

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Four - The Flood

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

Many of us are familiar with the story of Noah and the ark, but it's usually told as a cute children's story with animals. The reality is this was a dark moment in the history of creation. Yet, even in such a dark moment God was still at work to bring rescue!

- **Big Idea:** God is faithful bring an end to evil and keep what is good.

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Question**

Have you ever been baptized? Do you know what it means? It just means to be covered in something. We get covered in water to symbolize how our souls need to be covered in Jesus, washed from our sins, and made clean!

Sing Together

Story - from Genesis 6-9

God saw that humans were out of control. People thought, said, and did evil all the time. God was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. But Noah was different. Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community, who trusted God. Noah walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

God said to Noah, “I’m going to bring a flood on the Earth that will destroy everything alive under Heaven. But I’m making a covenant with you: You’ll build a ship and your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives will come on board with you. You are also to take two of each living creature, a male and a female, on board to preserve their lives. Also, get all the food you’ll need and store it up for you and them.” Noah did everything God commanded him to do. Then it happened: all the underground springs erupted and rain poured for forty days and forty nights. Noah and his family and the animals God sent him got into the ark. Then God shut the door behind him.

The flood covered the Earth for 150 days. Everything outside of the ark died. Only Noah and his company on the ship lived. Then God remembered Noah and all on the ship. God caused the wind to blow and dry up the water. The ship landed on a mountain range as the water went down. After forty more days Noah opened a window. He sent out a raven; it flew back and forth waiting for the waters to completely dry up. Then he sent out a dove, but it couldn’t find a place to perch—water still covered the Earth—so it flew back. He waited seven more days and sent out the dove again. It came back in the evening with a freshly picked olive leaf in its beak. Noah knew that the flood was about finished. He waited another seven days and sent the dove out a third time. This time it didn’t come back.

God spoke to Noah: “Leave the ship. You, your family, and take all the animals with you so they can reproduce and flourish on the Earth.” Noah got out and built an altar to worship God and made a sacrifice. God smelled the burnt offering and thought to himself, “I’ll never again curse the ground because of people. I know they have this bent toward evil from an early age, but I’ll never again send a flood of disaster. For as long as Earth lasts, planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never stop.”

God blessed Noah and his sons: He said, “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill the Earth! Every living creature—birds, animals, fish—will listen to you. You’re responsible for them. No one should shed human blood, because God made humans in his image reflecting his very nature.

You’re here to bear fruit, reproduce, lavish life on the Earth, live bountifully!”

God made a sign of his covenant promise to Noah. He hung a colorful bow in the sky. Whenever a cloud or rain came into the sky, the bow would shine to remind God and people of God's promise to never send the floods again.

Noah, a farmer, was the first to plant a vineyard. He drank from its wine, got drunk and passed out, naked in his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and told his two brothers who were outside the tent. Shem and Japheth took a cloak, held it between them from their shoulders, walked backward and covered their father's nakedness, keeping their faces turned away so they did not see their father's exposed body.

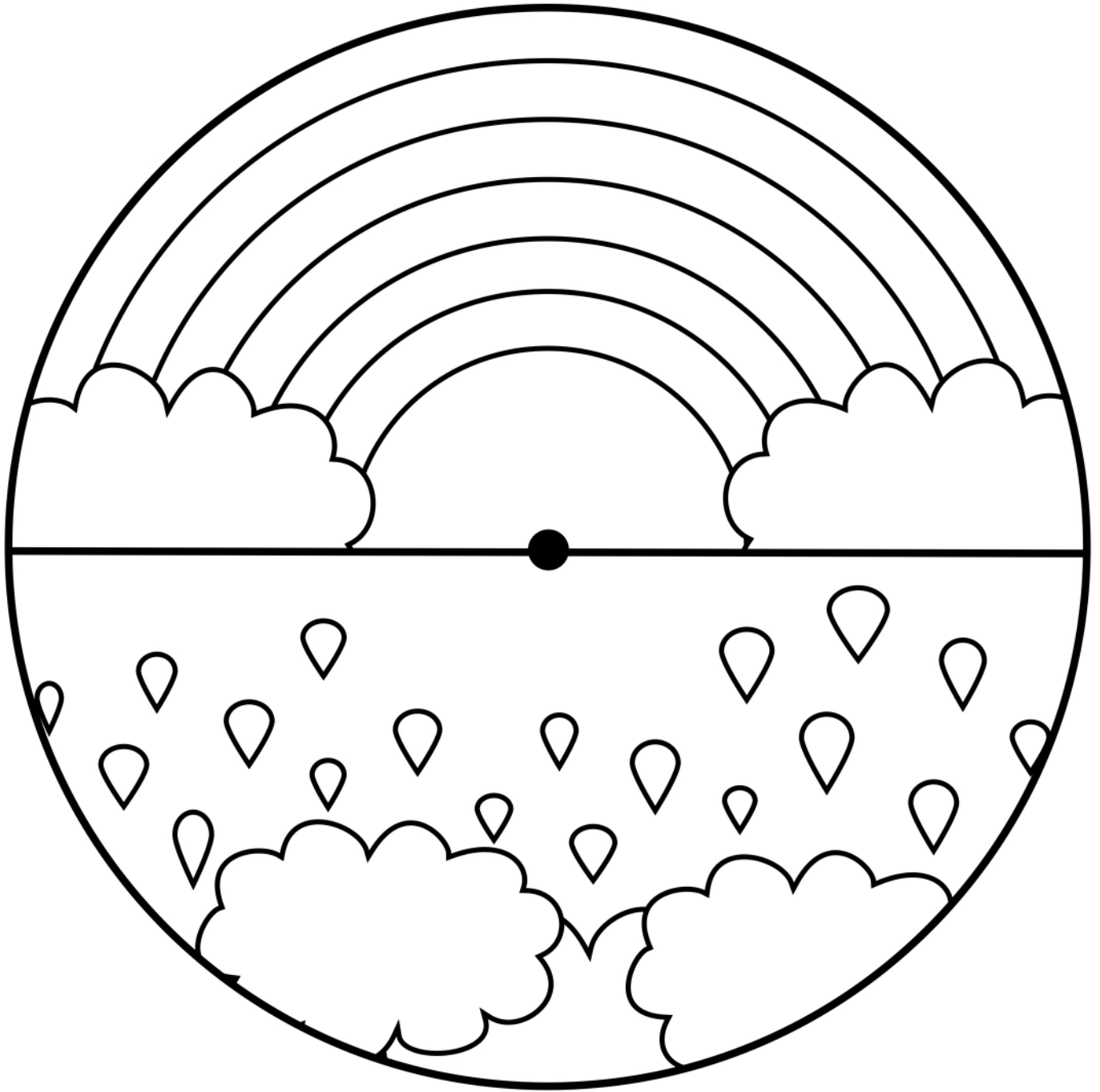
[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think God sent a flood to destroy the world? *(All people only did evil - God washed the world clean of violence & injustice)*
- Remember when God first made the world He separated waters from below and waters from above? When the flood came, God simply let the chaotic waters come back together. What other parts of this story remind you of when God made the world?
- When the first humans sinned in the garden, they were on a mountaintop and ate fruit they weren't supposed to, and one of their sons sinned against his brother. Noah's family was supposed to be a reset to humanity, but Noah also drank wine from fruit on a mountaintop (getting drunk) and his son sinned against him. Is there any hope for humans to break this cycle?
- Who is the true and better human we all need to come and rescue us?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, wash our hearts and make us clean so we can rest in Your goodness. Thank you for the righteousness of Jesus who saves us. Amen!
- **Craft:**
Use the ark spinner craft with the two pages attached
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Sabbath** rhythm. Noah's name means rest. God was providing the earth rest from violence and evil. How can you rest from the hard things of life and enjoy God's goodness this week?





God Keeps His Promises