all the animals onto the ark. Oh my. That would be a big job, wouldn't it? Let's see how many animals we can think of.** Pause and let children name all the animals they know.

That's a lot of animals. I don't know if Noah could find all those animals. I think Noah needed help. Guess who helped Noah. God did! God brought all the animals to Noah. Our next poster shows all the animals coming to the ark. Hold up the second poster that shows the animals boarding the ark.

Ask: • **How many different kinds of animals do you see here?** Let children name the animals they recognize.

• **How do you think Noah will feed all those animals?** Let children point out the baskets of food.

Say: **Noah and his family packed up lots of food to take with them on the ark. It looks like everything is ready. Noah's family is ready, too. Let's load the animals onto the ark.**

Have children hold up their animal finger puppets.

Ask: • **Can you find an animal in the picture like the one you're holding?**

Let the children identify the animals on the *Noah poster* that match their animal finger puppets.

Say: **The Bible says that the animals came to Noah in pairs—two by two. You and your partner make a pair. And you have a pair of animals. Let's take turns bringing the animals into the ark two by two.**

Have pairs take turns walking their animal finger puppets across the poster and onto the ark. When children reach the ark, collect their finger puppets, and place them behind you.

When you've collected all the finger puppets, say: **That was a big job! I'm glad God helped Noah, aren't you? God loved Noah. God told Noah just how to build the ark, and then God sent all the animals to Noah. God took care of Noah and helped him.**



Sometimes we need help, too, just like Noah did. Remember when we all made mean faces together? Sometimes it's hard to show love to people who always look mean, but God wants us to love them anyway. When we have a hard time loving people, we can ask Jesus to help us be kind and show love to others. Let's do that right now.

Pray: **Dear Jesus, sometimes we all need your help. Thank you for helping Noah and thank you for promising to help us, too. We love you. Amen.**

Keep the *Noah posters* on hand for use later in the lesson.

Two by Two...and More...and More

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Hold up the *rainbow kaleidoscope* from the Learning Lab. Say: **I have a fun kaleidoscope that we can peek into as we look at some animals.** Have children repeat the word *kaleidoscope* with you. Then say: **A kaleidoscope is a tube with little squares at the end that make it look like things are moving. We'll say a rhyme and pass the kaleidoscope to our friends. When we're done saying the rhyme, the person holding the kaleidoscope will peek inside and tell us one animal he or she sees and show us how the animal moves.**

Demonstrate how to hold the kaleidoscope up to one of the animals on the *Noah poster* and turn it so the animal appears to be moving. Guide preschoolers in passing the *rainbow kaleidoscope* around the circle while you lead them in the following rhyme:

**One, two.
One, two, three.
What kind of animals
Do you see?**

Ask the child holding the kaleidoscope to name one of the animals he or she sees through the kaleidoscope, and invite the child to show how that animal moves. Then pass the kaleidoscope around the circle and repeat the rhyme. When everyone has had a turn to look into the kaleidoscope, put it away.

Say: **The kaleidoscope made it look like the animals were moving, just like God moved them to Noah!**

Ask: • **How did God help Noah find animals in our Bible story?** (God sent them to Noah; God told the animals to go to the ark.)

Say: ► **God takes care of us and helps us, just as he helped Noah take care of the animals.** Open your Bible to **1 Peter 5:7**, and say: **Our Bible verse today says that ► God takes care of us.** Have children repeat the verse. **Let's sing a song about our Bible verse!**

BIBLE VERSE ►

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



**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.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Everybody jump to your feet!** Lead children in singing “Did You Ever Hear?” (track 12) on the CD to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?” Help the children make up motions for each animal. Play the song twice if you have time.



SING

Did you ever hear a lion,
A lion, a lion?

Did you ever hear a lion?
It sounds just like this.

(Listen to lion sounds.)

Did you ever hear a lion?
It sounds just like this.

Did you ever hear a monkey,
A monkey, a monkey?

Did you ever hear a monkey?
It sounds just like this.

(Listen to monkey sounds.)

Did you ever hear a monkey?
It sounds just like this.

Did you ever hear an elephant,
An elephant, an elephant?

Did you ever hear an elephant?
It sounds just like this.

(Listen to elephant sounds.)

Did you ever hear an elephant?
It sounds just like this.

Did you ever hear a rooster,
A rooster, a rooster?

Did you ever hear a rooster?
It sounds just like this.

(Listen to rooster sounds.)

Did you ever hear a rooster?
It sounds just like this.

Turn off the CD and ask:

- **What do you think it was like with all those animals on the ark?** (Loud; noisy.)
- **How did Noah get so many animals on the ark?** (God told the animals to come; God helped him.)

Say: **God gave Noah a big job to do. Then God helped Noah do it. God always helps us when he gives us jobs to do.**

Ask: • **Who can tell me about a time when you needed help doing a big job?** (When I gave my dog a bath, my brother helped; Mom helped me make my bed.)

Say: **Sometimes we have big jobs to do, just like Noah did. God loves us and gives us moms and dads and brothers and sisters and friends to help us. Just as he took care of Noah, ► God takes care of us and helps us.**



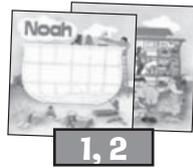
You may want to listen to “Did You Ever Hear?” a few times before class so you’ll know when to sing and when to listen to the animal sounds.





Closing

■ Even Little Mice



SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight and return the *Noah* posters to the Learning Lab.



- Whiskers:** (*Excitedly*) Where are they? Where are they? I want to see them!
- Teacher:** Hi, Whiskers. Who are you looking for?
- Whiskers:** The animals! I heard them all in here. Where are they? (*To a child*) Are you hiding one? No? (*To another child*) You have one behind your back, don't you! You don't? (*To another child*) Are you sitting on an animal? (*Turns to teacher*) Well, I give up! Where are they? It sounded like a zoo in here!
- Teacher:** Whiskers, you must have heard the song we were singing. It was about Noah and his animals.
- Whiskers:** Noah? Isn't he the one who built a big boat?
- Teacher:** That's right. God told him to build a big boat called an ark.
- Whiskers:** But I didn't hear a boat. I heard animals. What's going on?
- Teacher:** Children, can you tell Whiskers about how the animals came to Noah?
(*Help the children explain that God sent the animals to Noah so they would be safe on the ark.*)
- Whiskers:** I'm glad God helped Noah. I don't think Noah could have caught all those animals by himself, do you?
- Teacher:** I think you're right. It's a good thing that ► God takes care of us and helps us.
- Whiskers:** (*Thoughtfully*) Say, do you think there were any mice on the ark?
- Teacher:** Well, Whiskers, you're with us today, so there must have been mice on the ark. Let's see if we can find any mice on the posters. Who can find the mice and show them to Whiskers?
(*Pause and let children point out the mice. There are two mice on each poster.*)
- Whiskers:** Oh boy—look! There's a pair of mice. They're just like me! Whoopee!
- Teacher:** Yes, Whiskers. God helped Noah get all the animals on the ark—even the mice. That's because ► God takes care of us and helps us.
- Whiskers:** God must love us a lot.
- Teacher:** You're right, Whiskers. God loves us very much.
- Whiskers:** I can't wait to tell my brother that there were mice on the ark. I think I'll go tell him right now. Goodbye, everybody!

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■ God Saved the Animals

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Open your Bible to **1 Peter 5:7**, and show children the verse. Say: **Our Bible verse for today says that ►God takes care of us.** Repeat the verse together. **Let's sing our song again about how God takes care of us.** This time lead children in the motions as you sing "God Takes Care of Us" (adapted from 1 Peter 5:7) with the CD (track 11) to the tune of "God Is So Good."



God takes care of us. (*Do a group hug in a circle.*)

God takes care of us.

God takes care of us.

He's so good to us. (*Point up, and then hug yourself.*)

God takes care of you. (*Hug a friend; choose a new friend to hug for next two lines.*)

God takes care of you.

God takes care of you.

He's so good to us. (*Point up, and then hug yourself.*)

God takes care of me. (*Hug yourself.*)

God takes care of me.

God takes care of me.

He's so good to us. (*Point up, and then hug yourself.*)

Say: **I'm glad that ►God takes care of us and helps us. Let's tell God thank you.** Have children fold their hands and close their eyes. Pray: **Thank you, Lord, for taking care of Noah and helping him. Thank you for taking care of [name each child in the class]. 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: Musical Ark



track 12

Cue the *CD* to “Did You Ever Hear?” (track 12) or use another song of your choice. Set chairs in two rows, back to back. You’ll need one less chair than there are children. Show the children how to walk around the chairs as you play the song. Explain that when you pause the *CD*, everyone should hurry to sit down in a chair. The child who is left without a chair can go sit in a special place you’ve designated as the ark. Remove one chair each time you pause the *CD*. Repeat the game until all the children are in the ark. Remind children that God took care of Noah and helped him by bringing all the animals to the ark.

Make to Take: Animal Faces



Set out paper plates, crayons, glue sticks, yarn scraps, and cotton balls. Show the children how to create animal faces by drawing eyes and mouths on their plates, and then adding yarn or cotton balls for fur. As children work, let them tell you about the animals they’re making. Remind children that God took care of Noah and helped him bring all the animals onto the ark.

Treat to Eat: Chocolate Arks

Set out paper towels. Give each child a spoon, a cup of pudding, and several animal crackers. Show each child how to walk the animals across the paper towel and up the handle of the spoon to the “ark” of pudding. Let children arrange the animals in the pudding before they enjoy the treat.

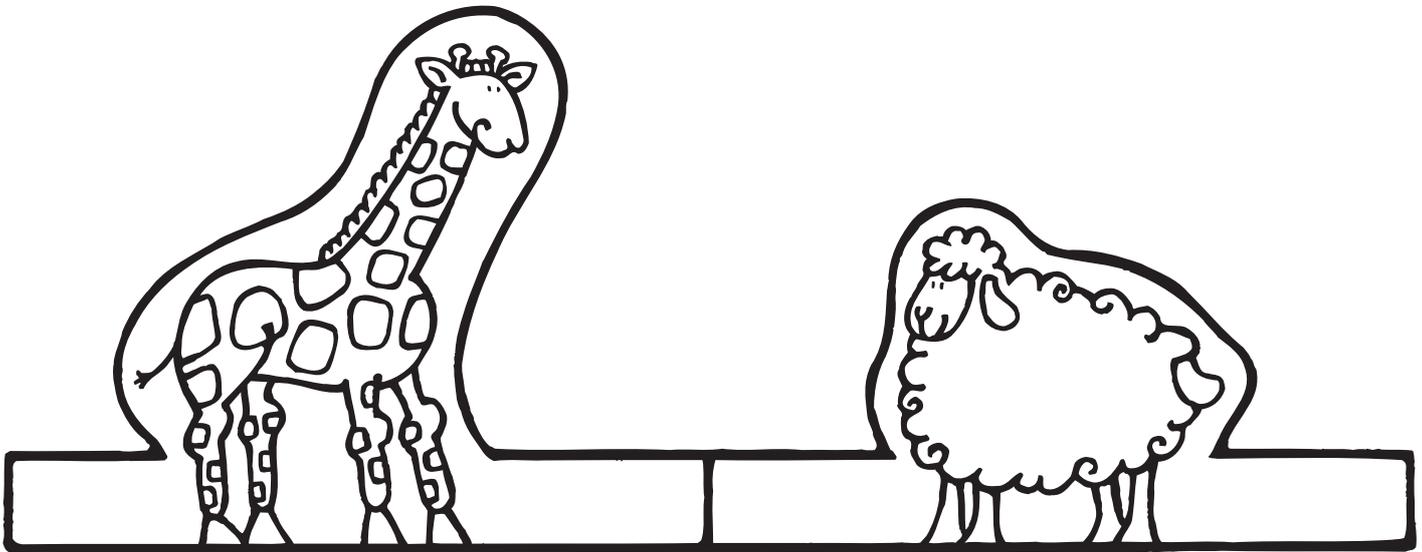
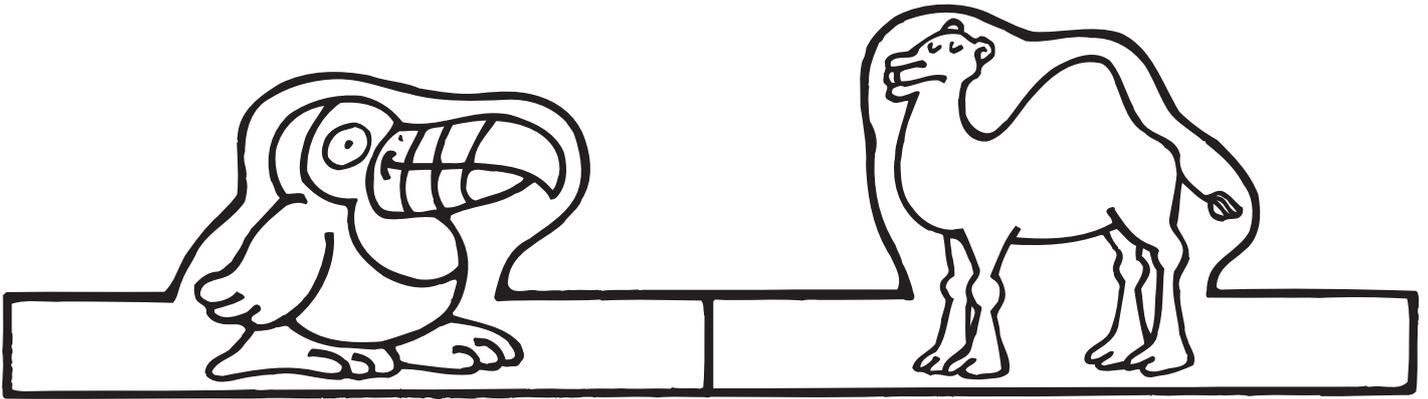


Story Picture: Noah and the Animals Enter the Ark

Give each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out scraps of yarn, felt, and twine for children to tape or glue to the animals. Then have children color the picture with crayons or markers. As they work, review how God helped Noah get the animals on the ark, and remind them that **►God takes care of us and helps us.**

Animal Finger Puppets

Photocopy and cut out the finger puppets. You'll need two of each animal and at least one puppet for each child.



Today i learned...

God takes care of us and helps us.

Lesson 6
Today your child learned that **GOD TAKES CARE OF US AND HELPS US.** Children heard how God made the animals come to Noah and board the ark. They talked about people God provides to take care of them.

Help me learn this:

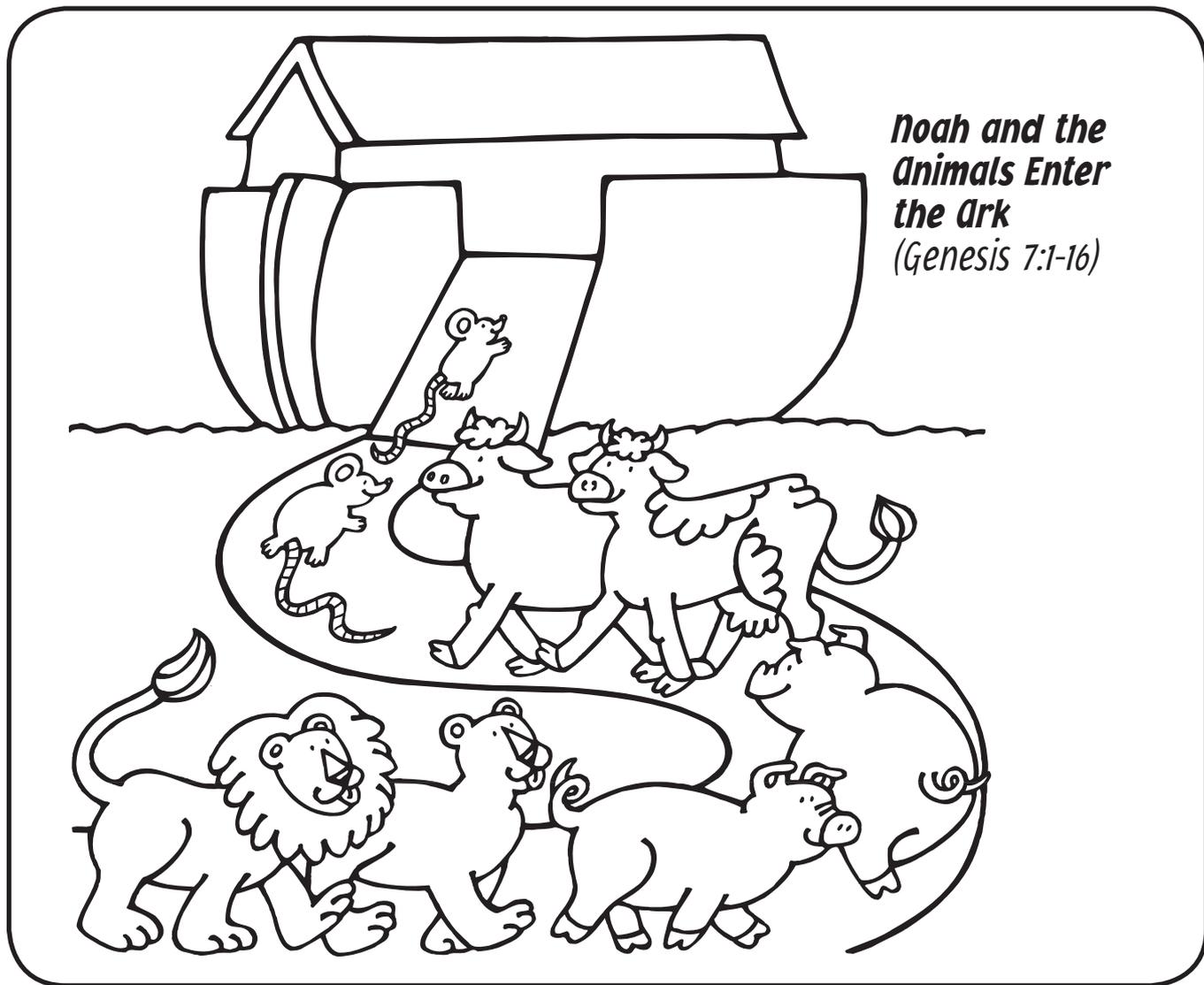
God takes care of us (adapted from 1 Peter 5:7).

Ask me:

- What did God tell Noah to do with the animals?
- Who are the people who take care of you and help you?
- How can our family help each other this week?

Family Fun

- Hide stuffed animals around the house while your child waits in another room. Designate a large chair to be the ark. Have your child be Noah and look for the animals and then bring them to the ark. After all the animals are on board the ark, share a special treat of animal crackers and hot chocolate.



Noah and the Animals Enter the Ark
(Genesis 7:1-16)