

A Rainbow Promise

Genesis 8:15-22; 9:8-17; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 105-107



Has it ever rained for many days where you live? Were you getting tired of playing indoors? How did you feel when you finally saw the sun come out? Could you go out again? If so, you will understand how Noah and his family felt when they finally left the ark.

After more than a year in the ark, it must have been wonderful to leave it. Noah's family stepped out into the clean, sweet air. They stood and smiled in the warm, welcoming sunshine. It was probably a bit scary, too. The world looked so different, and it was so quiet. The eight people who walked off the ark were the only people left on the entire earth. They were starting over, alone and together.

Soon the animals were freed. Noah's family must have seen their joy and excitement. They must have laughed as the

animals pranced and danced.

When the ark was empty, the first thing Noah did was build an altar and have family worship. There they sacrificed one of every clean animal and bird that had been on the ark. God was pleased by their worship and blessed the family. He said, "Be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it" (Genesis 9:7, NIV).

Then God gave Noah, his sons, and every generation yet to come a promise. Brilliant colors splashed across the sky in what was surely the most perfect rainbow ever. That first arch of color in the heavens must have filled the tiny family with awe and wonder. But it was more than just a beautiful display of color. It was a rainbow promise! For God said to Noah, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me

and the earth. . . . Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth" (Genesis 9:13, 15, 16, NIV).

God knew the sight of clouds might frighten Noah's family in the days ahead. The splatter of the first raindrops might fill these survivors with fear. Would it be the start of another flood? Would they, too, be wiped off the earth? No. They didn't need to worry. God had given them His promise.

This one special family had been through a lot together. For more than a year they had worked together on the



The Message

God's people rejoice
because He cares for them.

Memory Verse

"I have set my rainbow
in the clouds, and it will
be the sign of the
covenant . . . between
me and you"

(Genesis 9:13, 15, NIV).

ark. For long days and nights they had drifted together on an endless ocean. They had worked hard to care for all those animals. And now, they were to resettle the earth and start over. God had given them something very precious. He gave them the experience of the rainbow to share. It would be a blessing and a promise to treasure forever—for them and for us.

We, too, belong to a special family. Our family of believers includes those in our churches and schools, as well as our families at home. And we, too, have been given a special work to do. We will go through a lot together over the years. And the experiences we share will bring us closer together.

And God has given us our own "rainbows"—blessings and promises. He will help us do what He has asked. Noah's family was well cared for inside and outside the ark. They were thankful to God for His love and protection.

When you see a

rainbow, think of God's love for you. And thank Him for keeping His rainbow promise—and all His promises.





S A B B A T H

READ With your family read and discuss Genesis 8:15-22. What did Noah do when he came out of the ark? What did God think of this? What promise did God make to Noah and to us?

DO Eat some red, yellow, and green foods today.

DO If it's a sunny day, ask for permission to spray a fine mist of water to try to make a rainbow appear.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Genesis 9:8-17 during worship. What did God place in the clouds that hadn't been seen before? What did it mean?

DO Find the word *covenant* in a dictionary. What does it mean?

SHARE Share the rainbow you made in Sabbath School with someone. Tell them about God's care for Noah and his family. (Or draw a picture of a rainbow and color it.) Pray for that person today.

M O N D A Y

SHARE Share your lesson story with your family during worship today. Make a picture of a rainbow to show them.

DO Help prepare dinner. Make a "rainbow" of colorful food.

PRAY Thank God for the beautiful colors that brighten our world.

T U E S D A Y

THINK Write the word *rainbow* at the top of a piece of paper. Then have your family list as many words as they can, using the letters in the word (rain, ran, no, win, etc.).

DO Find lots of different colored objects and make a rainbow to put in your room. Then write your memory verse on a card and attach it to your rainbow. Thank God for His rainbow promise.

The earth was very different when Noah and his family left the ark. They saw rocks, bare dirt, and tall, rugged mountains.



W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Revelation 4:2, 3 for worship. Who does this text describe? What surrounds His throne? Name some other Bible promises and tell what they mean.

SING Before prayer, sing "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25). Thank God for Bible promises.

DO Find out more about rainbows. (Hint: Look in an encyclopedia.)



THURSDAY

DO For worship today, take a color walk (inside or outside). Have someone name a color. Look for things that are that color. Then switch to another color.

DO Name the primary colors. How many other colors are there in a rainbow?

DO Put a dried bean or a penny into a jar for every way you know that God cares for you. If you use pennies, take them to Sabbath School for an offering. Thank God for His loving care.



FRIDAY

ASK Ask if you can have a rainbow dessert for dinner today. If so, help make and serve it.

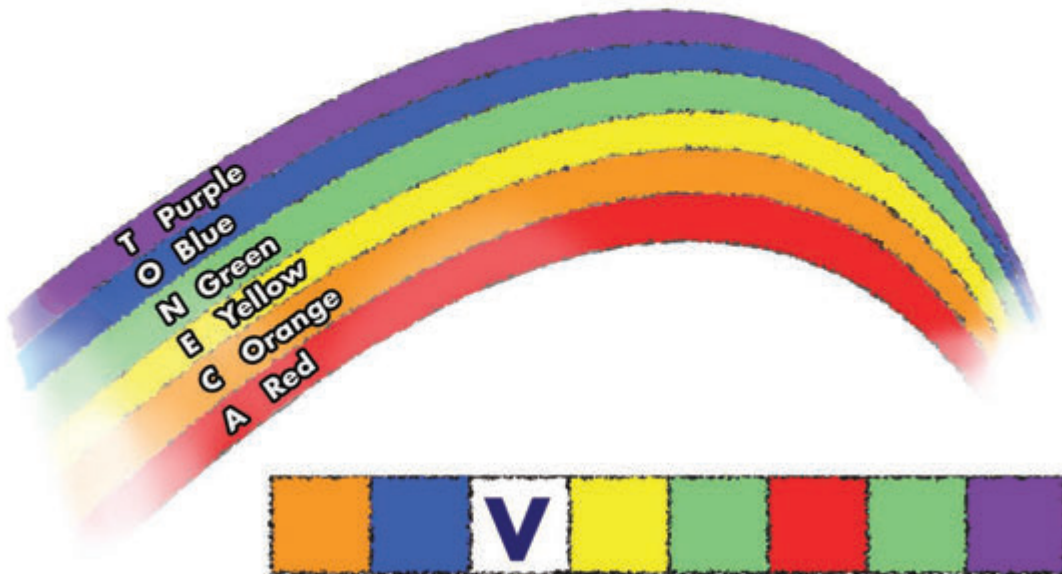
DO For worship, act out the Bible story with your family. Who will be Noah? Who will act as the animals? What sounds will they make?

SING Sing some praise songs together. Then joyfully thank God for taking care of you and your family.

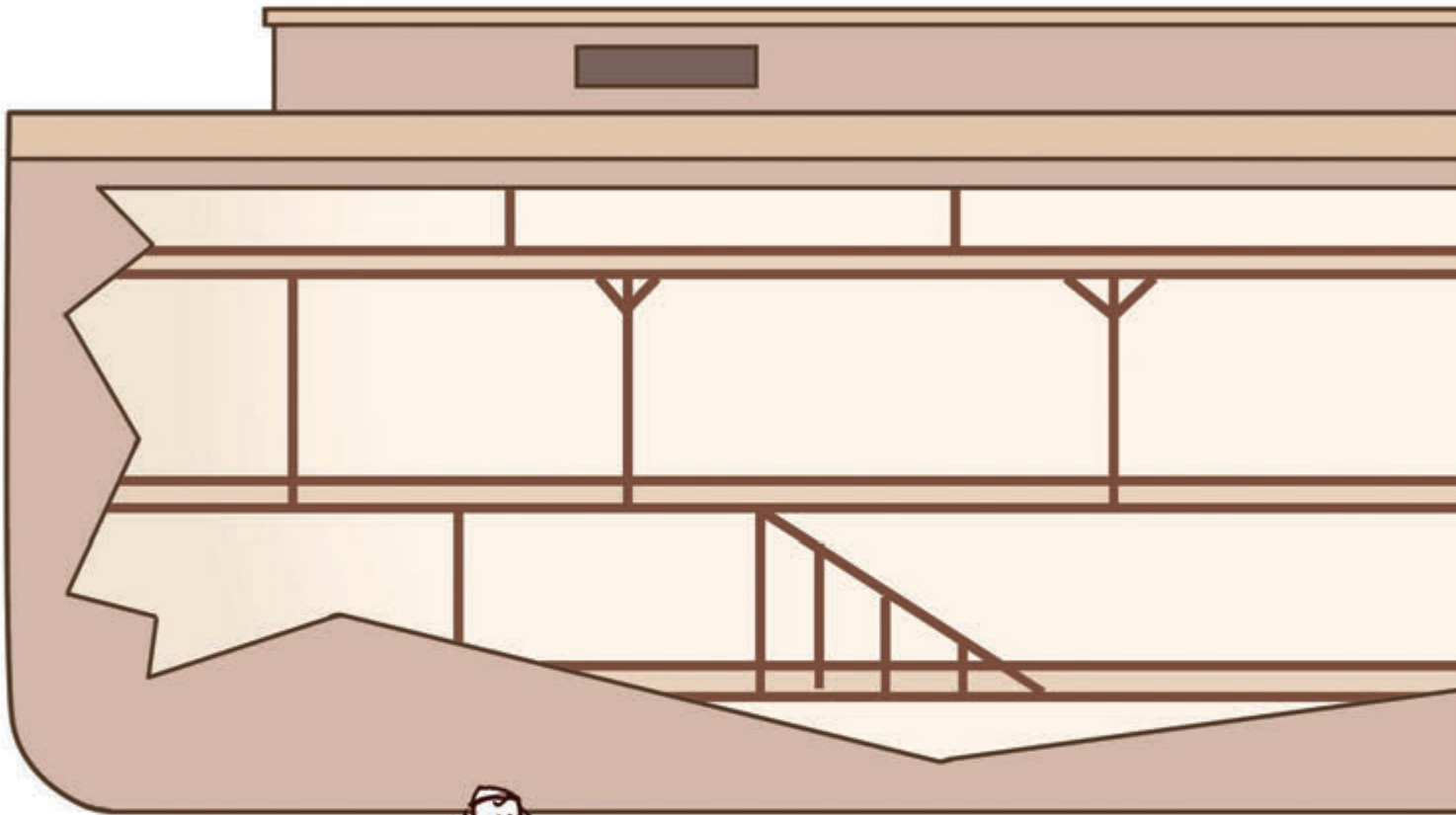
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PUZZLE

Directions: To find out what the rainbow represents, match the background color of each box with a color in the rainbow. Write the letter from the rainbow in each box.



THE FLOATING ZOO



Directions: Imagine that you are Noah and that you have to plan how to house and feed 45,000 creatures for one year. What would you need and how would you arrange the ark? Some of the items and passengers are found on these pages. Color the pictures and draw lines from them to show where you would place each. Add other details that you think are important.

