

Bible Point ▶

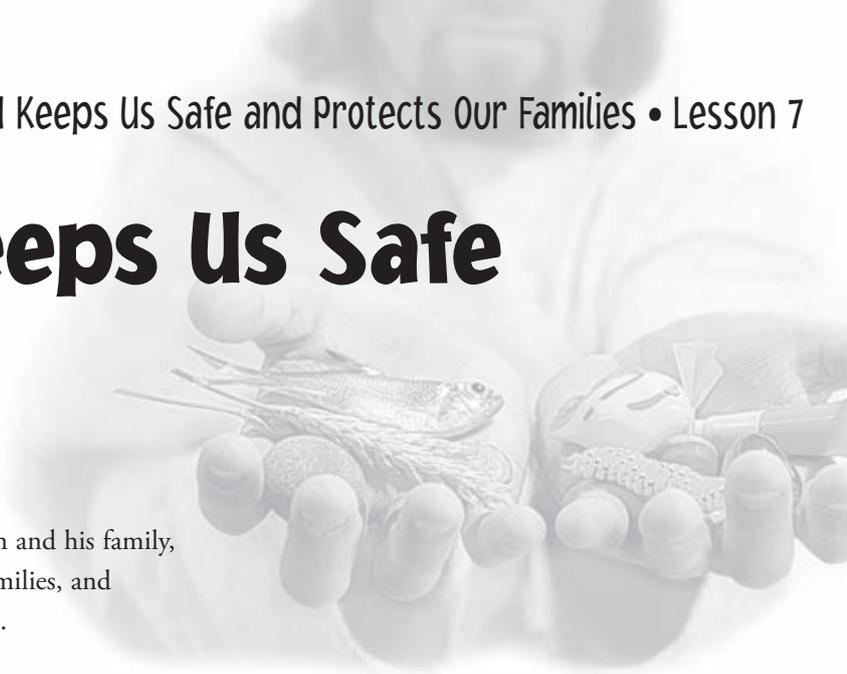
God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn how God took care of Noah and his family,
 - realize that God protects their families, and
 - thank God for keeping them safe.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- God keeps us safe and protects our families.

**Genesis
6:9–9:17**



The sin begun by Adam and Eve, and then continued by Cain and their other offspring, 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 “consistently and totally evil.”

God’s statement in Genesis 6:7 may seem as if it stemmed from anger or a desire for revenge, but instead it grew out of his pain. The people that God had created had so turned against him that he had to start over with the few who remained faithful.

Fortunately, one righteous man still loved God. The word translated *righteous* in verse 9 indicates that Noah sought both to worship and obey God and also to live in fairness with his human neighbors.

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 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: Load the Ark —Load a pretend ark with pictures of Noah and his family and the animals.	Animal and Noah and his family patterns (pp. 81-82, 106-107), small box, scissors, tape, index cards, markers or crayons, heavy paper stock		
	Option 2: All Aboard! —Roll “animals” into a pretend ark.	Tennis balls, markers, box, masking tape		
	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.	CD player		
Bible Activities	Animal Toss —Play a fun game to remind them that God kept the animals safe.	Shoe box		
	The Ark Song —Sing an action song, and learn that God cares for them.	CD player		
	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Noah and his family patterns (pp. 106-107), scissors, tape, lunch sack		
	Sing It Out —Sing an action song, and learn that God keeps them safe.	CD player		
	Bible Craft —Make potato-print pictures of their families.	Potatoes, knife, markers, white paper, tempera paint, old cake pans, paint shirts or grocery sacks, newspaper, water		
	Bible Game —Play a game with real animal sounds.	CD player, animal patterns (pp. 81-82), masking and transparent tape, scissors		
	Closing 	Animal Snackers on the Ark —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Animal crackers, apple halves, napkins, knife, spoon, wet wipes	

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: Load the Ark

SUPPLIES: animal and Noah and his family patterns (pp. 81-82, 106-107), small box, scissors, tape, index cards, markers or crayons, heavy paper stock

Before this activity, use heavy paper stock to make two photocopies of each of the animal patterns. Using the same paper, make one photocopy of the Noah and his family patterns. Color the pictures, and then cut them out and tape them to index cards.

Set out a small box, such as a tissue box, to function as an “ark.” Challenge children to find the matching animal cards and place them in the ark. When all the animal cutouts are aboard, have children put the pictures of Noah and his family in the ark. Then let children push the box around the table or floor before taking the pictures out of the ark and playing again. Remind children that ► God keeps us safe. Explain that God keeps our families safe, too, and that today children will hear how God kept Noah and his family safe during the big flood.



For a more realistic “ark,” cover a tissue box with wood-grained contact paper. Keep the animal cards “aboard the ark” after you’ve finished playing. Use this game as a great “Noah review” any time you have a few moments to fill.



Option 2: All Aboard!

SUPPLIES: tennis balls, markers, medium-sized box, masking tape

Before class, use markers to draw animal faces on two or three tennis balls. Fold in the end flaps on one end of a medium-sized box.

Set the box on its side against a wall with the opening facing the center of the room. Place a masking tape line 3 feet from the box. Have children stand at the line and take turns rolling the tennis ball “animals” into the “ark.” Remind children that God told Noah to build an ark so the animals and Noah’s family would be safe. Point out that ► God keeps us safe and also keeps our families safe. Tell children that they’ll hear more about Noah’s family and how God protected them.



■ 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!

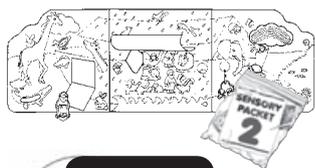
(Repeat.)

Bible!



■ Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe

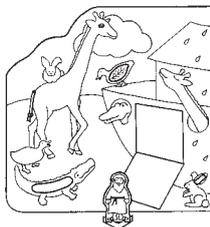
SUPPLIES: CD player



track 12

Panel 1

Set the CD player beside you. Close the door flap to the ark 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: **We're going to hear a Bible story about how ►God keeps us safe.** Hold up the figure of Noah.

Ask: • **Who is this man?** (Noah; I don't know.)

Say: **This is Noah, and Noah had a very nice family.**

He had a wife and three sons, and each son had a wife.

Noah loved God very much. Put your hands over your hearts to show how much Noah loved God. Pause. **But the other people in the world didn't love God. They were mean.** Say the following action rhyme, and encourage children to follow the actions as you repeat the rhyme two more times.

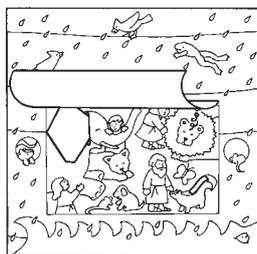
The people acted mean and bad. (*Shake your finger.*)
It made God feel very sad. (*Shake your head sadly.*)

God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God wanted to keep Noah and his family safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Noah and his family would be safe in the ark during the flood.

God wanted to keep the animals safe, too. Open the ark's door on Panel 1. So God sent the animals to the ark. Let's play an animal game. Listen, and tell me what animal you hear.

Play the animal sounds on track 12 of the CD. Pause the CD after each animal sound, and allow children to identify the animal. Then stop the CD player, and say: **God sent the animals to the ark so they'd be safe in the flood. God kept Noah and the animals safe, just as ►God keeps us safe.** When Noah and his family and the animals were aboard the ark, God shut the door. Close the flap door 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 have children bend low as you say "drop."

Drip, drop. Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip—

God sent the ark on quite a trip!

The rain came down (*bend very low*),

And the flood came up. (*Stand and reach up high.*)

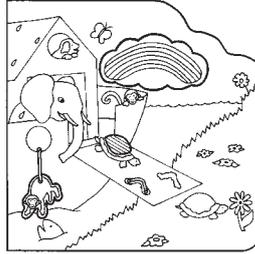
Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip, drop, stop.



Now quietly sit on the floor like little drops of water. Pause. **Let's peek inside the ark and see what's going on.** Allow toddlers to take turns lifting the flap on Panel 2. Ask them to find and touch the animals on Panel 2. Point out that God kept the animals safe just as he kept Noah's family safe.

God kept Noah and his family safe in the ark, and we know that ► God keeps us safe. God keeps our families safe, too. Do you think it has stopped raining? Let's see.

Panel 3



Fold the StoryBoard so children see Panel 3. Say: **The rain has stopped, and the animals are coming out of the ark. Look at the funny monkey.** Give the monkey a playful push. **The monkey is happy that God stopped the rain. Now the monkey can come outside and play. Let's give the monkey a swing.** Have children take turns swinging the monkey by its tail. Then ask:

- **What other animals are coming out to play?**

(Turtles; caterpillars.)

Have children touch the turtle and caterpillar.

Say: **We can pretend we're turtles and caterpillars. Turtles and caterpillars are s-l-o-w. Let's crawl slowly on the ground like turtles and caterpillars.** Allow children to crawl around the StoryBoard one time. Then say: **Now turn back into girls and boys and sit down.** Pause.

God kept the turtles, monkeys, and caterpillars safe. And guess what Noah and the animals saw when they looked up in the sky? Punch out the white cloud, and turn it over so that the rainbow shows. **God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky! Look at the bright colors in the rainbow.** Point to each different color as you name it aloud. Encourage the children to repeat names of the colors after you.

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



And God also promises that if we believe that Jesus is our forever friend, someday we will live with him in heaven. God loves us so much, and he wants us to love him, too. We can show our love for God by praying and singing to him and thanking him for keeping us safe.

Let's play a game to help us remember that ► God keeps us safe!



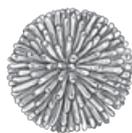
Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



Bible Activities

■ *Animal Toss*

SUPPLIES: shoe box



Remove the *porcupine ball* from the Learning Lab. Place a shoe box on the floor. Have the children form a circle on the floor around the shoe box.

Say: **Noah had a lot of animals to take care of on the boat, didn't he? Let's play a game to remind us of all the animals on the boat.** Show the children the *porcupine ball*.

Ask: • **What animal does this remind you of?** (A porcupine; my puppy; a lion.)

Say: **This ball reminds me of a porcupine because it's all spiky like a porcupine, but these spikes don't hurt. We're going to pretend our ball is an animal. When it's your turn, I want you to think of an animal that was on Noah's boat and make the sound of that animal. We'll all try to guess which animal you're thinking of. After we guess, I want you to place the animal ball into the box—we're going to pretend that's Noah's boat. Ready?**

Let each child take a turn acting out an animal and placing the ball into the box. If children struggle to think of an animal, whisper to them the name of an animal that hasn't been named yet. Make sure you suggest animals that children can recognize and make the sounds of, such as pigs, horses, cats, dogs, elephants, chickens, ducks, and donkeys.

After children have each had at least one turn acting out an animal, say: **Wow, Noah's boat really was full of animals, wasn't it? Noah had a lot of animals to care for. God kept all of those animals safe on the boat. And God kept Noah's family safe.**

► ***God keeps us safe* and protects our families. Let's pretend that our families are going on a boat. This time when you place the ball in the box, I want you to name someone in your family.**

Pass the *porcupine ball* around the circle. Each time a child holds the ball, have him or her name a family member and then place the ball into the box. Continue around the circle several times until children have exhausted their lists of family members.

Say: **God sure has a lot of families to take care of! God loves all of us so much that he takes really good care of our families, just as he took care of Noah's family.** ► ***God keeps us safe.***

Let's sing a song to show how happy that makes us!



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

■ *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.)

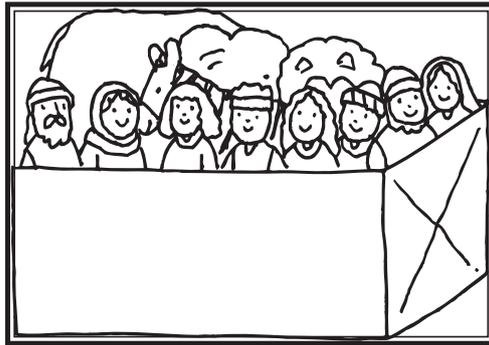


BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **It makes us happy that ▶ God keeps us safe. And God keeps our families safe, too, just as he kept Noah and his family safe inside the ark. Let's add Noah's family to the bulletin board.**

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: Noah and his family patterns (pp. 106-107), scissors, tape, lunch sack



Before class, photocopy the Noah and his family patterns. Cut out the patterns, and color them if you wish. Last week you placed the animals inside the ark. This week you'll place Noah and his family in the ark, too. Also tape a lunch sack on Cuddles' front leg.



Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding a lunch sack.

Teacher: Hello, Cuddles! What's the sack for?

Cuddles: Hi! Well, I'm going to put my family in this sack.

Teacher: Why would you want to do that, Cuddles?

Cuddles: To keep them safe.

Teacher: But they won't fit inside your sack, Cuddles. And besides, paper sacks don't keep families safe— ▶ God keeps us safe! Children, let's tell Cuddles who keeps our families safe. (Lead children in telling Cuddles that God keeps families safe.)

Cuddles: Oh, God keeps our families safe just as God kept Noah's family safe in the Bible story.

Teacher: That's right! We're going to add Noah and his family to the bulletin board right now, and you can help us.

Help children place the pictures of Noah, his wife, and the three sons and their wives in the paper ark on the bulletin board. Each time a picture is placed, encourage children to say, ▶ God keeps us safe. If you have more than eight children in class, have some children find pictures that have already been placed on the bulletin board for review. When you've finished, continue.

Teacher: Our bulletin board is looking wonderful. There's the ark, the animals, and Noah and his family—and God kept them all safe! Let's sing "God Keeps Us Safe" and pretend to go for a sail on the ark with Noah's family.

Put Cuddles out of sight of the children.

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Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing "God Keeps Us Safe" (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."



God keeps us safe. (*Cross arms over chest.*)

God keeps us safe. (*Cross arms over chest.*)

Through night and day (*cover eyes with hands; then uncover eyes*),

In every way (*clap twice*),

God keeps us safe. (*Cross arms over chest.*)

(*Repeat.*)

Say: **The Bible says in Psalm 4:8 that ► God keeps us safe. God keeps our families safe just as he kept Noah and his family safe on the ark. Let's make pictures of our own families.**

◀ BIBLE VERSE

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: potatoes, knife, markers, white paper, tempera paint, old cake pans, paint shirts or grocery sacks, newspaper, water

Before class, cut large, medium, and small potatoes in half across the middle.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out the potato halves, markers, and old cake pans with a small amount of pink, yellow, and brown tempera paint in each one. Thin the paints slightly with a little water. Have children put on paint shirts or grocery sacks with holes cut out for children's heads and arms. Hand each child a sheet of white paper. Help children draw simple faces on their papers using markers. Then have toddlers dip potato halves in the thinned tempera paints and stamp "heads" over their drawings. Point out that the large potatoes make "daddy heads," the medium potatoes make "mommy heads," and the small potatoes make "children's heads." Encourage toddlers to make faces for all the people in their families.





As children work, remind them that ► God keeps us safe, and God protects our families just as he kept Noah's family safe on the ark. When children have finished, set the family pictures aside to dry.

Say: **Noah's family was safe on the ark. Animals were on the ark, too, and God kept them all safe. Let's play a game with animals.**

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: CD player, animal patterns (pp. 81-82), masking and transparent tape, scissors



Before this activity, use masking tape to make a simple boat shape or a rectangle on the floor. Make photocopies of the animal patterns. Cut out the lion, the elephant, the monkey, and the cat, making sure there's a pattern for each child.

Gather the children at one end of the room, and tape an animal picture to each child. Have each child say the name of his or her animal picture and make that animal's sound.

Say: **I'll pretend I'm Noah standing in the ark.** "Climb aboard" the "ark" outline on the floor, and hold the CD player. **When you hear the animal sound that matches the picture you're wearing, pretend you're that animal and crawl to the ark.**

Play "Animal Sounds #2" on the CD (track 13). Pause the CD after each animal sound to give children time to get to the ark. Encourage each child to make the appropriate animal sound and walk or crawl like his or her particular animal. Then play the next animal sound.

Continue until all the children are on the ark. Then say: **That was fun. It's great that God kept the animals safe, just as ► God keeps us safe! Now let's have a special treat on the ark.**



Closing

■ Animal Snackers on the Ark

SUPPLIES: animal crackers, apple halves, napkins, knife, spoon, wet wipes

Before class, cut apples in half, and scoop out the cores and seeds to form small "boats." You may wish to rub a bit of lemon juice on the apple halves to prevent them from turning brown. Prepare an apple half for each child in class.

Remain sitting in the ark outline.

Ask: • **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: ► God keeps us safe. **And he keeps our families safe, too. Fold your hands, and let's say our thank-you prayer.**



Pray:

“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.

Say: **Noah and his family ate in the ark. We can enjoy a special snack in our pretend ark, too.** Have kids clean their hands with wet wipes. Hand each child a napkin containing an apple half and three animal crackers. **March your animals onto your apple “arks,” and after you eat the animals one by one, you may gobble up the ark.**

When children have finished eating their animal crackers and apple arks, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take home their potato-print family pictures from the Bible Craft.



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.

■ **Animal Families**

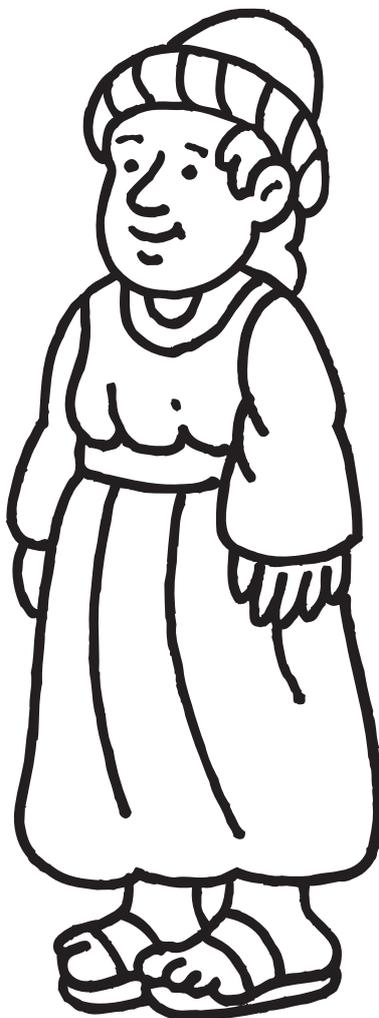
Before this activity, cover a table with newspapers. Let children make “thumbprint animals” by sticking their thumbs on water-based ink pads or in tempera paint and then stamping their thumbprints on paper. Help children use markers to add tails, legs, and faces to their thumbprints to create tiny “animals.” “Frame” the animal prints by mounting them on colored construction paper. Be sure each child’s name is on the back of his or her thumbprint animal.

■ **Keep on Rollin’**

Set out the tennis balls and the box from Option 2, and invite the children to roll the “animals” into the “ark.” If you chose not to do Option 2, let children roll paper-wad “animals” into a wastebasket “ark” that’s been turned on its side.

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.



