



Bible Point ▶

God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Verse

God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- know that God kept Noah safe on the ark,
 - explore places where God keeps them safe, and
 - realize that God protects them everywhere.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- **God keeps us safe wherever we are.**

**Genesis
6:9–9:17**



Several times in the story of the Flood, we are told that Noah did exactly as the Lord had commanded him. People in Noah's day had abandoned the Lord. They were not at all interested in following the Lord's basic moral principles, much less following him in the details. Noah, however, is an example of what it means to walk closely with the Lord on a day-to-day basis.

Those who keep fellowship with God a top priority in their lives experience his guidance and blessing regularly. What a comfort to know that the Creator of the universe is willing to commune with us and lead us through life! God leads us and goes with us wherever we go, comforting and protecting us no matter what happens. We should be people whose primary goal in life is that it might be said of us what was said of Noah—namely, that we were obedient to the Lord in everything he instructed us to do. The children you teach today need to learn the importance of following wherever God leads and knowing that he is always there with them.









Prayer

- Read Psalm 23:1-4.
- What does it mean to have God as your shepherd? How does it make you feel to know that God is with you as a shepherd is with his sheep?
- The psalmist says that God is with us even when we go through the darkest of places. When have you felt God's special protecting presence?
- Pray: Lord, I want to be one who obeys your every command. Thank you that as you lead me you go with me, guiding and protecting me. Help the children I teach to understand that you are with them no matter what happens or where life brings them.

Before the Lesson

- Collect 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.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

| | What Children Will Do | Classroom Supplies | Learning Lab Supplies |
|--|---|---|---|
| Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives. | Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb. | Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player |  |
| | Option 1: Sailin' Along —Go for a pretend sail on an “ark.” | Paper plate, tape, bell, blue crepe paper, string or yarn | |
| | Option 2: Funimals —Create animals out of modeling dough, and place them on the “ark.” | Modeling dough, white shelf paper, markers, tape, animal-shaped cookie cutters | |
| | Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room. | CD player |  |
| Bible Story Time | Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible. | Bible, CD player |  |
| | God Keeps Us Safe —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Noah and the ark from Genesis 6:9-9:17, and then play a fun game. | Bible |  |
| | The Ark Song —Sing an action song, and learn that God cares for them. | CD player |  |
| Bible Activities | Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together. | |  |
| | Sing It Out —Sing an action song, and learn that God cares for them. | CD player |  |
| | Bible Craft —Make pretend cars that “steer.” | Paper plates, stapler, grocery sacks, crayons, scissors | |
| | Bible Game —Travel in their pretend cars, and learn that God keeps them safe everywhere they go. | Building patterns (pp. 93-94), markers, scissors, tape, pretend cars from Bible Craft | |
|  | Special Thanks —Say a prayer, and have a snack. | Animal crackers, paper cups, apple juice, napkins | |

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God keeps us safe.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Sailin’ Along

SUPPLIES: paper plate, tape, bell, blue crepe paper, string or yarn

Before class, turn a table upside down in the center of the room. Tape blue crepe paper “waves” around the outside of the table legs. Tie a bell on one table leg, and tape a paper plate to another leg for a “steering wheel.”

As children arrive, invite them to come aboard the “boat” for a pretend sea voyage. Encourage children to take turns ringing the bell and “steering” the boat with the paper plate “wheel.” As children play, remind them that ► God keeps us safe. Mention that they’ll hear a Bible story about a man named Noah and how God kept Noah safe sailing in a boat during a big flood.

Option 2: Funimals

SUPPLIES: modeling dough, white shelf paper, markers, tape, animal-shaped cookie cutters

Before this activity, cover a table with white shelf paper. Tape the corners of the shelf paper to the table to prevent it from slipping. Use markers to draw a large boat shape on the center of the paper, and draw a few waves around the “ark” and rain clouds in the sky. Purchase modeling dough or use the recipe below to make your own.

Set out the modeling dough and animal-shaped cookie cutters. Invite children to use the cookie cutters or their hands to create different kinds of birds, animals, or crawly things. As children finish, help them place their creatures on the drawing of the ark. Remind children that God kept the animals safe on the ark just as ► God keeps us safe. Tell children they’ll hear more about the animals in the Bible story.

Modeling Dough Recipe

Heat 1½ cups of water and ½ cup of salt almost to boiling. Remove the pan from the stove. Stir in 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, 2 tablespoons of alum, and, if you desire, a few drops of food coloring. Stir in 2 to 3 cups of flour until mixture forms a ball. Knead the dough until smooth and pliable. Store in an airtight container.



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.



■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Who keeps us safe? ► *God keeps us safe.* How do we know? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

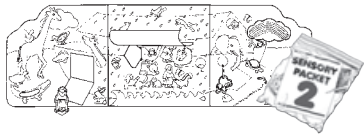
(Repeat.)

Bible!



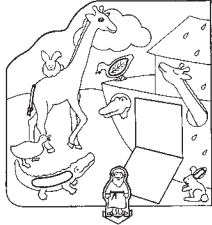
■ Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe

SUPPLIES: Bible



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1



Before this activity, set the figure of Noah beside you. Close the door flap on Panel 1. Be sure the rainbow/cloud on Panel 3 has the cloud side facing out.

Hold the StoryBoard open so children see only Panel 1. Say: **Today we'll hear a Bible story about a man named Noah.**

Set the figure of Noah in front of the StoryBoard. **Noah loved God very much. In fact, Noah was the only man in the world who loved God. God was angry at the world because the rest of the people acted mean and wicked. God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God wanted to keep Noah safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark so Noah and his family would be safe during the flood. Let's help Noah build the ark! Take out your pretend hammers.** Make pounding motions as you slowly say the following rhyme twice. Encourage children to follow your actions.

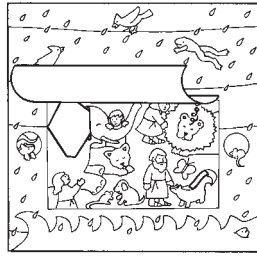
**Rat-a-tat-tat!
Bang, bang, bang!
Whack, whack, whack!
Noah's hammer rang!**

You're good builders just like Noah! When the ark was finished, God sent the animals to climb aboard. God wanted to keep the animals safe just as ►God keeps us safe. Open the ark's door on Panel 1. Here come the animals. I'll pretend to be one of the animals in the picture, and you can find that animal. Ready? I like to swim in water. I say, "quack, quack!" Who am I? Have children touch the duck. My neck is stretched up v-e-r-y tall. I like to eat juicy leaves. Who am I? Have children touch the giraffe. I hippity-hop all day. I like to eat crunchy carrots. Who am I? Let children touch the bunny. I'm a crawly, scaly guy. I'm green and have sharp teeth, but I won't bite you. Who am I? Have children touch the alligator.

It was fun finding the animals. God kept Noah and the animals safe inside the ark. And ►God keeps us safe wherever we are, too. Then God closed the door because it was going to rain! Close the door to the ark on Panel 1.



Panel 2



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2. Say: **The rain began to fall as God closed the door to the ark. Let's be falling drops of rain.** Have children stand on their tiptoes as you say "drip" and then bend low as you say "drop." **Drip, drop. Drip, drop, drip, drop, stop. Let's sit on the ground like little drops of water.** Pause. **God cares for us wherever we are, and God cared for Noah and the animals inside the ark. Let's peek inside the ark and see what's going**

on. Allow children to take turns lifting the flap on Panel 2. Ask them to find and touch the following items:

- the elephant's ear,
- the lion's mane,
- the skunk's tail,
- Noah, and
- Noah's family.

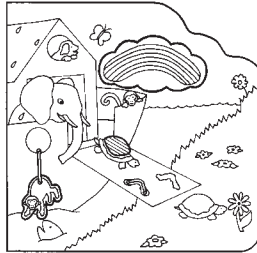
Then ask:

- **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: **God kept every one of the people and animals in the ark safe while it rained and flooded. We know that God keeps us safe, too. Do you think it has stopped raining? Let's see.**



Panel 3

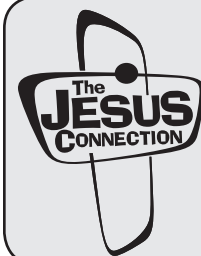


Hold the StoryBoard so children see Panel 3. Say: **Look! The rain has stopped, and the animals are coming out of the ark. See the monkey? Give the monkey a playful push. The monkey is happy that God stopped the rain. You can make the happy monkey swing.** Have children take turns swinging the monkey by its tail. Then say: **Now we'll pretend that we're monkeys with long, swingy tails.** Have children squat low and romp around the room

like monkeys. Encourage children to say "eep, eep" like little monkeys. Then say: **Let's be quiet little monkeys. Tiptoe to the StoryBoard and sit down.** Pause while children return to their places.

That was fun, and you all look happy. I think you're happy that God keeps us safe. Noah and all the animals were happy the rain had finally stopped. Punch out the white cloud and turn it over so that the rainbow shows. **And when God stopped the rain, he put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Just look at the bright colors in the rainbow!** Point to each different color as you name it aloud.

God promised never to flood the whole world again. God made the rainbow so we would remember his promise. God keeps his promises!



One of the greatest promises God makes to us is that if we believe in his Son, Jesus, we can have Jesus as our forever friend. I'm so glad that God sent Jesus to be our friend! Let's throw God a great big kiss to thank him for Jesus. Lead children in throwing God a big kiss.

Now let's play a game to remind us that ► God keeps us safe wherever we are.

Have the children join you in an area of the room that will allow space to move about. Show the children how to hold their hands together to form a pretend boat.

Say: **God kept Noah and the animals safe on a very large boat. Our pretend boats look a lot different from Noah's boat, but we're going to use them to remind us of some of the places that ► God keeps us safe.**

When I say a place that God keeps us safe, show me that place with your boat. Here's what I mean. Who likes to slide down a slide? Pause. **Let's hold our boats up high like they're on top of a slide.** Show the children how to stand on tiptoe and stretch their boats high in the air and then swoop them down the imaginary slide.

Let's think of some other places that ► God keeps us safe. He keeps us safe in the bathtub! Let your boats splash around like they're in a bathtub. Show the children how to wave their boats up and down as if splashing in a tub.

► **God keeps us safe when we're running in the grass.** Show the children how to "run" their boats on the floor. **And he keeps us safe when we're swinging on a swing.** Show children how to swing their arms back and forth in wide arcs.

Give the children opportunities to share other places that God keeps them safe. Help them use their boats to act out the ideas. For example, children might say God keeps them safe when they're in the car, when they're eating dinner, and when they're sleeping.

Ask: • **Who kept Noah and his family safe?** (God.)

• **Who keeps you and your family safe?** (God.)

• **Why does God keep us safe?** (Because he loves us.)

Say: **God knows where we are all the time. God loves us and watches over us everywhere we go. ► God keeps us safe, just as he kept Noah safe. Noah didn't have to be afraid, because he knew that God would keep him safe. Listen to what the Bible says.** Open your Bible to **Psalm 4:8**, and show children the verse. **The Bible says that ► God keeps us safe, so we don't need to be afraid.**

Let's sing a song to show how happy we are that ► God keeps us safe.



◀ BIBLE POINT



◀ BIBLE POINT



◀ BIBLE POINT



◀ BIBLE POINT



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



◀ BIBLE POINT

◀ BIBLE VERSE

■ The Ark Song

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing "The Ark Song" (track 11) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Sail, sail, sail the ark (*stand and rock back and forth*)

On the waves at sea. (*Make wavelike motions with your hands.*)

Up and down and all around (*stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around*)—

God takes care of me. (*Point to yourself.*)

Sail, sail, sail the ark (*stand and rock back and forth*);

It's like a floating bus. (*Make steering motions.*)

Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos (*scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop*)—

God takes care of us. (*Point to yourself.*)

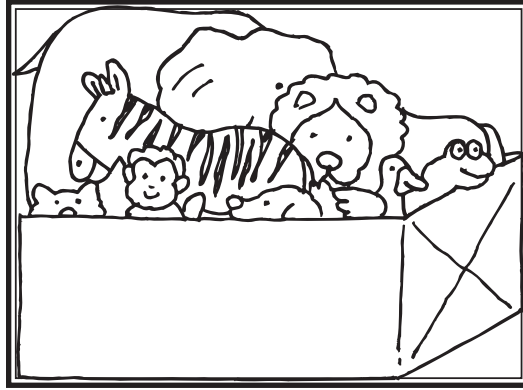

BIBLE POINT

Say: **That's a nice song. And it's nice to know that wherever we are, God keeps us safe. God keeps us safe when we're at home, in church, or in school, just as God kept Noah and the animals safe from the flood. Let's put animals inside the ark on our bulletin board.**

Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: none



Before class, gently untape the animals from the bulletin board. Hide the animals in easy-to-find places around the room. Remove the “ramp” that you placed on the board in Lesson 5.



Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: Hello, everyone! What have you been learning today?

Teacher: We've been learning that **God keeps us safe**. God keeps us safe no matter where we are, just as God kept the animals safe inside the ark.

Cuddles: *(Looking at the bulletin board)* Where are the animals? Did they run away?

Teacher: No, they're hiding in the room, and we're going on an animal hunt. Would you like to help us?

Cuddles: Yes, I like being a helper!

Have Cuddles help children find the animal cutouts and bring them to the bulletin board. Then help children place the animal cutouts in the paper ark. As each animal is placed, encourage children to repeat the Bible Point.

Teacher: The animals are all safely onboard the ark. They look like they're having fun. We can have fun singing “The Ark Song.”

Have children tell Cuddles goodbye, and then set him out of sight.

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Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “The Ark Song” (track 11) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Sail, sail, sail the ark (*stand and rock back and forth*)

On the waves at sea. (*Make wavelike motions with your hands.*)

Up and down and all around (*stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around*)—

God takes care of me. (*Point to yourself.*)

Sail, sail, sail the ark (*stand and rock back and forth*);

It’s like a floating bus. (*Make steering motions.*)

Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos (*scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop*)—

God takes care of us. (*Point to yourself.*)

Say: **It’s good to know that ► God keeps us safe. God kept Noah and his family and the animals safe inside the ark. God kept them safe as they traveled on the water. Let’s make some fun things that we can “travel” in.**



Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: paper plates, stapler, grocery sacks, crayons, scissors

Before class, cut two openings in the bottom of a grocery sack for each child. Make sure holes are big enough for a child’s legs to fit through.

Set out crayons and the paper plates. Hand out the grocery sacks, and invite children to scribble-color their “cars.” Then attach paper plate “steering wheels” by stapling them to the top inside edges of the sacks. Write children’s names on their cars.

Encourage children to climb inside their cars for a “spin.” Remind children that ► God keeps us safe no matter where we travel. Then say: **Let’s play a traveling game with our pretend cars.**



Bible Game

SUPPLIES: building patterns (pp. 93-94), markers, scissors, tape, pretend cars from Bible Craft

Before class, photocopy the building patterns. Color the four patterns, and then cut them out. Tape the pictures to the walls of the room at children’s eye level.

Say: **We know that ► God keeps us safe wherever we go.** Point to the pictures as you name each one. **God keeps us safe when we go to church, when we go to school, when we go to the store, or when we go home. Let’s travel to different places in our pretend cars. I’ll say the name of a place, and you “drive” safely to that picture.** Alternate saying, “church,” “school,” “store,” and “home.” Pause while children drive their pretend cars to each picture as you name it.

When you’ve finished, say: **You’re all safe drivers. Isn’t it great that ► God keeps us safe? Now let’s drive over to the snack table and park our cars.**

When children reach the snack table, have them set their cars aside.



Closing

■ Special Thanks

SUPPLIES: animal crackers, paper cups, apple juice, napkins

Have children wash their hands. When children have gathered at the snack table, ask:

• **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: ► **God keeps us safe. And God keeps us safe wherever we are, just as he kept Noah safe on the ark. Let's say a prayer and thank God for keeping us safe. Fold your hands.** Encourage children to say the following prayer after you.

"Thank you, God," (*echo*) "Thank you, God,"

We want to say, (*echo*) We want to say,

For keeping us safe (*echo*) For keeping us safe

Night and day. (*echo*) Night and day.

In Jesus' name, amen. (*echo*) In Jesus' name, amen.

Hand each child a napkin with five animal crackers and a cup half-filled with apple juice. Encourage children to tell you what animal shapes they have, and then let them gobble up the animal crackers. When children have finished, remind them to throw their napkins and cups in the wastebasket. Let children take their pretend cars home.



BIBLE POINT ►



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.

■ Animals in the Ark

Before this activity, photocopy the animal patterns from pages 81-82. Cut out the animals. Make stands by folding index cards in half, and tape the animal cutouts to the cards. Provide blocks, and have children build an "ark" and then place the animal pictures aboard. Remind children that ► God keeps us safe, just as he kept the animals safe inside the ark.

■ Sailing Song

If you made the boat in Option 1, gather children "onboard." Alternatively, you may spread newspaper on the floor to use as a pretend boat. Without using the *CD*, lead children in singing "The Ark Song" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" while sitting in your pretend boat. Lyrics and motions are on page 89.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

