

**Rainbow Promise**

(based on Genesis 8:22; 9:8-17)

It was over. The rain had stopped. The flood was gone. The ark was back on dry ground. The gigantic boat that had been so noisy and full was empty and quiet. All the animals had left to find new homes.

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.

Then God spoke to Noah and his wife and children:

“Never again will I flood the whole world,” God promised.

“From this day on, there will always be time for planting and picking the food that grows.

“The day will always follow night.

“The cold days of winter will always be followed by the warm days of summer.

“For as long as the earth shall be.

“I make this promise to you and your children’s children. I make this promise to every living being that breathes.”

Then God said to Noah and his family, “Look up to the sky.”

Noah and his family looked up. There in the sky was a beautiful rainbow.

“I have put my rainbow in the sky,” God explained. “It will be the sign of the promise I have made with you and all living things. It is a reminder of the promise between us.”

Noah and his family went out into the world and found a new home. Every time they saw a rainbow, they remembered God’s promise.

They told their children and their children’s children.

Down through the ages, the people of God passed on the story of Noah and God’s wonderful promise of love.

Now it is our turn to pass on the story.



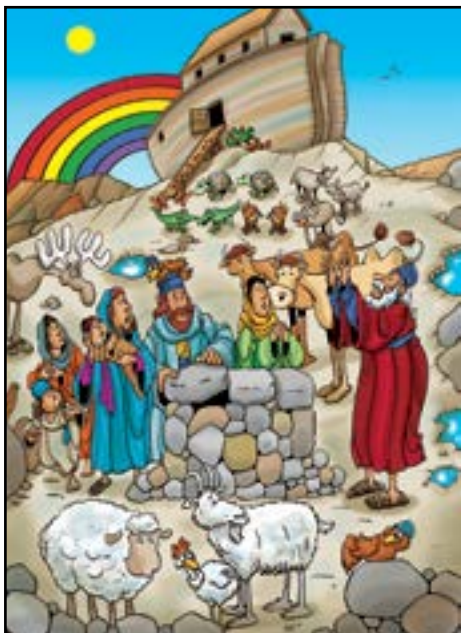
## Rainbow Promise

(based on Genesis 8:22; 9:8-17)

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.
- Imagine what it would be like to be on the ark for a long time. Tell your children about a time when you had to wait for something. Invite them to tell about something they have waited for.
- The rainbow is a symbol of God's love for us. Rainbows are created by water droplets and sunshine and always show up in the part of the sky opposite the sun. Watch for rainbows and remember that God loves us and promises that God always will.
- Use colored chalk to draw rainbows on sidewalks, construction paper, or cardboard.



### Responding to God's Grace

- God made a promise with Noah and all people. Wonder together about promises. What kind of promises do people make today? What kind of promises do you make to one another?
- Watch the YouTube video "Sing and Sign a Rainbow with Scarlett" ([bit.ly/RainbowSingSign](https://bit.ly/RainbowSingSign), 0:38) and learn the American Sign Language signs for *rainbow* and the colors of the rainbow.
- Help your children make cards with a rainbow. Send the cards to someone whose day would be brightened by a reminder of God's promise of love and care.

### Celebrating in Gratitude

- Make rainbow ice cubes by freezing different colors of juice. Put one cube of each color in a glass. Add a clear beverage and enjoy.
- Create a rainbow using a shallow pan half-full of water and a small mirror. Put the mirror in the water at an angle. Use sunlight or a flashlight to shine on the part of the mirror under the water. Position a piece of white paper to catch the reflection. It will be a rainbow. Remember God's promise.
- Pray this week:

*God of the rainbow, thank you for your promise to love and care for your world always. Amen.*