

Bible Point ▶

God takes care of us and keeps his promises.

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- play games with rainbow colors,
 - hear how Noah and the animals left the ark,
 - learn that the rainbow is a sign of God's promise, and
 - thank God for keeping his promises.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God gives the rainbow as a sign of his promise.

**Genesis
9:8-17**



Put yourself in Noah's place. You'd just witnessed the biggest rainstorm of all time! All the people on earth perished because of their evil ways—everyone but you and your family. Think about what would have gone through your mind the next time a thundercloud rolled overhead—would you immediately wonder if God was getting ready for another flood? God took care of that fear for Noah when he promised that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood (Genesis 9:11).

Noah knew he could count on God to fulfill his promise because God had proven himself faithful. And the rainbow God gave was one more sign that he could be trusted. Notice that the rainbow wasn't only to remind Noah of the covenant but to remind God himself! (See Genesis 9:16.) Whenever Noah saw a rainbow, he would know that God could see it too, and would remember the covenant he'd made!

Prayer

- Read Genesis 17:1-7.
- How does God's covenant with Abram compare to his covenant with Noah?
- What do these two covenants tell us about how we can trust God today to keep his promises.
- Pray: Lord, help me to trust more fully in your promises and to help the little ones in my class understand that they can trust you, too.

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: Pieces of a Rainbow —Make rainbow confetti, and hear how God sent the rainbow.	Colored construction paper, plastic bag	
	Option 2: Rainbow Wrap —Make rainbow gift wrap, and talk about God's promise.	Newsprint	
	Option 3: Hidden Rainbows —Discover a hidden rainbow, and learn how God sent the rainbow to Noah.	Paper, white crayons, bowls of water, watercolor paints, paintbrushes	
	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 —Play a color game to discover the colors God put in the rainbow.	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 of God's promise never to flood the whole earth again.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Sprinkle colored confetti on the <i>Noah poster</i> , and remind each other that God keeps his promises.	Rainbow confetti from Option 1	
Closing 	Rainbows for Whiskers —Help Whiskers learn about God's promise.	Paper-plate umbrella from Lesson 7	
	Rainbow in the Sky —Learn an action rhyme about God's promise.	Bible	

*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 put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions like “How did your family help you during scary times?” and “What did you tell your family about Noah and the big flood?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises.**
- Hand out the ark name tags children made during Lesson 5, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extra name tags handy for children who were not in class that week and to replace damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

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 “Have you ever seen a rainbow? Tell me about it” and “Have you ever made a promise? What was it?”

■ Option 1: Pieces of a Rainbow

SUPPLIES: colored construction paper, plastic bag

Before class, cut red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple construction paper into 2-inch strips. Help children tear the strips into small pieces, about the size of their fingertips. Make sure children tear at least one strip of each color. As they work, invite them to tell you what color they like best. Talk about the different colors, and point out objects of each color in your room. Tell children that today they’ll learn how God sent a rainbow after the flood. Remind them that ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises.

When children finish making confetti, hold a plastic bag open so that they can drop the confetti into it. You’ll be using the confetti later in the lesson. If you choose not to do this activity, you’ll need to make confetti before class.

■ Option 2: Rainbow Wrap

SUPPLIES: newsprint

Give each child a large sheet of newsprint. Help them make wrapping paper by stamping the *rainbow stamp* all over the paper. Point out that the rainbow is God’s gift to us, and it reminds us



◀ **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.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



If you have rubber stamps and ink pads from previous Learning Labs, set them out for the children to use on their wrapping paper.


BIBLE POINT ▶

that ▶ God takes care of us and keeps his promises. Encourage children to use their rainbow wrapping paper the next time they give a gift.

■ Option 3: Hidden Rainbows

SUPPLIES: paper, white crayons, bowls of water, watercolor paints, paintbrushes

Before class, use a white crayon to draw rainbow arches on sheets of white paper. You'll need a rainbow for each child who participates in this activity.

Set out bowls of water, watercolor paints, and paintbrushes. Let children paint over their papers to discover the rainbows. As the rainbow lines appear, talk about how the rainbow appeared in the clouds to Noah and his family. Explain that the rainbow was a sign that ▶ God takes care of us and keeps his promises.


BIBLE POINT ▶

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.


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: tape



Before class, remove the *rainbow paper circles* from the Learning Lab. Tape the circles to chairs, window ledges, or other places children can reach. If possible, distribute the circles evenly around the room.

Tell children you'll turn the lights on and then off again 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 our class today?** (Made confetti; made wrapping paper; made a rainbow painting.)

Say: **Some of you made rainbow confetti, some of you made rainbow gift wrap, and some of you made a rainbow painting. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're going to hear how God gave Noah a rainbow to remind him of a special promise. Let's get ready for that story by playing a game with rainbow colors.**

If you look around, you'll see lots of different-colored circles. What color of circles do you see? (Red; blue; green.)

I'm thinking of a color. I'm going to give you some clues to help you guess what color I'm thinking of. When you think you know the color, go stand by that color of circle. Are you ready? Here are some clues: Many apples are this color. Fire engines are this color.

Continue giving clues until children guess the color red and walk to the red circle. If someone is wearing red, you might also say: [Name of child] **is wearing this color.**

Yes, I was thinking of the color red. Can you tell me some other things that are red? Give children time to name other things that are red. Then choose a child to untape the circles and bring them to you.

Now what color am I thinking of? The sky is this color. Bluebirds are this color.

After children walk to the blue circles, invite two children to untape the circles and bring them to you. Then invite children to name other things that are blue. Repeat the activity for the remaining circles. Use the following clues to help children guess the color you're thinking of.

- **Bananas and lemons are this color. The sun is this color.** (Yellow.)
- **Broccoli is this color. Grass is this color.** (Green.)
- **Pumpkins are this color. Carrots are this color.** (Orange.)

As before, have children guess the color you're thinking of, walk to those circles, name other things that color, and bring the circles to you.

When all the circles have been collected, tape them in an arc on the wall behind you. Say: **Look at the rainbow of pretty colors God made! Let's name them together.**

Point to the appropriate circle as you name each color: **God made red. God made orange. God made yellow. God made green. God made blue. God made something very special when he put the rainbow in the sky. The rainbow reminds us that ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises. Let's go to the story area now and hear about the rainbow God gave to Noah.**



Some children may not know color names yet. They can recognize and match colors, but they may not be able to answer the question, What color is this object? You can help children learn their colors by pointing to and naming each color several times.



■ 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"

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



(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.)

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 other children's hands. Keep the *rainbow stamp* and *ink pad* on hand. You'll be using them during the puppet script.

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.”



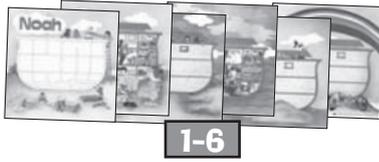
**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

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



Remove all the *Noah posters* from the Learning Lab, and lay them on the floor. If you have a large class, you may want to put them on the wall so everyone can see them. Have children gather around the posters.

Open the Bible to **Genesis 4:8-17**. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our posters show us pictures of our Bible story.**

Ask: • **Who can find the picture of Noah building the ark?**

Wait for children to point to the first poster, showing Noah and his sons building the ark. Then ask:

• **What can you tell me about the ark?** (It was big; a flood was coming; lots of animals were on it.)

• **Where's the picture of the animals entering the ark? Which animals do you see?**

Wait for children to point to and name the animals entering the ark. Then ask:

• **How did all those animals get on the ark?** (God helped Noah; Noah went and got them; they went in the door.)

Say: **You're remembering our story so well! Let's see what else you remember.**

• **Who can find the picture that shows the beginning of the flood?**

Give children time to find the picture that shows rain falling on the ark. Then ask:

• **What do you think Noah and his family were feeling when it was raining so hard?** (Scared because of the storm; glad they were in the ark.)

Say: **Well, it rained and rained and rained. And the ark rocked back and forth and up and down. Let's rock back and forth—be careful not to tip over!**

After 40 days and 40 nights, the rain stopped. Days and days and weeks and weeks passed, and finally the water began to dry up. The ark stopped rocking back and forth and floated gently on the water. The water got lower and lower, until pretty soon Noah and his family could see land again.

Jump up and down in your seat and say "BUMP!" because the ark landed right on top of a mountain. Pause. **Let's look at our posters to see what happened next.**

Point to the poster that shows the animals leaving the ark. Invite children to tell you what they see happening in the picture. Say: **Noah and his family got off the boat. The animals got off the boat. Noah and his family prayed and thanked God for saving them. Let's all kneel like Noah and his family are doing in the picture.** Have everyone kneel.



Say: **Jesus hears our prayers no matter where we are or what we're doing. We can pray while we're lying in bed at night, while we're taking a walk, or anytime! Let's thank Jesus for keeping his promises and for hearing our prayers.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, we are so glad that you listen to us when we talk to you. Thank you for taking care of us and for always keeping your promises. Amen.**

It made God happy when Noah prayed. He loved Noah. Let's all sit down now and hear what else the Bible says about Noah.

Here's the best part of our story. God told Noah he would never, ever send another flood to cover the whole earth. To remind Noah of his promise, God put a special sign in the sky. Who can find the special sign God put in the sky?

Wait for the children to point to the rainbow. Then say: **The rainbow reminded Noah that** ▶ *God takes care of us and keeps his promises.* **And you know what? The rainbow wasn't just for Noah. It was for you and me! God keeps his promises to us, too!**

Remain seated around the posters for the next activity.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: rainbow confetti from Option 1



Bring out the rainbow confetti children made earlier. Say: **I have some colorful confetti here. The colors of the rainbow are in this confetti. Let's see if we can find each color.** Sprinkle some of the confetti into your hand, and hold your hand in front of the children.

Ask: • **Who can find red? orange? yellow? green? blue? purple?** As children respond, congratulate them on being good color detectives!

Say: **I'm going to let you each have a little confetti to sprinkle on our rainbow. When it's your turn, say, "God keeps his promises" and sprinkle your confetti on top of the rainbow. When we're all finished, I'll scoop the confetti back into its bag.**

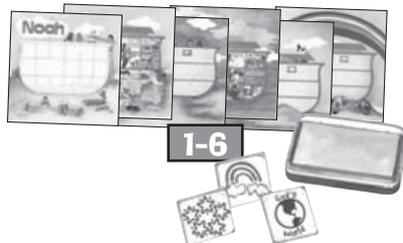
Choose a child to take some confetti and say, "God keeps his promises." Then let the child sprinkle the confetti on the rainbow of the *Noah poster 6*. When everyone has had a chance to sprinkle some confetti, comment on the pretty colors, and say: **The next time you see a rainbow in the sky, you'll know the rainbow reminds us that** ▶ *God takes care of us and keeps his promises.*

Pour the confetti back into its bag, and put it away. The *Noah posters* will be used in the puppet script.

Closing

■ Rainbows for Whiskers

SUPPLIES: paper-plate umbrella from Lesson 7



Bring out Whiskers the Mouse and the mouse-sized umbrella you prepared last week, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight and return the other items to the Learning Lab.



BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶



Live It!



Whiskers: *(Holding his umbrella)* Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Whiskers. I see you've brought your umbrella again today.

Whiskers: Mm-hmm. I carry it everywhere now. Last week you told me that God made it rain and rain and rain. And then there was a flood. I need my umbrella in case that happens again. I'm building a boat at home, too—just in case.

Teacher: Children, we'd better tell Whiskers what we've learned today. He's afraid God will send another flood to cover the whole earth!

(Lead children to tell Whiskers that God promised never to flood the whole earth again. Encourage them to tell Whiskers about the rainbow God sent as a sign of his promise.)

Whiskers: Wow! God must really love us. He promised he will never send another flood. But what's a rainbow? I've never seen one.

Teacher: Children, why don't we show Whiskers our posters and let him see the rainbow.
(Help children search through the posters and find the rainbow for Whiskers.)

Whiskers: Oh, that's so pretty. And look! The animals are out of the ark! Did the mice make it? They didn't fall overboard or get eaten or anything?

Teacher: The mice made it just fine, Whiskers, just like all the other animals. Children, can you help Whiskers find the mice in the picture?

(Give children time to find and point to the mice.)

Whiskers: I feel important. God cares about mice!

Teacher: ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises. He took care of Noah and all the animals on the ark—even the mice. If you look carefully, you can find the mice in every one of our *Noah* posters.

Whiskers: *(Excitedly)* I can? Do you think my friends will help me find them?

(Have children find the mice in each poster and point them out to Whiskers.)

Whiskers: *(After looking at the last poster)* Thank you for helping me find the mice. That was fun. And I've had fun learning that ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises. I guess I won't need this silly old umbrella anymore.

Teacher: I know what you can do with your umbrella. We have a special *rainbow stamp* in our Learning Lab. Would you like each of the children to stamp your umbrella with a rainbow? That will help you remember that ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises.

Whiskers: Oh yes, I'd like that a lot! Oh boy, my own pretty rainbows! I'm the luckiest little mouse in class! Thank you! Thank you!

(Let the children take turns stamping the rainbow stamp on Whiskers umbrella. If you want, have them say, "God keeps his promises" as they stamp the umbrella.)



■ *Rainbow in the Sky*

SUPPLIES: Bible

BIBLE VERSE ►

Open your Bible to **1 Peter 5:7**, and show children the verse. Say: **Our Bible verse says, ►God takes care of us.** Repeat the verse together. **Let's learn an action rhyme to help us remember ►God takes care of us and keeps his promises.** You can listen to the words and do the actions with me. Then we'll say the words and do the actions together.

God put a rainbow in the sky (*trace an arch over your head*)—

Way up in the clouds so high. (*Point up.*)

And when I see it, I will know (*put hand to forehead, as if looking for something*)

God cares for me and loves me so. (*Hug self.*)

Repeat the rhyme two or three times so children can learn it, and then invite one or two children to help you lead the motions. Close your class time with a prayer similar to this one: **Dear God, thanks for sending your beautiful rainbow to remind us that you keep your promises. We're glad you take care of us. 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: Promise Celebration



track 19

Before class, cut different-colored crepe paper into 12-inch strips. Try to include as many colors of the rainbow as you can. Let each child choose one or two crepe paper streamers. Point out that the colored streamers are like the rainbow, the sign of God's promise.

Play "Celebration Music" (track 19) from the CD, and have children wave their streamers as they march around the room. When the music stops, have children throw their streamers in the air and shout, "God keeps his promises!"

■ Make to Take: Tissue-Stain Rainbows

Before class, cut different-colored tissue paper into 1- to 2-inch squares. Try to include all the colors of the rainbow. Set an old bedsheet under your table or work area.

Give each child a sheet of white paper and several different-colored tissue paper squares. Have children place their squares randomly on their papers. Using a spray bottle, show children how to spray water gently on the tissue. The water will cause the tissue to run and create colors on the white paper. Let children experiment with different color combinations. As they work, point out the rainbow colors they're making. Remind them that the rainbow is a sign of God's promise.

Have children peel off the wet tissue pieces and throw them away. Set the papers aside to dry.

■ Treat to Eat: Rainbow Toast



Set out three or four small bowls of milk, and let children help you add a different-colored food coloring to each one. Distribute cotton swabs or small paintbrushes, and show children how to paint rainbow colors on slices of bread.

Toast the bread in a toaster away from the children to prevent burns. As the rainbow toast pops up, have children say together, "God keeps his promises." Let the toast cool slightly; then let all enjoy!



■ Story Picture: God Sends a Rainbow

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Help children spread glue on the rainbow and sprinkle on some of the rainbow confetti they made earlier. Then set out crayons or markers, and let children color the rest of the picture. As they work, review how God gave Noah the rainbow as a sign of his promise. Remind them that ► God takes care of us and keeps his promises.

Today i learned...

God takes care of us and keeps his promises.

Help me learn this:

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

Ask me:

- What did God put in the sky for Noah and his family to see?
- Why did God put the rainbow in the sky?
- Tell about a promise someone made to you.

Family Fun

- Fill several resealable plastic bags with shaving cream and a few drops of food coloring. Allow your child to color the shaving cream by squishing it around in the bag. Remind your child not to rub his or her eyes after handling the shaving cream.

When you have several different colors, your child can use them in the bathtub as soap or body paint. As your child plays with the rainbow paints, remind him or her of God's promise never to flood the world again.

Lesson 8
Today your child learned that **GOD TAKES CARE OF US AND KEEPS HIS PROMISES**. Children heard how God promised Noah that he'd never flood the whole earth again. They played a color game to learn about the colors of the rainbow.

God Gives the Rainbow as a Sign of His Promise
(Genesis 9:8-17)

