



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Honors Right Living

SCRIPTURE: [Genesis 6–9](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Deuteronomy 7:9](#)

Do you ever have moments where you realize that unless you step up, no one else will? Sometimes it's simple—in my home with my three kids, I often realize the sock on the floor will stay there forever unless I decide to take care of it. Or there are bigger things—a parent needs care, and you are the one available to help. Or it's Saturday night, and you get called to fill in for kids' ministry on Sunday.

I wonder if this is how Noah felt when he received God's instructions to build the ark. Out of all people on earth, God chose him for a monumental task that probably felt confusing and undesirable. But Noah was righteous, so he obeyed. God had seen in him the desire to do what is right—and because of this, Noah and his family were saved from the flood.

Living righteously isn't always fun, and it may not even seem rewarding at the time. The tasks God gives us often involve serving and giving of ourselves. And yet, as we do what God asks us to do, He honors us. He allows us to become more like Him, to grow in faith and good works.

So, whatever task God has called you to today, do it with a joyful heart, grateful that God honors righteousness.

—**Denise Morris Snyder**

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

“[Noah] was without blame among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God” ([Genesis 6:9](#)). Noah’s righteousness is evident in his trust of God throughout the flood story, and God honors him for it. Noah sounds like the Hebrew word for comfort or rest.

WHAT?

The world was full of violence and evil. God regretted making human beings and decided to destroy with a flood all life except for Noah’s family and the animals in his care. God faithfully delivered creation by keeping them all safe on the ark and establishing a covenant with Noah after the flood.

WHERE?

Noah and his family most likely lived somewhere in Mesopotamia, which comes from the Greek word meaning “in the midst of the rivers.” This usually implies the Tigris and Euphrates river valley. They landed on Mount Ararat ([Genesis 8:4](#)), which is in modern-day Turkey.

WHEN?

[Genesis 6–9](#) comes shortly after the story of the first murder in [Genesis 4](#). By Genesis 6, sin has corrupted the earth and filled it with violence. God has seen the worst of what humanity can be living under the reign of sin and has become greatly distressed by it.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

Noah walked with God, and God honored his righteousness by delivering creation from total destruction. In much the same way, Abraham walked with God. God honored his righteousness with the promise that would lead to Jesus, who delivers us from the power of death and makes all things new.



Curiosity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy animals (several matching pairs)

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so happy you're here! Today we'll learn about a man named Noah. God told Noah to build a big boat—called an ark—to keep him safe from a flood. God also told Noah to put two of each animal on the ark to keep them safe. Let's play with some animals!

Provide a variety of plush or plastic animal toys for the kids to explore. If there are two of the same animal, encourage the kids to make a match. Interact with the kids as they play by making comments and asking questions like “I see two cows!” or “Can you find the giraffe?” or “Look, the two dogs are different kinds of dogs, but both are dogs!” You can encourage them to demonstrate the sound each animal makes.



LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, thank You for this time to learn about You from Your Word. We pray that Your Spirit will guide our hearts and minds to understand Your great love for us. Help us see that You know what's best for us and You honor right living. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible.*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Beginner's Bible, pages 26-33

Noah's Ark

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**He is the faithful God. He keeps his
covenant of love to a thousand generations
of those who love Him.**

— Deuteronomy 7:9

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does faithful mean?**
- **How was God faithful to Noah in God's big story today?**



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Activity: Rainbow Colors

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple)

Do you remember what God put in the sky to remind us of His promise? Allow time for responses and show the drawing of a rainbow from God's big story. **Yes, a rainbow! God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Every time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's promise that he will never flood the whole earth again. The first color of the rainbow is red.** Hold up and show the kids the red crayon. **Can you see anything else in our room that is red?** Encourage kids to point to something in the room that's red. Go through each color while reminding the kids that these are the colors of a rainbow, and a rainbow is a reminder of God's promise.

Leader Tip: Consider going on a color scavenger hunt! Walk around the room with the kids and carry a basket. See if each kid can find something red and put it in the basket. Keep hunting through the room for every color in the rainbow.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their interactive prayer, pray aloud with them, thanking God for forgiving us when we are wrong and for helping us do what is right.

God, thank You for showing us when we are wrong and for forgiving us. We are grateful that when we follow You, You give us Your Holy Spirit to help us do what is right. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you be strengthened by the Holy Spirit each day to make right choices. May you remember that God honors right living. May you remain faithful to God because His love for you never fails.