

**Noah and the Ark**

(based on Genesis 6:8–8:22)

Once there was a man called Noah who was the only person God saw following in God's ways. God told Noah that rain was coming. There was going to be so much rain that the rivers would overflow. So many rivers would overflow that there would be a massive flood. It would be the biggest flood the world had ever seen.

"Everything in the whole world will be covered in water," God explained. "I want you to build a big boat. I will bring all the animals of the world to you. The boat must be big enough to keep your family and the animals safe."

So Noah and his family went to work. *Crack! Crack! Crack!* went the axes. *Rasp! Rasp! Rasp!* went the saws. *Bang! Bang! Bang!* went the hammers.

Finally, after many weeks, the boat was ready. It was enormous.

God told Noah it was time to bring the animals on board. Noah opened the door to let them in. Animals were everywhere. Two of every kind. Cows mooed. Snakes slithered. Ducks quacked. Lions roared. Chickens clucked. Dogs barked. Elephants trumpeted. Bees buzzed. What a noise!

Finally, Noah and his family went into the boat and God closed the door.

Soon it began to rain. It rained and rained and rained. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Noah and his family and all the animals were safe in the boat. They waited and waited. Everywhere they looked, they saw nothing but water.

Just when Noah and his family thought they would never see dry land again, God sent a warm wind to blow on the water. The rain stopped, the sun came out, and the water began to go down. After many days, the boat finally came to rest on the dry ground.

At last, God told Noah it was time to leave the boat.

"Hurray!" shouted everyone. Noah opened the door and all the animals rushed out!

Noah and his family were thankful to be alive. They were so glad the flood was over. They piled up rocks to make an altar to God. Then they said thank you to God for keeping them safe.

God saw that Noah's family had been faithful and responded with gratitude. God was pleased and thought, "I will never flood the whole earth again. There will always be spring, summer, fall, and winter. There will always be day and night."



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Divide a piece of drawing paper into four panels. Draw a picture of your house in all four panels. Change each picture to show spring, summer, fall, and winter.
- Noah and his family went to work and built an ark in response to God's call. What does your family do in response to God's call to live faithfully each week?



Responding to God's Grace

- Cut cardboard into strips to resemble boards. Let your children design an ark by gluing the boards onto a piece of paper. (For younger children, cut the cardboard into the shape of an ark.) Let them color and cut out animals or use modeling clay to make animals for the ark.
- Draw pictures of things that your family needs to accomplish during the day, and during the night. Make a picture list and post it. Talk about how God is with each of us all day and all night.
- Noah was known as one "who walks with God." Wonder together what it means to "walk with God." How might each of you "walk with God"?

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Buy a box of animal crackers. As you enjoy the crackers, be thankful for God's many blessings.
- There are many picture books about the story of Noah's ark. Find one at the library or watch and listen to the story read on this YouTube video: "Noah's Ark" by Jerry Pinkney (bit.ly/GGGNoahsArk, 7:42).
- Pray this week:

*Dear God, may we be faithful like Noah and be known as one "who walks with God."
Amen.*