



God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16


Preteens can eagerly and intelligently explore God’s biblical promises. They can understand that faithfulness is part of God’s character and that part of being faithful is to keep one’s promises. Use this lesson to lead kids through a discovery of the promise God made to Noah and God’s faithfulness to keep that promise—even today.



► **Bible Point**
We can count on God’s promises.

Key Verse
“The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made” (Psalm 145:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will record God at work in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Promises, Promises <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find hidden cards to lead them to a treat.</p>	<p>snacks, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: “Promise” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the “Promise” cards. Hide the “Promise Fulfillment” cards in the places identified by the “Your Promise” cards. Keep the “Your Promise” cards for distributing to kids.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Instant Drama Department <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out events described in the Bible account of the flood.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Keeping Promises <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and look at other examples of how God keeps his promises.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), pens Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	Truth or Consequences <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Use the truths of Scripture to evaluate situations where lies are told.	Bibles, Bible Buzz	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



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Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Speaks to Noah—Noah Obeys

Genesis 6 wraps up with Noah obeying “God” (*Elohim*). Chapter 7 begins with “the Lord” (*Yahweh*) speaking to Noah. The use of these two names in these places is noteworthy. The name *Elohim* tends to be used to emphasize God’s justice, and the name *Yahweh* most often denotes God’s mercy. In Chapter 6, Noah carried out God’s orders that showed God’s judgment on humankind. In Chapter 7, we see the administration of God’s mercy in the salvation of Noah’s family and the animals.

The Flood Arrives

When the flood came, it wasn’t caused only by rain. We read also that “the springs of the great deep burst forth.” Water came shooting upward from under the earth’s surface as rain deluged the earth from above. There was so much water that it covered the highest mountains by more than 20 feet! Some scientists believe that this event involved the sliding of continents and the creation of mountain ranges as subterranean plates slid and crashed together.

Noah and His Family Return to Dry Land

Once the rain stopped, it took almost a year for the water to recede sufficiently for Noah and his family to leave the ark. It’s interesting that one of the birds Noah had sent out to see if the earth was getting dry returned with an olive leaf. The olive branch has come to symbolize peace. Perhaps in the time of Noah it symbolized a new peace between God and his creation.

Notice that Noah had a method for testing to see if the earth was dry, but God told him when he should

leave the ark (Genesis 8:15-17). God was taking care of Noah and his family, just as he had promised.

God Makes a Promise

In Genesis 9:12-16, God again demonstrated his love for Noah. He made another promise, signified by the rainbow. The rainbow will always remind us of God’s promise to Noah and the fact that God always keeps his promises!

The Jesus Connection

Everyone—adults included—struggles to keep commitments and promises. As we juggle responsibilities to family, job, spouse, and friends, we often find these commitments conflicting with each other. And to add to the challenge, we live in a world where the character trait of “faithfulness” isn’t necessarily valued.

Pray for individuals in your ministry that as they model faithfulness and promise-keeping to others, they also paint a picture of a promise-keeping God. You can write your prayer here.





Promises, Promises Supplies

snacks
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack
“Promise” cards

! ALLERGY ALERT

Promises, Promises Easy Prep

Separate the “Promise” cards. Hide the “Promise Fulfillment” cards in the places identified by the “Your Promise” cards. Keep the “Your Promise” cards for distributing to kids.

1 GETTING STARTED

Promises, Promises

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a folded “Your Promise” card. (If you have more than 20 kids, form trios or larger groups instead.) Tell kids they’re not to open their cards or let anyone else see what’s written on their cards.

Say: **Good news! On your cards are instructions for finding another card that will lead you to a prize. When I tell you to, open your cards and obey the instructions. You’ll have three minutes to follow the directions and find your other card. Open your cards and read them.** Pause.

Your three-minute countdown begins now!

As kids come to you with their cards, give them a snack or don’t as designated on the cards. Have kids clean their hands and sit in a circle after they follow the directions on their cards.

Say: **I’m sorry that all of you didn’t get what I promised. I guess that’s how it goes. But hey, I was just thinking, I’d like you all to go wash my car later. I’ll pay you each five dollars for helping.** Pause and reach for your purse or wallet.

I don’t have the money on me right now, but I promise I’ll make it up to you later.

Ask:

- Explain why you believe I’ll keep my promise—or not.

When kids have responded, say: **I suppose breaking my promise that everyone would find a card that led to a prize makes it hard to trust other promises I make.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What bothers you about broken promises?
- Why do broken promises make it harder to trust someone?

Say: **By the way, it’s time for everyone who hasn’t yet enjoyed a snack to have one now.** Distribute snacks.



Say: **You see? I did keep my promise; it just took longer than you may have expected. Unfortunately, during my life I've made promises I didn't keep. I'll bet you've done the same. But ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES, even if some of God's promises take longer than others. Let's look in the Bible at the promise God made to a man named Noah. God kept his promise to Noah and continues to keep it to this day!**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Instant Drama Department

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Assign the following parts to kids, instructing them to act out appropriate motions when an action is described. The goal is to have as many kids as possible actively involved, so assign as many kids as needed to the roles of the flood waters and animals.

- Noah (Mime any of Noah's actions.)
- Noah's family (Stay close to Noah, and mime any actions of Noah's family.)
- Storm and flood waters (Use hand and body motions to indicate wind, rain, and a rising flood.)
- Animals (Mimic the actions of different animals.)

Select a large open area in your room to serve as a stage for the drama.

Say: **As founding members of the [your church name] Acting Troupe, you'll now present a play about Noah surviving the flood. Because you're such great actors, we don't need practice. Let's just do the play! When you hear your part, do whatever action is described. Ready? Action!**

Read the following script, pausing where indicated so kids can fill in with action. Be ready to play "A Mighty Storm" (track 10 on the CD) when prompted.

Say: **Noah and his family spent many years building the ark. Pause. They chopped wood. Pause. They hammered wood. Pause. They checked their blueprints. Pause.**

Noah and his family kept working until the ark was finished. Pause. By that time, Noah was hundreds of years old. Pause. Then Noah gathered together animals, some of them by sevens and all the rest by twos. Pause.

Then one day the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, and take your entire family with you. Pause. And take the animals you've gathered. Pause. In seven days I'll send rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. I'll wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I've made."

Instant Drama Department Supplies

- CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "A Mighty Storm"
(track 10)





Noah obeyed God even though there were no rain clouds in the sky. The gentle wind whispered. Pause. **Soon the wind became stronger.** Pause, and play “A Mighty Storm” (track 10 on the CD) and continue with the script as the track plays. **The sky darkened with clouds.** Pause.

Then the skies opened, and a tremendous rain fell. Pause. **Thunder crashed.** Pause. **Lightning crackled across the sky.** Pause. **The waters rose, and Noah and his family rocked back and forth in the stormy waters.** Pause.

For 40 days and nights the waters rocked the ark. The animals and Noah’s family tilted to the right (pause)...then to the left (pause)...then to the right again. Pause. **The waters continued to rise and covered even the mountains!** Pause.

The waters flooded the earth for 150 days. But God remembered the ark and all who were on it. Rain stopped falling. If the track hasn’t ended yet, stop the CD now. **The flood waters went down during the passing months.** Pause.

On the ark, Noah and his family tended the animals. Pause. **They looked out a small window, wondering when they could walk on dry land again.**

Noah let a raven and then a dove fly away. Pause. **The dove disappeared but soon returned because it couldn’t find anywhere to land.** Pause. **Seven days later, Noah sent the dove out again, and this time the dove returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf.** Pause. **The dove had found dry land!**

Eventually the flood waters all disappeared. Pause. **The ark settled on dry land. God told Noah and his family to leave the ark.** Pause. **Noah herded the animals out of the ark, too.** Pause. **The weather was sunny and bright.** Pause.

Noah built an altar to the Lord by piling up some stones. He took some of the animals and killed them, sacrificing them to God. Pause.

God promised he would never again destroy all living creatures with a flood. And in the sky above, God placed a rainbow as a reminder of God’s promise. Pause.

When you’ve completed the script, lead everyone in applause. Then have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **God made some promises during the course of this event we acted out.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Do you believe God did everything he said he would do? Explain.**
- **What do you like about the fact that following God’s directions saved Noah and his family—as God promised?**
- **Why do you or don’t you believe God will keep his promise to you?**



Say: **Noah discovered something important that's still true for our lives today: that ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES. And that promise God made after the flood? He's kept it to this very day. There's never been another flood of the whole earth. God keeps his promises to us! Let's explore that more.**



**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Keeping Promises

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz page, and have kids form pairs and locate the "Keeping Promises" section. Make sure each pair has a Bible.

Say: **Now that we know God keeps his promises, let's look at some of those promises and what they mean. In your pairs, choose one partner to read the Bible verse. The other partner will write what the promise in that verse means to him or her. Then partners can switch reading and writing roles and repeat for the remaining Bible promises.**

Give kids 10 minutes to complete their promises.

When kids have finished, have them find the Key Verse, Psalm 145:13, on their Bible Buzz page: "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made."

Say: **I'm going to play a song about the Key Verse, and we'll sing the lyrics as a prayer.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 11 on the CD). Sing along with the kids, and refer to the lyrics page for the words.



(Chorus)

**The Lord is faithful,
The Lord is faithful
To all his promises, *(all his promises)*
To all his promises. *(all his promises)*
The Lord is loving,
The Lord is loving
Toward all he has made, *(all he has made,)*
To all he has made.**

**Your kingdom is forever.
You're powerful forever.
You hold the world up every day.
You always do whatever you say.**

**Keeping Promises
Supplies**

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this lesson)
- pens
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "All His Promises"
(Psalm 145:13b)
(track 11)

**Keeping Promises
Easy Prep**

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.





(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

**The Lord is faithful,
The Lord is faithful.**

“All His Promises” (Psalm 145:13b) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Close your eyes, and repeat after me the words from Psalm 145:13: “The Lord is faithful to all his promises (pause while kids repeat the phrase) and loving toward all he has made.”** Pause while kids repeat the phrase. Repeat the reading of Psalm 145:13, but have kids substitute their names for the second half of the verse (“all he has made”).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about what the verses on your Bible Buzz page mean to you.**
- **Which of God’s promises we’ve read about are most special to you? Explain.**
- **How do these promises show that God is faithful and loving?**
- **What about God’s promises gives you hope or comfort?**

Say: **God’s promises are the only ones that’ll always be kept. ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD’S PROMISES. That can give us hope when we face other people’s lies, broken promises, and disappointments in our lives. We can lean on God’s promises, trust God, and follow God as Noah did when he built the ark. Let’s find out more about the truth in what God says.**

Truth or Consequences

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **If God keeps his promises, then we can trust what God tells us through his Word, the Bible. So if someone says the Bible isn’t true, they’re wrong. Our world around us lies to us all the time. That’s why Jesus told us to be careful about letting our world shape us. It’s better to let God shape us instead.**

Have kids form three groups, and give each group a Bible. Then have kids find the “Truth or Consequences” section on their Bible Buzz page. Assign a different situation to each group. Say: **Read your scenario and the verse that goes with it. Then use the verse to help you answer the question at the end of your section.**

Have kids read the instructions and in their groups work on their assigned situation.

Give groups up to five minutes to determine a promise or truth from their Scripture and how their verses could help their situation.

Truth or
Consequences
Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about what you discovered in your group about how your advice from the Bible could help your situation.
- What did this activity show you about God’s promises?

Say: ► **WE CAN COUNT ON GOD’S PROMISES** and everything God tells us through his Word. That means we can always believe God, trust God, and follow God, knowing God’s taking care of us. Studying God’s Word helps us know what God promises and what God values. We’ve learned about the promise God had for Noah and many others. Let’s take a minute to silently thank God for his promises.

Give kids about a minute to pray silently.



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: Let’s think about ways we can see God at work in our lives this week, knowing ► **WE CAN COUNT ON GOD’S PROMISES**.

Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Start recording in a journal anytime you see God answering the promises you wrote about on your Bible Buzz page.
- Tell a family member about what God’s promises mean to you.
- When you see a rainbow or something colorful like a rainbow, thank God for always keeping his promises.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: Let’s trust and follow God as Noah did, remembering ► **WE CAN COUNT ON GOD’S PROMISES** as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's promises. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids form trios and share about a promise they've made that they need help keeping. Then invite trios to ask God for help in keeping their promises, as God does.



Lyrics ■■■■

All His Promises (Psalm 145:13b)

(Chorus)

The Lord is faithful,
The Lord is faithful
To all his promises, *(all his promises)*
To all his promises. *(all his promises)*
The Lord is loving,
The Lord is loving
Toward all he has made, *(all he has made)*
To all he has made.

Your kingdom is forever.
You're powerful forever.
You hold the world up every day.
You always do whatever you say.

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

The Lord is faithful,
The Lord is faithful.

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