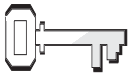


## A Rainbow Promise



### References

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



### 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).

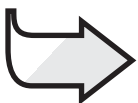


### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that God  
takes care of His  
people as they work  
together to do His will.

**Feel** close to those who share a  
common history and experience.

**Respond** by thanking God  
for His love and care.



### The Message

God's people rejoice  
because He  
cares for them.

### Monthly Theme

We show love by working together in our community.

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Noah and his family and all the animals leave the ark, Noah builds an altar and has worship with his family. God puts a rainbow in the sky and blesses the family. He promises never again to destroy all the earth with a flood. God instructs Noah to regard the rainbow as a reminder or a sign of His pledge, His agreement.

### *This is a lesson about community.*

Communities share a common history, speak a common language, and are motivated by common goals. Noah's family shared the rainbow as a sign of God's promise to them (and to us). What are the "rainbows" that we share as a community of faith? What are our common experiences? What common challenges do we face? Working together, with God's help, we can meet the challenges that confront us today. And we thank God for His continued care for His people.

### Teacher Enrichment

"The Lord declares that when He looks upon the bow, He will remember His covenant. . . . This does not imply that He would ever forget; but He speaks to us in our own language, that we may better understand Him. It was God's purpose that as the children of after generations should ask the meaning of the glorious arch which spans the heavens, their parents should repeat the story of the Flood, and tell them that the Most High had bended the bow and placed it in the clouds as an assurance that the waters should never again overflow the earth. Thus from generation to generation it would testify of divine love to man and would strengthen his confidence in God.

"In heaven the semblance of a rainbow encircles the throne and overarches the head of Christ. . . . When man by his great wickedness invites the divine judgments, the Saviour, interceding with the Father in his behalf, points to the bow in the clouds, to the rainbow around the throne and above His own head, as a token of the mercy of God toward the repentant sinner" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 106, 107).

### Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

# Program Overview

**Lesson Section**

**Minutes**

**Activities**

**Materials Needed**

Welcome

ongoing

Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled

**1**

Readiness Options

up to 10

*A. Dr. Rainbow*  
*B. Making Rainbows*

prisms (optional), guest speaker (optional)  
outside hose and faucet

**Any Time**

Prayer and Praise\*

up to 10

Fellowship  
Songbook  
Mission  
Offering  
Prayer

none  
*Sing for Joy*  
*Children's Mission*  
toy boat or other container  
none

**2**

Bible Lesson

up to 20

Experiencing the Story  
  
Memory Verse  
  
Bible Study

chairs, animal stickers (optional), paper or sticky labels (optional), pen (optional), safety pins (optional), rocks or wadded up brown paper bags  
colored paper, scissors, marker, tape or thumbtacks  
Bibles, picture of New Jerusalem foundation walls or stones or cut glass or marbles (optional), four strips of colored paper

**3**

Applying the Lesson

up to 15

*God's Protection*

colored paper (rainbow colors), scissors, clear plastic folder or sheet, black marker

**4**

Sharing the Lesson

up to 15

*Rainbow Banner*

colored paper or ribbons or felt (rainbow colors), scissors, glue, dowels or small sticks, Bibles, *Sing for Joy*

**\*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.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- prisms (optional)
- guest speaker (optional)

### A. Dr. Rainbow

In advance, do some research on rainbows. Talk about how they work in nature. If possible, bring in prisms or similar objects to demonstrate how rainbows work. Or invite a science teacher or other guest to explain and demonstrate how rainbows are formed.

### Debriefing

Ask the students to thank the guest speaker, if you had one.

Allow response time as you ask: **How many of you have seen a rainbow? What is needed to make a rainbow? When are you most likely to see a rainbow? What do you think of when you see a rainbow in the sky? Today we'll hear more about Noah and his family. We will learn about ways God blessed them and how they were thankful for God's love and protection. And we'll learn about the rainbow God made and what it meant to Noah's family.**

**Our memory verse is, "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).** Allow response time as you ask: **Why do you think God chose a rainbow to assure us of His love? Today's message is:**



**GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE BECAUSE HE CARES FOR THEM.**

**Say that with me.**

### You Need:

- outside hose and faucet

### B. Making Rainbows

If it is a sunny day and there is a garden hose and tap or faucet accessible, take the children outside, and with your thumb over the end of the hose, spray the water into a fine mist. Have the children look at the mist and move around until they see a rainbow in it. Or if it is sunny, go to a window and hold your watch face at an angle so a reflection appears on the wall of the room.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you see in the mist? Do you know when God first gave us rain? Rainbows? Today we'll learn more about how God protected Noah and his family and how they were thankful for God's love and protection. And we will learn about a rainbow promise God made to Noah and to us. Our memory verse is, "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). Today's message is:



**GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE BECAUSE HE CARES FOR THEM.**

**Say that with me.**

## Prayer and Praise



### 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

"He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 40)

"Jesus Keeps His Promises" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 41)

"All Through the Day" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 49)

"His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25)

"Join With Us" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 20)

"Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 15)



### Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize thanking God for His care.



### Offering

Have the children bring their offerings two by two.

#### You Need:

- toy boat or other container



### Prayer

In a short prayer, thank God for His love and protection for His children.

# 2

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- chairs
- animal stickers (optional)
- paper or sticky labels (optional)
- pen (optional)
- safety pins (optional)
- rocks or wadded up brown paper bags

### Experiencing the Story

**Characters:** Noah and his seven family members, various animals

#### Setting the scene:

Set up two chairs back to back with a space between to serve as the doorway to the ark. Give several children animal stickers, or pin or stick animal names on them. Line up the children at the “door” of the ark. As you talk about how the animals came out of the ark, have the children act it out, using the appropriate motions and noises. They should demonstrate how the animals ran around and played and were so happy to be outside again. Have eight children dress up as Noah and his family. Let them come out, look around in awe, and build an altar for worship and sacrifice.

#### Read or tell the story.

Noah and his family had been in the ark for more than a year. Can you remember what you were doing a year ago? All Noah and his family seemed to remember doing was feeding animals, cleaning up after animals, and waiting while the wind blew to dry up the Flood water. They were so anxious to get outside into the sunshine and fresh air.

Finally God had said that it was time! Time to see what their world looked like now. Would it be the same? What had the water done to the plants and trees, to their homes and crops?

The brightness of the sun hurt their eyes for a few minutes until they became used to it again *[Noah and family walk out of the “ark,” squinting their eyes]*. Things did look different! The mountains were

jagged and rough. The beautiful gold and silver and precious wood and stones that had decorated the earth were gone.

There were only a few young trees growing, not the forests that had offered shelter to birds and animals in the past. The earth looked confused and torn up. The people didn’t recognize places. But no matter, it was so wonderful to be outside! They took in long, deep breaths of fresh air. *[Noah and family breathe in deeply.]*

It was time to let the animals out. Carefully Noah and his family unlocked cages and led the larger animals out of the ark. *[Noah and family lead “animals” out.]* They carried the smaller ones and set them on the green grass. Such a sound of happiness! The elephants trumpeted, the lions roared, the dogs barked. All the animals were running and jumping and howling for joy to be outside again. *[Animals act.]* The sight must have made the people smile and laugh.

Then Noah called his family together and said that they should build an altar to thank God for saving them. Noah and his sons gathered large rocks. *[Have them gather rocks or crumpled up paper bags and pretend to build an altar.]* They carefully placed them to form an altar and there they worshiped God. The only eight people alive on the earth knelt down and thanked God for protecting them, for saving them, for loving them. *[Characters kneel and pretend to be praying.]*

God was happy with their worship and love for Him. And He blessed Noah and his family. He told them to be happy in their new home and to have children so the earth would have many people in it again. God also promised this family, and all of the living creatures, that He would never again destroy the earth with water.

Noah and his family looked up from

their prayer and saw a beautiful sight, something they had never seen before. *What is it?* they must have wondered. *[Characters look up and point in amazement and wonder.]* That colorful arch in the sky was the first rainbow! The rainbow had been given to them as a covenant, a promise that God would do as He said. He would never again send a flood to cover all the earth. When you see a rainbow in the sky, remember God's promise and know that you are loved and cared for by Him.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**How long was Noah and his family in the ark? How do you think they felt when God sent an angel to open the door so they could come out? What was the first thing they did?**

**What did Noah sacrifice? Why?**

**What was the "rainbow" promise?**

**Has God kept that promise? How does that make you feel? Remember our message? Let's say it together again:**



**GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE  
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR  
THEM.**

### Memory Verse

In advance, cut the colored paper into rainbow strips. Write the memory verse on the paper strips.

Mix the colored paper strips and have the children put the memory verse together in rainbow order and say the verse. Repeat until all know the verse. Then fasten the strips (in

#### You Need:

- colored paper (rainbow colors)
- scissors
- marker
- tape or thumb-tacks

rainbow order) to a wall or bulletin board.

Make the rainbow strips as follows:

"I have set my rainbow	red
in the clouds,	orange
and it will be	yellow
the sign of the covenant . . .	green
between me and you."	blue
Genesis 9:13, 15, NIV	violet
	(purple)

### Bible Study

In advance, write the texts below on different color paper (use rainbow colors).

Form four groups and give each group one of the papers. Have the children find and read the texts and be prepared to share what they have learned with the class. Adults assist as necessary.

Ezekiel 1:26-28 (A rainbow appears around a person sitting on a throne in heaven.)

Revelation 4:2, 3 (God's throne is encircled by a rainbow.)

Revelation 10:1 (An angel coming from heaven has a rainbow above his head.)

Revelation 21:19, 20 (Describes the stones on the wall of the New Jerusalem.)

Say: **Let's look at Revelation 21:19, 20 together.** (Allow time.) **Here we read that there are twelve different kinds of precious stones on the foundations of the New Jerusalem city walls. These are made of brilliant colors, so the effect would be like a rainbow.**

Show a picture of the foundations of each of the stones, or if possible bring in reproductions of the stones or marbles that are the colors mentioned in the text. If time allows, read Revelation 21:22-25 and 22:1-5 and discuss the beauty of heaven and the New Earth.

#### You Need:

- Bibles
- picture of New Jerusalem foundation walls or colored glass or marbles (optional)
- four strips of colored paper (rainbow colors)

### **Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **Who do you think was sitting on the throne in these verses? Why do you think the rainbow was over His head?** (To remind God of His promise to show mercy to humanity and His promise to never destroy the earth again by water.)

**What do you think of when you see a rainbow? Are you thankful for God's rainbow promise? Let's repeat our message for today:**



**GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE  
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR  
THEM.**

## **3**

### **Applying the Lesson**

#### **You Need:**

- colored paper (rainbow colors)
- scissors
- clear plastic folder or sheet
- black marker

#### **God's Protection**

Before class, make a large paper rainbow. Place it in a clear plastic folder or behind a clear plastic sheet and draw lines with the black marker where the different colors separate.

Show the class the rainbow. Ask: **If you took all the colors out of the rainbow, what would you have?** Take the rainbow out of the clear plastic. (A bunch of stripes. It wouldn't be a rainbow.) **Right. A rainbow isn't a rainbow without all the colors.**

**Just as we see all the colors in a rainbow, we see God's protection for us in many different ways.**

#### **Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **Would anyone like to share how God has protected them? How do you rejoice and thank God for His protection?**

**What are some of the ways that God shows His banner of love and protection over us?**

**How do you feel when you see a rainbow? Why do you think you feel that way? Why do you think God continues to send His rainbow? Are you thankful that God cares about you? Let's say our message together again:**



**GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE  
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR  
THEM.**

## Sharing the Lesson

### Rainbow Banner

In advance, cut strips of colored paper or ribbons or felt.

Distribute the art supplies. Have the children take the colored strips and glue them to the dowels or sticks to make rainbow banners.

### Debriefing

Say: **A rainbow is like a banner in the sky. Song of Solomon 2:4 talks about a banner that is love.** Ask someone to find and read the text.

**In ancient times, banners were used to designate members of tribes or families. As part of God's family, our banner is His love and protection. Take your banner home with you and share**

**it with someone as you tell them how God cared for Noah and his family and how thankful they were for His care.**

**Then you can tell that person how God cares for you, too, and how thankful you are.**

Let the children wave their rainbow banners while you sing together "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25).

**Let's say our message together one more time:**



**GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE  
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR  
THEM.**

### Closing

Offer a short prayer, thanking God for His rainbow promise and His love.

### You Need:

- colored paper or ribbons or felt (rainbow colors)
- scissors
- glue
- dowels or small sticks
- Bibles
- *Sing for Joy*



## A Rainbow Promise

### References

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

### 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).

### The Message

God’s people rejoice because He cares for them.

*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 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.

## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- 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?
- Eat some red, yellow, and green foods today.
- If it’s a sunny day, ask for permission to spray a fine mist of water to try to make a rainbow appear.

### Sunday

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

### Monday

- Share your lesson story with your family during worship today. Make a picture of a rainbow to show them.
- Help prepare dinner. Make a “rainbow” of colorful food.
- Thank God for the beautiful colors that brighten our world.

### Tuesday

- 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.).

- 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.

### Wednesday

- 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.
- Before prayer, sing “His Banner Over Me Is Love” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25). Thank God for Bible promises.
- Find out more about rainbows. (Hint: Look in an encyclopedia.)

### Thursday

- 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.
- Name the primary colors. How many other colors are there in a rainbow?
- 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 if you can have a rainbow dessert for dinner today. If so, help make and serve it.
- 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 some praise songs together. Then joyfully thank God for taking care of you and your family.