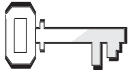


The Floating Zoo



References

Genesis 7; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 97-104



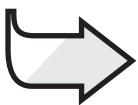
Memory Verse

“Work together as a team for the faith” (Philippians 1:27, ICB).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that we show love in God’s family by working together.
Feel happy to fulfill the responsibilities given to us.
Respond by finding ways to work together at home, school, and church.



The Message

People in God’s family work together.

Monthly Theme

We show love by working together in our community.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God gives Noah specific instructions about taking animals into the ark. Noah is to take with him seven pairs of each clean animal and one pair of each unclean animal, including all the wild and tame animals, all the birds, and everything that “crawls on the ground.” At the appointed time the animals all come and enter the ark. Noah and his family members spend their time aboard the ark working together to take care of the animals.

This is a lesson about community.

Transporting such a huge animal population entailed hundreds of hours of effort during the time the family was in the ark. The animals had to be fed and watered and kept clean. So today, many things need to be done to care for our homes, schools, and churches. We show love to our community when we work together to do what needs to be done.

Teacher Enrichment

“Beasts of every description, the fiercest as well as the most gentle, were seen coming from mountain and forest and quietly making their way toward the ark. A noise as of a rushing wind was heard, and lo, birds were flocking from all directions, their numbers darkening the heavens, and in perfect order they passed to the ark. Animals obeyed the command of God, while men were disobedient. Guided by holy angels, they ‘went in two and two unto Noah into the ark,’ and the clean beasts by sevens” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 97, 98).

“God commanded Noah, ‘Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation.’ Noah’s warnings had been rejected by the world, but his influence and example resulted in blessings to his family. As a reward for his faithfulness and integrity, God saved all the members of his family with him. What encouragement to parental fidelity!” (*ibid.*, p. 98).

“The massive ark trembled in every fiber as it was beaten by the merciless winds and flung from billow to billow. The cries of the beasts within expressed their fear and pain. But amid the warring elements it continued to ride safely. Angels that excel in strength were commissioned to preserve it” (*ibid.*, p. 100).

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. *Hot and Cold*
B. *Animal Pairs*
C. *Beanbag Animal Toss*

object to hide
3 x 5 cards, pens, tape
beanbag or wadded paper ball

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

chairs, chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker, Bible-times costumes, flashlight, sound effects cassette or CD (optional), cassette or CD player (optional)
chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker, eraser
Bibles, animal pictures

3

Applying the Lesson

up to 15

A. *Puzzle Mania*

B. *Scenarios*

postcards or small pictures or photographs, scissors, envelopes
none

4

Sharing the Lesson

up to 15

Ark Work

Bibles, ark pattern (see p. 142), 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:

- object to hide

A. Hot and Cold

Ask for a volunteer to step outside for a minute. While the child is out of the room, hide an object and let the other children see you do so. Bring the volunteer back into the room. Let him or her look for that object. The other children should shout HOT if the child comes close to the object or COLD if the child moves away from it. Do this until the child finds the object. Repeat the process for a few more rounds.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask the child who was outside the room: **What were you thinking when the other children were shouting directions at you?** (helped, pressured, frustrated) **Was it helpful? Why?**

Allow response time as you ask the other children: **What were you thinking when you knew that without your help your classmate would not be able to find the object?** (helpful, important, like a team player) **You were working as a team, helping each other. That's what our memory verse says to do: "Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB). We'll learn how Noah and his family worked together. Our message today is:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- 3 x 5 cards
- pens
- tape

B. Animal Pairs

In advance, write one animal's name on each of two cards. Use different animal names as you make several sets of two cards. Mix the cards and attach a card to each student's back (the student may know which animal card they have) and have them find their mate. Once they find their mate, they are to sit down next to each other.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What animal are you? How did you find your "mate"? Did it take a long time? Why? Did you work together? Today's memory verse says "Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB). Let's say it together. Remember our message:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.

Say that with me.

C. Beanbag Animal Toss

Ask the children to sit in a circle and tell them to toss a beanbag or wadded paper ball to another child and name a different animal with each toss. Keep the tossing going as quickly as possible.

You Need:

- beanbag or wadded paper ball

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How many different animals were named? Was it easy or hard to think of a different animal that someone hadn't already named? Why? What does that tell us about how many animals there are in the world? Our Bible story today is about Noah and his family and the animals in the ark. Imagine that you were there with them. What do you think it was like in the ark? Did Noah's family have to work together? That's what our memory verse is about: "Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB).**

Our message today is:



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.

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

- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 133)
- "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 57)
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 119)
- "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136)
- "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137)



Mission

Use *Children's Mission*. Emphasize people working together for God.



Offering

Have the students bring their offerings two by two, like the animals coming into the ark.

You Need:

- toy boat



Prayer

Have the students kneel in groups of two to pray together.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- chairs
- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or marker
- Bible-times costumes
- flashlight
- sound effects cassette or CD (optional)
- cassette or CD player (optional)

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Noah; Noah’s wife; Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives; crowd of people; animals and birds

Setting the scene:

Set up two chairs in a large empty part of the room so that the backs are facing each other, leaving a passageway for the students to enter into the “ark” (the large empty space). Stand near the chairs or at the front of the room so you can direct the activity. Have the Noah character stand near the door of the “ark.” Designate some children to be specific animals and birds so they can enter the ark on cue.

Read or tell the story.

How many years had Noah been building the ark? Does anybody know? [120 years] Do you know anyone who is 120 years old? Neither do I. Does anybody know someone who is 600 years old? I don’t either. But that’s how old Noah was when the ark was finally finished. Noah wasn’t 100 years old—or 200 years old—or 300 years old—or even 400 years old. He was about 480 years old when he began to build the ark.

During the 120 years Noah and his helpers were building the ark, Noah begged the wicked people to believe him. But they couldn’t believe a flood would happen. They were too busy doing things they wanted to do. Some weren’t bad things. They got married, had children, and built houses. But they also sacrificed people on altars and worshiped false gods. They disobeyed God in many ways.

Finally, God had seen enough. And

He said something very mysterious. What do you suppose it was? (*Allow time for responses.*) God said He was going to send something called rain. Water would cover the whole earth and destroy every living thing!

Remember, Noah had never seen rain. The dew and the mist every morning kept the ground watered. Water had never come down from the sky. There had never been a flood. But God had told Noah that rain would fall from the sky.

Finally, the ark was finished. And then God told Noah the thing He had been waiting to say for 120 years. What was it? God said, “Noah, go into the ark. Take seven of each kind of clean animal and two of each unclean animal.”

Some people laughed at Noah and made fun of him. Some of them stood outside the ark and listened to Noah say once more, “Come into the ark. You will be safe inside.” But the people just laughed and shook their heads.

Suddenly, there was the sound of a rushing wind, and thousands of birds came flying into the ark from the forest! Two of every kind of unclean bird, and seven pairs of each clean bird came. In an orderly fashion, the birds flew into the door and disappeared.

Who is a bird? Show us how the birds flew into the ark. [*The “birds” fly between the two chairs that form the “door” to the ark.*]

I imagine the laughing stopped briefly. But soon the people began laughing again. Their laughter was stopped this time by wild animals coming out of the forest: lions and elephants and giraffes and bears, snakes and butterflies, kittens and armadillos, wombats and kangaroos, every kind of animal that God had made went into the ark.

Who are the animals? Make your

animal sounds and do your animal walk as you come into the ark. *[Allow "animals" to enter between the chairs.]*

One last time, Noah invited the people to come in, but they didn't come. Some of the workers almost decided to go into the ark, but their friends talked them out of it. *[Have the Noah character plead with those people while the people refuse and laugh at him some more.]* So Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives went into the ark. *[Let those people enter.]*

A glowing light, brighter than lightning shone over the door of the ark. *[Shine flashlight.]* The big door creaked, then closed with a loud thump. *[Turn out lights.]* No hand touched the door! Noah didn't close it! His sons didn't close it! Who do you think closed the door?

For eight days Noah and his family waited inside that hot and stuffy ark. The people outside laughed and made fun of them. But finally, water began to fall from the sky. *[Turn on sound effects cassette tape or CD.]* Lots of water. There was lightning. *[Turn lights off and on.]* And there was thunder. *[Use sound effects tape or drop books on the floor.]* Fountains of water shot up out of the ground. Stones and trees flew everywhere. Animals came rushing out of the forest crying and howling, and some people tied their children to the animals' backs. Some people held onto the outside of the ark and tried to get in. *[Let the crowd of people try to get past the chairs, but close the entry by putting the chairs together.]* But it was no use. In that horrible storm, which lasted 40 days, almost six weeks, that's six Sabbaths, everyone and every living thing outside the ark died.

As the great ark was lifted up by the waters, the animals inside began to cry as the ark rocked from side to side. What sounds do you think they made? *[Have the children make some animal sounds.]* Maybe

they were all seasick! It must have been a great relief when the storm was quiet and the ark floated quietly on the water. *[Pause to let the children hear the silence.]*

While Noah and his family were inside the ark for months, they had a lot of work to do. Imagine what a mess all those animals made! Pens and stalls needed to be cleaned. The animals needed food and clean water. The ark was a giant floating zoo with only eight workers. The family members worked together efficiently. They didn't complain or grumble about their work. They did it cheerfully, thankful to be alive and cared for by God.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

How many unclean animals entered the ark? How many clean animals?

How did the animals get into the ark?

If you had been one of the people who didn't go into the ark, what would you have thought when the animals came to the ark? If you had been one of Noah's family, what would you have thought?

What do you think Noah and his family did to help each other and the animals during the storm? Let's say today's message together:



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WORK TOGETHER.**

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on the board and say it together as a group. Then choose one person to erase one word and then repeat the memory verse together again as a group. Continue erasing one word at a time and saying the complete memory verse until the last word is erased. The memory verse is: **"Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB).**

You Need:

- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or marker
- eraser

You Need:

- Bible
- animal pictures

Bible Study

Read to the students from Leviticus 11:1-23 and explain the differences between clean and unclean animals. If possible, show pictures of some of them.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did God want Noah to bring more clean than unclean animals into the ark?** (So Noah would have animals to sacrifice in thanksgiving later. So they could be used for food after they

got out of the ark.)

Why would God want to save unclean animals? (Most unclean animals are scavengers and serve as living garbage dumps for the earth.) **So even the animals have work to do and may work together. And so do people. And that reminds me of today's message:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- postcards or small pictures or photographs
- scissors
- envelopes

A. Puzzle Mania

In advance, find enough postcards, small pictures, or photographs so each group of five students will have one. For each group, cut a postcard or picture into five pieces and place the pieces in an envelope. Then take one piece from each envelope and place it in another envelope so each group has a piece that does not fit. (Small class, prepare an envelope for each child.)

At class time, divide the class into groups of five. Have the groups stand in a circle around the room. Give each group an envelope and ask them to put their puzzle together.

When each group recognizes that one piece does not belong in their puzzle, ask one child from each group to go to the group to the right and look for the missing puzzle piece. If that group does not have it, the child must come back and another person must go on to the next group. Repeat until the missing puzzle piece is found.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask the children who tried to find the missing piece: **How did it feel to help your group? What did you think when you couldn't find the missing piece?** (sad, like I had failed, like it was someone else's turn)

Ask the group: **What was it like to trust your group member to find a piece of the card?** (hard, I thought I could do it better; easy, because someone else might have a better idea)

Why was it important to give someone else a chance? (Because the job gets done more quickly with help.)

That's what our memory verse is about. Say it with me. "Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB). Remember, our message today is:



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.

B. Scenarios

Say: **Think of ways you can work together in the following situations.**

1. You have been invited to your friend's house. Her room is a mess. Her mother says you can't play until your friend cleans her room. What do you do? Why?

2. You and your brother have begged for a pet. Your parents keep saying no, but you keep begging. Finally they let you get a cat. As a family you have to decide who is going to clean the litter box every day. What do you decide?

3. Someone told you that the father of someone in your class has died. Your classmate hasn't been to school in two days. What will you and your other classmates do?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

When we work together, whose love are we demonstrating? (We are showing our love for God.)

Is it easier or harder to do things together with others? (Most things are probably easier; some may take longer with a group—it may be hard to agree on some things.)

What are some things your family can do together for God? (Deliver meals to homeless, clean up someone's yard, visit a shut-in or sick person, make or cook something for someone in need, etc.)

Is getting along and cooperating important when you are working with others? What other things are important?

This week look for ways to work with your family or other group to do something for God. And remember, God still wants His people to work together to fulfill His wishes. Working together and getting along with others is still a part of God's plan for us today. Remember our message:

 **PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.**

4

Sharing the Lesson

Ark Work

In advance, copy an ark pattern (see page 142) for each student.

Distribute the materials and have the students cut out the ark.

Ask them to think of something they can do this week to work together with others in God's family and write it on their "ark."

You may need to give suggestions of things that can be done at home, at school, at church, and in their neighborhood. (sweeping floors at home, picking up trash in their neighborhood, cleaning boards at school, passing out bulletins at church, singing at a nursing home with a group, etc.)

Have adults ready to assist as needed.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who would like to share what they wrote?**

Why is it important to work together?

Take your ark home and put it somewhere to remind you to work with others this week to do something good at home, at school, or in your neighborhood.

Let's say our message together again:

 **PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WORK TOGETHER.**

Closing

Offer a short prayer, asking God to help the children see ways they can work together for Him.

You Need:

- Bibles
- ark cut-out pattern (see p. 142)
- paper
- scissors
- pencils

The Floating Zoo

References

Genesis 7;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 97-104

Memory Verse

“Work together as
a team for the
faith” (Philippians
1:27, ICB).

The Message

People in God’s
family work
together.

Do you like to visit the zoo? Have you ever watched zoo animals being fed or their cages being cleaned? Noah and his family had a lot of work to do on their floating zoo!

After 120 years the ark was finally finished. Although it was done, there was still a lot of work to do. When God first told Noah to build the ark, God also told him *why*. “Take with you seven pairs, each male with its female, of every kind of clean animal. And take one pair, each male with its female, of every kind of unclean animal” (Genesis 7:2, ICB).

A male and female of all living creatures and seven of clean animals would enter the ark. Every kind of bird and animal, every bug and snake and spider were to be kept alive. All would enter the ark.

Noah was also to stock the ark with food for himself and his family. Other food would be needed for all the animals. The people and animals would be on the ark for a long time.

Yes, the ark was finished. So Noah and his family packed the pantries. They heaped the haylofts and filled the granaries. They stuffed the cabinets and stocked the storerooms.

Soon the ark was ready for its cargo

of animals. And it happened just as God said it would. The animals came to Noah out of the forest. Walking, lumbering, hopping, slithering, crawling two by two, they came. What an unusual parade that must have been! An unseen hand led the animals to the ark. There, Noah and his family led them to their places. Soon they were prepared for the long days ahead.

And now Noah had a new job. As the animals entered the ark, he became the chief zookeeper. For long months, Noah and his family were responsible for all those animals. What a job! Caring for one or two pets sometimes seems like a lot of work. Just imagine how much work it must have been to care for the hundreds

of animals! A building longer than a soccer or football field, and three stories high, stuffed full of animals! They all needed food. They all needed water. And they all needed to be kept clean.

This was no luxury cruise for Noah and his family! They worked long, hard hours caring for the animals. And they worked together to care for their floating home and the creatures God

had put in their care.

God still needs us to work together as a family of believers. Our homes, schools, and churches still need care. Some members of the family need special attention. There is still work that



needs to be done. And God calls on those who love Him to do it. Cleaning windows, sweeping floors and washing dishes may not seem like exciting work for God. Noah's family probably didn't think that shoveling manure and pitching hay was very exciting either. But it, too, was God's work. And they did it together. Working together is often easier than working alone.

We show our love to God when we cheerfully finish the work we've been given. Let's work together to do His work.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Read the lesson story with your family and your pet (if you have one). Teach the memory verse to your family. Thank God for the animals you enjoy.
- Put the ark you made in Sabbath School where it will remind you to look for ways to work with others.

Sunday

- For worship today read and discuss Genesis 7:1-5 with your family. What do you think about the people who talked others out of going into the ark? Why?
- List all the animals you can think of. How many of those animals would have been on the ark? (Multiply the clean animals by 7 and the unclean by 2.)
- Visit a zoo, or get a book from the library about zoos and the work of zookeepers.

Monday

- With your family read and discuss Genesis 7:6-16. How old was Noah when he entered the ark? How many days did Noah and his family wait in the ark before it started to rain? How many days did it rain? Count that number of days on a calendar.
- Work together with someone in your family today. Cheerfully help them with something.
- Pray for the person you helped.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Genesis 7:17-24 during worship. What do you think it was like to be inside the ark during the Flood? How do you think Noah and his family helped one another? Do you think they were ever afraid? When you see lightning and hear thunder, how do you feel? Ask God to help you when you are afraid.
- Sit in a circle with your family. Toss something small to each other. Have each one name a

different animal with each toss.

- Noah and his family were kind to the animals. Do something extra special for your pet today. Or do something nice for a friend's pet.

Wednesday

- During worship ask your family these questions: If an average elephant eats 200 pounds of hay a day,* how much would it need for nine months?
- What kind of food do you think Noah took into the ark for his family? What did he take for the animals? Where and how do you think they ate? Make up a daily menu for everyone in the ark.
- Name an animal for each letter of the alphabet. As you do so, make actions or sounds for each. (You may have to skip X.) Have your family guess what they are.
- Thank God for the food you have to eat.

Thursday

- During worship, tell how you think each day began for the people in the ark. What did they do all day? How did each day end? Make a schedule for a day in the ark. Tell what each member of the family would do to help.
- Draw a picture of the ark floating on the Flood waters.
- Thank God for His protection.

Friday

- With your family sing "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136) or "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137).
- Ask your family to imagine what could have been done to help make the animals comfortable on the ark.
- Thank God for opportunities to work together with His people. How will you work with others tomorrow? At church? At home?

* Elephant fact taken from elephantcenter.com.