



## 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:** blue paper (crumpled or shredded), bin, toy boats, toy people figures, toy animals, various building toys, coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Noah Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?**

### Play Station: What's in the Water?

**Set-up:** Place crumpled or shredded blue paper in a bin. Set out toy boats, toy people figures, and toy animals.

**Play:** Allow the kids to explore and play with the toys. Encourage the kids to put the people and animals on a boat. See if they can make the boats balance in the pretend water. Let the kids pick up some of the "water" and sprinkle it over the toys like rain.

### Play Station: Build a Boat

**Set-up:** Use the classroom blocks

**Play:** Invite the kids to build a big boat using the blocks and tools provided.

### Play Station: Noah Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a cloudy, rainy day.



9:00 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.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

**What does faithful mean?**

**How was God faithful to Noah in God's big story today?**

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## 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: Dotted Rainbows

**SUPPLIES:** white construction paper with outline of a rainbow drawn on, various colors of dot markers



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 piece of paper with a rainbow drawn on it. We will need to share the dot markers. You can dot the lines to make your own rainbow. Walk around the room to assist kids who may need help.

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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**Closing Game: Animals Two by Two**

**SUPPLIES:** toy animals (5 matching pairs), toy boat

Before this activity begins, place toy animals (two of each kind) around the room. Make sure the matching pairs are not right next to each other. Set out a toy boat. Point out the boat to the kids.

Noah's family was on the ark along with lots of animals! God told Noah to put two of every kind of animal (and seven of some!) on the ark to protect them. We're going to gather pairs of animals from around the room. When I say, "Go," walk around the room and find an animal. Once you find one, keep looking for the other animal that matches the one you have. You might have to look to see what other people find because your match may have already been found by another kid! Once you have found a pair or you and a friend have a match, take your animals to the ark so they will be safe from the flood! If there are many kids, divide into smaller groups and play multiple rounds so everyone has a chance to play and find a pair of animals.

**Leader Tip:** When hiding the toy animals or animal cards, think about the eye level of the kids so that the animals are not out of reach. Make sure to place some in easy-to-reach areas for any students who may have physical limitations.

## 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.