

# God's Promise

By Heath Howe



The Bible is full of stories that teach us about God's love for God's people. In many ways the Bible is like our big family storybook. We meet our "big brothers and sisters" in our faith who have learned about God's love for us, and their stories help us learn about how much God love us too! Noah is one of the most popular of all our big brothers. In his story we learn about God's promise to always love us and never leave us.

**For**  
Young Family

**Season**  
Summer

**Needed**  
Bible, children's Bible with story of Noah, water, baby pool or large bucket, a variety of plastic toy animals and people, a small bowl or container to serve as an ark, paper (one piece per person), crayons/paint and brushes, rainbow template (optional)

## Prepare in Advance

- Read the whole Noah story, Genesis 6:9 - 9:17
- Mark the story of Noah in a children's bible
- Have pool/bucket next to water source (recommend outdoors)
- Have paper, rainbow template (optional) and crayons/paint and brushes on table

## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*God, thank you for the many people we meet in the stories of the Bible. As we hear today of the story of Noah, may we begin to know more and more how much you love us. Amen.*

2. Read the story of Noah aloud. Ask the following "Wonder" questions. Allow time and space between each, and listen carefully to all responses.
  - I wonder what your favorite part of the story was?
  - If you were a character in the story I wonder who would you like to be?
  - If you were a (pick an animal, i.e. a giraffe), what might you say to Noah? To God? Other animals?
  - What did God's promise Noah and his family? I wonder what you think about that promise?
  - I wonder how we can care for God's creatures today?
3. Move to the pool/bucket and water source. Explain that you have some activities to help understand the story even better.

- Have one child help fill the bucket with water. Allow all players to place their hands in the water and feel it.
  - Place all the plastic figures in front of the children and allow each player to choose who he/she would like to be.
  - Place the container in the pool of water and explain that this will be the ark.
4. Say the following: "God loves creation, is in creation. Sin cannot destroy it. The flood water can cleanse all as we start anew." Now, read the story a second time and allow the children to reenact the story as you read. If one child is a reader he/she may read this time. Encourage the children to reenact the story another time from memory.
  5. Once the play has ended move the children to the craft table. Ask the following questions:
    - The flood waters remind us that we are washed clean and can never be separated from the love of God. What else might water remind us of? (Listen for response. Silence is okay!)
    - How are these waters like our baptism? (Listen for responses. Silence is okay!)
    - I wonder if you remember the sign God gave Noah and his family. This was the sign that promised God would always love them and all of creation.
    - Once the rainbow has been named, instruct each player to draw or paint his/her own rainbow.
  6. When all the rainbows are finished, hang them in a special place in the home where they may be enjoyed by all and serve as a reminder of the Noah story. (After a few weeks move the rainbows to each person's room where he/she may hang it for years.)
  7. End with this prayer:

*God, we thank you for Noah and all he has taught us. We thank you for washing us clean and for your promise of love. May we never forget it and may we love others as you love us.  
Amen.*

## Variations

- This activity can also be done in the bathtub during the day or at bath time. The Noah story can be read again at bedtime that night or throughout the week.
- This is also a GREAT activity to do on the beach during a family vacation or weekend.
- For the "crafty family" the plastic people and animals may be replaced with handmade figures made from sticks, acorns, wood, etc. Have fun with it!
- Take the Noah story into a family service opportunity. Have a neighborhood party and raise money for the local Humane Society. Or have the neighborhood pot flowers for neighborhood homebound people or local elderly folks.
- For other Noah/rainbow activities visit: [www.first-school.ws/activities/bible/rainbow.htm](http://www.first-school.ws/activities/bible/rainbow.htm)

