



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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Curiosity Activity: Rain Cloud in a Jar

SUPPLIES: cups (several), large plastic jar, foaming shaving cream (not gel), blue food coloring, plastic pipettes (1 per 4–5 kids), water (enough to fill the cups and the large jar)

Ahead of time, mix blue food coloring with some water in several cups. Instead of food coloring, you can use a bath dye tablet or Easter egg dye tablet to dye the water. It should be dark blue in order to show up in the experiment. Next, fill the large jar with water until it is about three-fourths full. Place the jar and the cups of colored water on the table. Place the pipettes near the cups of colored water.



We're going to have fun with an experiment! Have you ever been outside when it started to rain? Allow the kids to respond. **In God's big story today, we'll learn about a time in the Bible when it started to rain and kept raining for 40 days and 40 nights! In our experiment, we'll have a pretend cloud made of shaving cream, and it will look like it's raining in our jar! Let's check it out!**

Spray foaming shaving cream into the jar of water until the shaving cream is just a bit over the rim, which will be like a cloud. Ask the kids to use the pipettes to suction some colored water and carefully squirt it on top of the shaving cream "cloud." Invite other kids to repeat this step one or two more times. Direct the kids to pay close attention to what is happening under the shaving cream cloud: the colored water will begin to seep down through the shaving cream and into the water below, and it will look like rain falling from a rain cloud. If you have a large group, you can create several jars of water and shaving cream to allow multiple kids to do the experiment.

Wow! Isn't that amazing? It looks like rain! In God's big story, God made it rain so much that it flooded the whole earth. During that time, God saved a man named Noah and his family because he loved and obeyed God. We'll learn today that God honors right living.



10:45 Service

Belief

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was the one man who loved and obeyed God in our story today? *(Noah)*
- How did God protect Noah and his family? *(by telling Noah to build an ark)*
- What is the promise that God made with Noah? *(that He would never flood the whole earth again)*
- Is it easy or hard to do the right thing? Why?
- How does it make you feel to know that God sees when you do what is right and honors you?
- Have you ever done the right thing even when others weren't? How do you think God feels when you do that?

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

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

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Gather kids to discuss these questions:

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



Faith

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Craft: Rainbows

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), paper (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple; several sheets of each color), glue sticks, cotton balls (optional), colored crepe paper streamers (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Cloud Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

We're going to make pictures to remind us of God's promise. Do you remember what God put in the sky to remind Noah of His promise? Allow time for responses. Yes, God made a rainbow! Every time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's promise that He would never flood the earth again and that God honors right living.

To make our craft, you will get a cloud and six strips of paper—one strip for each color of the rainbow. You will use a glue stick to attach your colors of the rainbow to your cloud. You can attach them all in a row on the bottom or side of your cloud. Walk around the room to assist kids who may need help. Point to the Wonder Truth on the cloud as you read it aloud. To make the craft more complex, you can have the kids glue cotton balls onto the cloud and use crepe paper streamers instead of strips of colored paper.





10:45 Service

Identity

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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Responding in Worship: Interactive Prayer

SUPPLIES: sponges (1 per kid or per group of 6–8 kids), bowl, water, scissors (optional, prep only)

Before this activity, fill a bowl with some water. You may want to cut sponges in half to keep water spills to a minimum. You will need a sponge for every kid (or kids can share).

We've been learning that God honors right living. What did God do for Noah? Allow answers.

Today we started learning an important verse about God being faithful. I'm going to read the whole verse to you. I invite you to close your eyes and think about how this verse reminds us of what God did for Noah.

Read [Deuteronomy 7:9 \(NIRV\)](#):

"So I want you to realize that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come. He keeps it with those who love him and obey his commandments. He shows them his love."

Leader Tip: You may want to share that the word covenant means an unbreakable promise.

What did you notice in this verse? What words remind you of today's part of God's big story? Interact with all answers to these questions.

That verse we just read mentioned God's love at the end. He forgives us and shows us the right way to live because He loves us. His way is always the right way! Let's hear more about God's love. I invite you to close your eyes again as you listen to the words:

"The Lord loves us very much. So we haven't been completely destroyed. His loving concern never fails. His great love is new every morning. Lord, how faithful you are!" ([Lamentations 3:22-23, NIRV](#))

Encourage kids to open their eyes. We heard some great words about God in these verses! Let's praise Him for His faithfulness and love.

10:45 Service

Set out the bowl of water and sponges for the kids. **Now you get to place the sponge into the water and then squeeze it out as you praise God. You can use words or phrases from the verses we heard and say things like “Thank You, God, for being faithful,” or “Thank You for showing me what’s right,” or “Thank You for Your love.”** Give each child a turn to squeeze out a sponge and share a word or phrase that describes God.

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.