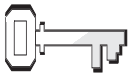


Noah Builds A Boat



References

Genesis 6; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 90-96



Memory Verse

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God” (Psalm 143:10, NIV).

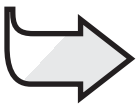


Objectives

The children will:
Know that people in God’s family want to know and do God’s will.

Feel willing to do what God asks us to do.

Respond by doing whatever God asks us to do.



The Message

People in God’s family want to do His will.

Monthly Theme

We show love by working together in our community.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Noah is a good man who walks with God. He and his family live during a particularly wicked time in earth’s history, so wicked that God decides He should start over. God tells Noah He plans to destroy the earth with a flood. He gives Noah plans to build a huge boat that will carry him and his family to safety. Noah follows every detail of God’s plans. It takes 120 years and the help of many people to build the ark.

This is a lesson about community.

Imagine how long it took to build a boat with such gigantic dimensions. Noah worked for 120 years. His sons worked with him for 120 years. Other people worked during that entire time. Think about communicating all the details that go into a huge construction project. Building the ark was an exercise in community cooperation. God still wants His people to work together to fulfill His will for humanity.

Teacher Enrichment

We don’t know for sure how much the ancient cubit measurement is, but possibly 20.6 inches, making the ark 515 feet (157 meters) long, 86 feet (26 meters) wide, 52 feet (16 meters) high. These measurements would make the ark taller than a four-story building, as long as one and a half football fields, and wider than a four-lane highway. Some scientists think that the ark could have held more than 45,000 animals. The ark was as big as large ships today. (See *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 253, 254.)

“God gave Noah the exact dimensions of the ark and explicit directions in regard to its construction in every particular. Human wisdom could not have devised a structure of so great strength and durability. God was the designer, and Noah the master builder. It was constructed like the hull of a ship, that it might float upon the water, but in some respects it more nearly resembled a house. It was three stories high, with but one door, which was in the side. The light was admitted at the top, and the different apartments were so arranged that all were lighted. The material employed in the construction of the ark was the cypress, or gopher wood, which would be untouched by decay for hundreds of years” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 92, 95).

Room Decorations

Use pictures of animals for a bulletin board display. Make a backdrop of Noah's ark using a large piece(s) of cardboard surrounded by artificial trees, bushes, flowers, rocks, and toy stuffed animals.

Program Overview

Lesson Section

Minutes

Activities

Materials Needed

Welcome

ongoing

Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled

1

Readiness Options

up to 10

A. *Help Wanted*
B. *Starting a Company*

paper, pencils
paper, markers, tape

Any Time

Prayer and Praise*

up to 10

Fellowship
Songbook
Mission
Offering
Prayer

none
Sing for Joy
Children's Mission
toy boat
none

2

Bible Lesson

up to 20

Experiencing the Story

Memory Verse

Bible Study

chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker, bell or drum
chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker, twelve copies of tool pattern (see p. 141), paper
Bibles, stick or chalk

3

Applying the Lesson

up to 15

God's Will

Sing for Joy, chalkboard or white board, chalk or markers

4

Sharing the Lesson

up to 15

Tool Time

Bibles, tool pattern (see p. 141), paper, scissors, pencils

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been, what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils

A. Help Wanted

Have students get into groups and write a help-wanted ad for someone to help Noah build the ark. Have them write lists of qualifications needed (building skills such as carpenter, team player, believer in God, etc.). When the groups are finished, let them share with the class.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you think is the most important quality someone helping Noah should have? One very important quality would be to want to do what God wanted them to do, to follow God's plans. Our memory verse says: "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God" (Psalm 143:10, NIV). Noah's family became workers with God when God asked Noah to build the ark. Noah and his family wanted to do what God wanted them to do. They wanted to do God's will. Today's message is:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WANT TO DO HIS WILL.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- paper
- markers
- tape

B. Starting a Company

Say: **We're going to make a sign for a family business. Noah and his sons formed a big business. What kind of business was it? What were they to make?** (a big boat or ark) **Why did they build a big boat?** (Because God told them to; so they would be safe from the waters of the flood that God told Noah would cover the earth.) **What do you think their business should be called?** Take suggestions. Pass out art supplies. Have the students work together to make a big sign that says NOAH AND SONS, BOAT BUILDERS or whatever name they decide on. Hang the sign where all may see and leave it up for the rest of the month.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **If your parents work for a company, raise your hand. What kinds of companies do they work for? If you were going to start a company, what would you need?** (something to do or a product to make, people to work for you, a purpose, supplies) **Who are some of the people you would need in a company?** (president, secretaries, employees/workers) **How do you know a business is a company?** (advertising, products, business cards) **What do all the people in the company have in common?** (They do what the company owner asks them

to do.) **Our memory verse today is “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God” (Psalm 143:10) [NIV]. Noah’s family became workers with God when they built the ark. They wanted to do what God wanted them to do. They wanted to do God’s will, and we want to do God’s will too. Today’s message says:**



PEOPLE IN GOD’S FAMILY WANT TO DO HIS WILL.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- “I Want to Be” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 124)
- “We Are His Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129)
- “Teach Me, Lord” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 110)
- “Trust in the Lord” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 111)
- “We Are Climbing Jesus’ Ladder” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 120)
- “Sandy Land” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 121)



Mission

Use a story from *Children’s Mission*.



Offering

Use a toy boat as an offering container. Talk about how we help build God’s kingdom when we share our gifts through offerings as well as by working together to do God’s will.

You Need:
• toy boat



Prayer

Ask God to help everyone want to do what God wants them to do.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or marker
- bell or drum

Experiencing the Story

Setting the scene:

Write the following on the board in large letters: NOAH BELIEVED AND NOAH BUILT THE ARK.

Say: **Today, we're going to be a talking choir. We are going to tell the story of Noah together. When I ring the bell/beat the drum (or sound another noisemaker), you will say these words together (point to board or poster): NO-AH BE-LIEVED AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.** Have the children practice the sentence by clapping on the syllables.

Read or tell the story.

It was a quiet morning. Noah got up early, as he always did, to pray. As usual, a heavy dew lay over the ground. Do you know what dew is? *[Accept answers.]* It's the drops of water that are on everything outside in the morning. It's like rain from the ground. Water comes up instead of coming down. Dew was how Noah's grapevines and garden were watered. It was how the Garden of Eden had been watered. The earth had been watered that way since God had created it.

Noah looked across the hills at the city. The city was a scary place. People killed each other. People robbed each other. This wasn't the kind of life God had planned for His people. *What had gone wrong?* Noah wondered. The same things were starting to happen in the place where Noah lived. No place was safe.

That morning, while Noah prayed, God spoke to him. God said, "Noah, things are so evil on the earth that I have decided to put an end to everything and start

over. Almost no one is teaching children to love God and to be kind to each other. Few people are kind and honest to others. People are afraid in their own homes. I want to end this suffering.

"Noah, I want you to build a boat out of gopher wood." *[Ring bell. Children say: So NO-AH BE-LIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]*

Now, Noah probably knew what a boat was. People rode in boats on the lakes and seas that God had created. And Noah knew what gopher wood was. It was made from a tree that was very strong. *[Ring bell. Children say: So NO-AH BE-LIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]*

But when God began to tell Noah how big to make the ark, Noah didn't understand. Maybe he said, "But, Lord, that's gigantic!" God's boat was to be taller than a four-story building *[compare it to a local building]*, as long as one-and-a-half football/soccer fields, and wider than a four-lane highway!

[Ring bell. Children say: But NO-AH BE-LIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]

And there was more! It would have three decks: lower, middle, and upper. The decks would be connected by ramps. But the boat was going to have only one door and only one window to let in air and light. There were to be lots of stalls for all the animals that would go into the ark. And God's plan was to include storage rooms for all the food for both the people and animals. Some scientists think the ark was big enough to hold more than 45,000 animals!

[Ring bell. Children say: But NO-AH BE-LIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]

Now, Noah couldn't just go to a lumber store and order wood. He had to think about all the work it would take to build the ark. Trees had to be cut down. Someone had to strip the bark off the

trees and cut them into planks. It would take a lot of work. The list must have seemed endless.

[Ring bell. Children say: But NO-AH BELIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]

And then God said, "I am going to bring water down from the sky to destroy everything and everyone who doesn't believe in Me. Even the creatures have become evil and dangerous."

Noah was shocked. Perhaps he thought, *Why build a boat if everything is going to die?*

[Ring bell. Children say: But NO-AH BELIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]

Then God explained that Noah, his wife, and their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, would be safe in the ark. If others wanted to be saved, they would be welcome in the ark too. In fact, Noah was to invite everyone to come inside so they could be saved from the flood God promised. There would be plenty of room for people and animals.

Noah must have wondered how he was going to round up all those cats and dogs and kangaroos and tigers and elephants and other animals. If I were Noah, I would be especially afraid of the wild animals and poisonous snakes, wouldn't you?

[Ring bell. Children say: But NO-AH BELIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]

I can imagine that Noah posted signs asking for help to build his big boat. Some people did come to help. They cut down trees and stripped off the bark. They helped to build a frame for the boat. Noah's sons helped too. What do you think they did? *[Allow time for suggestions.]*

Noah's wife had to begin weaving heavy cloth for sacks to store food in. Maybe she also made baskets for carrying the animals' food. It was a lot of work.

Some people who helped believed in

God. But they died before the project was finished. Others helped, even though they didn't believe. Still others just watched and made fun of Noah. But God was patient with them.

Noah and his family didn't know when they started that it would take them 120 years to finish the job. But they kept working because God had told them what to do, and they wanted to do God's will.

[Ring bell. Children say: But NO-AH BELIEVED, AND NO-AH BUILT THE ARK.]

Maybe Noah didn't understand all of what God was asking him to do, but he did it anyway. Noah wanted to please God and do His will. We may not always understand what God wants us to do, but when we want to do His will, He will help us know what to do.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **If you had lived in Noah's time, what would you have thought when Noah told you that God was going to send a flood?**

Why do you think some of the people didn't believe Noah?

Would you have helped Noah build his boat? Why?

What made Noah keep on working even though it took so long and people in the town laughed at him?

Even though Noah may not have understood about rain, or didn't like to hear the people make fun of him, he kept on working, doing what God asked him to do. He wanted to please God and do His will.

Do you want to do God's will? Remember our message. Let's say it together:



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WANT TO DO HIS WILL.**

You Need:

- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or marker
- twelve copies of tool pattern (see p. 141)
- paper

Memory Verse

In advance, write the memory verse, on twelve copies of the tool pattern on page 141, one word on each. Don't forget the text.

Write the memory verse where all may see. The memory verse is: **“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God” (Psalm 143:10, NIV).**

Put the “tools” in a toolbox or cardboard box and have the children take turns in small groups putting the tools/words in order, then reading the verse together. Repeat until all have had a turn and the children know the verse.

You Need:

- Bibles
- stick or chalk

Bible Study

Distribute Bibles (or have the children use their own) and have the children read Genesis 6:15, 16. (Adapt the following. Use measurements from your area of the world.)

Ask: **Do you know how many feet 450 feet is? How about 75? Four hundred fifty feet is about 12 school buses long. Forty-five feet is about six school buses wide. One foot is equal to 12 inches.**

Most of our feet aren't 12 inches long, but our steps are a little longer than that. We're going to go outside and walk around the grounds and

count our steps to show the size of the ark.

Go outside. Count 450 steps as you walk with the students. This will represent 450 feet. If possible, use a stick (if you walk in dirt) or chalk (if you are on concrete) to draw the line as you pace.

Then pace out and trace 75 feet for the width.

Go to another spot and draw an X at about 45 feet. Talk about how tall 45 feet is. Point out a tree or building that is about that tall.

Stand in the center of the ark you have drawn and spread your arms.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Tell me about a time when you have been in a building as big as this.**

What are some of the things you could do in a space this big? Who are some of the people you would invite if you lived in a house this big?

Why do you think God wanted the ark to be so big? Why do you think Noah and his family built such a big boat? Today's message gives us the answer.



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WANT TO DO HIS WILL.**

3

Applying the Lesson

God's Will

Say: **We're going to sing a song now. Really think about the words you're singing.** Sing "Teach Me, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 110).

Ask: **What do you think God's will is for your life?** (Obey parents, tell others about God, be kind and loving, be unselfish and generous, be a missionary in a far-away country, etc.) Make a list of responses and take time to discuss each one.

Ask: **Which can you do now? Which will you do when you grow up?**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Have you ever thought before about God's will for your life?

Is it easy or hard to do what God wants you to do? Why? Do you think God can help you want to do His will for your life? (yes)

Which do you think you would be happier doing: what God wants you to do, or what you want to do? Why?

Is it always easy to know what God wants you to do? How can you learn what He wants you to do? (Pray, read the Bible, listen to parents and teachers, etc.) **Let's say our message together:**



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WANT TO DO HIS WILL.**

You Need:

- *Sing for Joy* songbook
- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or markers

4

Sharing the Lesson

Tool Time

In advance, copy a tool pattern (see page 141) for each student on paper and cut them out (or have the students cut them out).

Help the students find the memory verse in their Bibles. Have everyone read it together.

Hand out cut-outs of the tools. Have the students copy the memory verse onto a tool. The memory verse is: **"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God"** (Psalm 143:10, NIV).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say:

Think of someone you want to share your tool with. Take your tool home. While you share it with someone, tell them about Noah and his family doing God's will.

This week, remember to look for ways God is leading you to do His will for others. Remember . . .



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WANT TO DO HIS WILL.**

You Need:

- Bibles
- tool pattern (see p. 141)
- paper
- scissors
- pencils

Closing

Ask God to help the children to be willing to do His will at all times.

Noah Builds a Boat

References

Genesis 6;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp. 90-96

Memory Verse

“Teach me to do
your will, for you
are my God” (Psalm
143:10, NIV).

The Message

People in God’s
family want
to do His will.

When your parents ask you to do something, do you do it without asking why? Do you do it because you love them? Noah was asked by God to build a huge boat. He could have said no. What do you think he did?

Noah believed in God at a time when godly men were hard to find. The earth was still young. Only ten generations had passed since the creation of the world. But people had become so wicked that God decided He should start over. Just one family of righteous people was left on earth. Through that family God would save the human race and all the creatures He had created. That family included Noah, his wife, and his three sons.

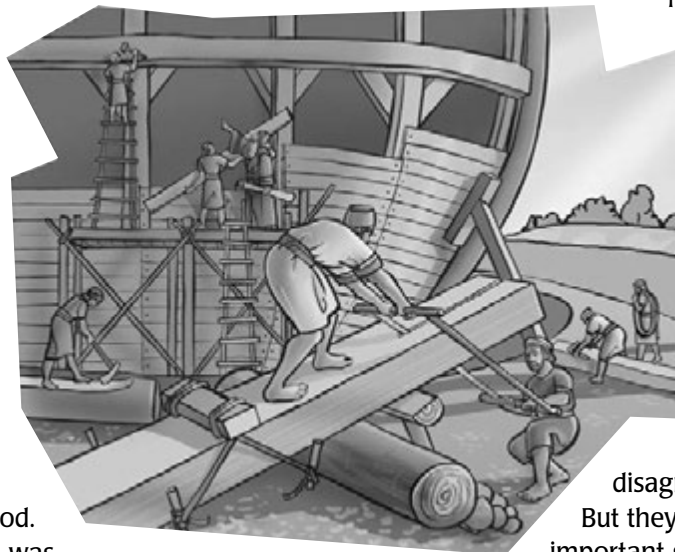
God told Noah His plan to destroy the earth with a flood. He also told Noah to build a boat. The boat was to carry Noah, his family, and each kind of animal safely through the flood. The boat Noah was to build was no ordinary boat. It was huge! It was as long as one-and-a-half football (soccer) fields! It was taller than a four-story building! God gave Noah instructions to be followed very carefully, and Noah set to work.

Building a boat so big was such a huge job! It must have become the family business very quickly. In fact, the idea for the Noah Construction Company had been in the family for quite a while.

Noah’s great-grandfather, Enoch, had been a righteous man. God took him to heaven so he wouldn’t die. God had told Enoch of his plan to destroy the earth with a flood.

Enoch had passed on the family heritage of godliness. He also gave the warning of a coming flood to his son, Methusaleh. Methusaleh, in turn, passed it on to his sons and to his grandson, Noah.

And then Noah had three sons of his own—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. So one righteous family, a small group of godly people, was still left on the earth. And they helped Noah build the big boat. That big boat would save the human race and all the different creatures God had created. What an awesome responsibility!



Noah and his sons, his uncles and his grandfather were all human. In 120 years of working together they probably had

some disagreements.

But they had an important goal. They had a huge project to finish.

They had to work together to follow God’s plan. They had to put aside their differences in order to do God’s will. Before the boat was finished, God took Enoch to live in heaven. And Noah’s other relatives died. Only Noah and his family were left.

You will never be asked to build a huge boat. You will never be asked to help save the world from another flood.

But God still wants His people to do what He asks. He still wants His people to work together to fulfill His wishes. He may ask you to do another job that requires just as much teamwork. You may need just as much cooperation as was needed for building the ark. Doing God's will is still a part of God's plan for us. Getting along with others is still a part of God's plan too. Listening and working for God was important for the Noah Construction Company. And it's important for us today.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, find a quiet outdoor setting and share the Bible story with your family.
- Talk about the memory verse and teach it to your family. Ask: How do we know God's will for our family?
- Ask God to help you know His will.

Sunday

- Read and discuss Genesis 6:1-8 for family worship. Describe people who lived before the Flood. What did God think when He saw how wicked the people had become? What did God think of Noah?
- Share the tool cut-out you made in Sabbath School with someone this week. Tell them about Noah's boat. (If you didn't make a tool, draw a picture of one and write your memory verse on it.)
- Pray for that person today.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 6:9-22 during worship. What kind of person was Noah? What were Noah's sons' names? What kind of wood was the ark made of? Where was the door?
- Ask an adult about a time they felt God was asking them to do something they didn't quite understand. Or about a time they felt strongly led to do what God wanted them to do.
- Thank God for His leading in your family.

Tuesday

- Name some of the tasks that Noah and his helpers had to do when building the ark. Find out how lumber is made today. How did Noah and his sons do it?

- Look for ways God is leading you to do what He wants you to do this week. Make a list (such as washing dishes for your mom; cleaning your room without being asked; helping a new student at school). Which will you do today?
- Ask God to help you know what He wants you to do.

Wednesday

- The ark had three stories—first floor, second floor, third floor (Genesis 6:16). How do you think Noah's family got from the ground floor to the third floor? Draw a picture of the inside of the ark.
- Act out or describe the different responses people had when Noah asked them for help.
- Thank God for people who help you.

Thursday

- During worship with your family, sing "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 124) or "Teach Me, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 110).
- Ask your family to help you build an ark. Use newspaper, wooden sticks, modeling clay, a box—things you find at home.
- Imagine that you are in the ark with Noah. Write or draw about your day in the ark.
- Thank God for your family.

Friday

- With someone in your family, act out building the ark charade-style. Have the others guess what you are doing.
- Ask: What do you think God's will is for our family?
- Show your model of the ark and share about a day on the ark with Noah.
- Ask God to help you be willing to do what He wants you to do every day.