



Old Testament Bible Stories for Young Children

by Sally Michael

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Lessons

NOTE: The 64 stories presume a 64 week study (two summers and one school year). If your course of study is 52 weeks, we suggest that you omit the lessons preceded by an asterisk, combine the following lessons (marked by a "c"): 12 & 13; 20 & 21; 22 & 23; 25 & 26; 62 & 63., and omit either lesson 14 or 50. If it is necessary to shorten the study further, we suggest combining 29 & 30, 37 & 38, and/or 51 & 52.

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PREFACE

Feed My Sheep

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:15-17

If we love God, we will love the things that God loves. When Jesus was on earth, He said, *"Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me; for he who is least among you all is the one who is great"* (Luke 9:48). Jesus loved children. In Mark we read that *"he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them"* (Mark 10:16). If we love God we will feed His lambs (John 21:15-17).

It is both an awesome privilege and a sobering responsibility to feed Jesus' lambs. It is an awesome privilege because in so doing we are touching the heart of God. It is a sobering responsibility because, *"It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble"* (Luke 17:2).

To nurture the faith of children through formal teaching, informal teaching, or modeling the life of God in you is a high calling. It is not something that should be done carelessly, haphazardly, or half-heartedly. There are great rewards for diligence and grave consequences for negligence.

In taking this task seriously, you may find yourself lying awake at night seeking from God the heart and wisdom to teach His children; you will find faith growing in your heart as you wrestle to understand and embrace the Word of God; you will find yourself driven to your knees continually as you struggle with your own limitations and sinfulness, and the limitations and sinfulness of your students; and you will see God glorified.

God bless you as you undertake this great privilege and responsibility,

A Blessing on You

*May you be blessed as a woman/man who fears the Lord,
a woman/man who finds great delight in his commandments.*

*May your children be mighty in the land;
even to the next generation may your children be blessed.*

*May you find your wealth and riches in God;
may you endure in righteousness forever.*

*Even in the darkness may the light dawn for you;
may you be a gracious, compassionate and righteous woman/man.*

*May you never be shaken;
and may you be remembered by the Lord forever.*

Scripture: Genesis 6-9

Key Themes

- God knows everything .
God knows man is sinful (Genesis 6:5).
- Man is a sinner; he needs God and cannot save himself.
- God is holy and cannot tolerate sin .
- Sin must be punished; the punishment for sin is death.
- God communicates with man.
- God is merciful .
God spared Noah and his family; God sent Noah to preach repentance.
- God is all-powerful .
God sent a flood that covered the earth.
- God is faithful.
God remembered Noah and the beasts (Genesis 8:1).

Hooks

HOOK

(Dress up a child in front of the class in rain gear and an umbrella.) Can you put this on? Let's button it up well. How about putting these on your feet? And I think you will need to hold this over your head.

Look at child's name. He is all dressed up.

What is he dressed for? [rain]

Right! He is all ready for rain.

Today I am going to tell you a story about a rain storm.

Not a little rain storm for raincoats and umbrellas.

But a great big rain storm.

A huge rain storm.

The biggest rain storm in the whole world.

Would you like to hear this story?

Hooks (cont.)

HOOK:

(Sprinkle water on the children—e.g. use a pan of water; dip your fingers in the water and then “flick” your fingers at the children OR dip a brush in the water and flick the brush at the children sprinkling them with water.)

Did you get wet? How wet did you get—a lot or a little?

Would you like to hear a story about getting really, really wet?

HOOK:

(Make animal sounds or show pictures of animals and have the children identify the animals. Then list all the animals the children mentioned.)

(animals)... would you like to hear a story about all those animals?

SUGGESTION: You may want to serve animal crackers for a snack. Have the children identify the animals as they eat them. Make the point that all the animals were on the ark—that God did not forget about any of the animals and He is strong enough that He kept them all safe from the flood. (“Were there camels on the ark? Were there elephants on the ark. Did God forget about any of the animals? God never forgets anything...”)

NOTE: Noah warned the people of their sin; he was a “preacher of righteousness”, not just a ship builder.

NOTE: When the Bible says that Noah was “blameless” in Genesis 6:9, it does not mean that he was “without sin”. Noah was a righteous man which means that he trusted in God. Noah was rewarded for his faith in God (see Hebrews 11:6-7). You may want to emphasize the idea of rewards during the free play time so that children understand this concept. (For example: “ I have a reward for everyone who helps put away the toys...”)

Looks

LOOK:

(Show the coloring book picture for Lesson 4.)

What is this boat in the picture called?

Who made the ark?

Who told Noah to build the ark?

Did Noah build the ark just like God said?

Who was in the ark?

Looks (cont.)

Why of all the people in the world did God save Noah and his family?
[God is merciful—Noah loved and obeyed God] (Make sure the children understand that even Noah was a sinner, but because God is merciful, He spared Noah and his family. Also, God rewarded Noah's faith in Him by sparing him and his family from the flood.)

What happened to the other people who were not on the ark?

Why did this happen?

Did those people believe that there would be a flood? Did they turn away from their sin like Noah told them to? Did they love and obey God?

Why did God punish them?

Are you a sinner?

God gave you a mom and dad and teachers to warn you to turn away from your sin. Do you listen to their warning?

Tell the Next Generation



God Judges the World and Sends a Flood

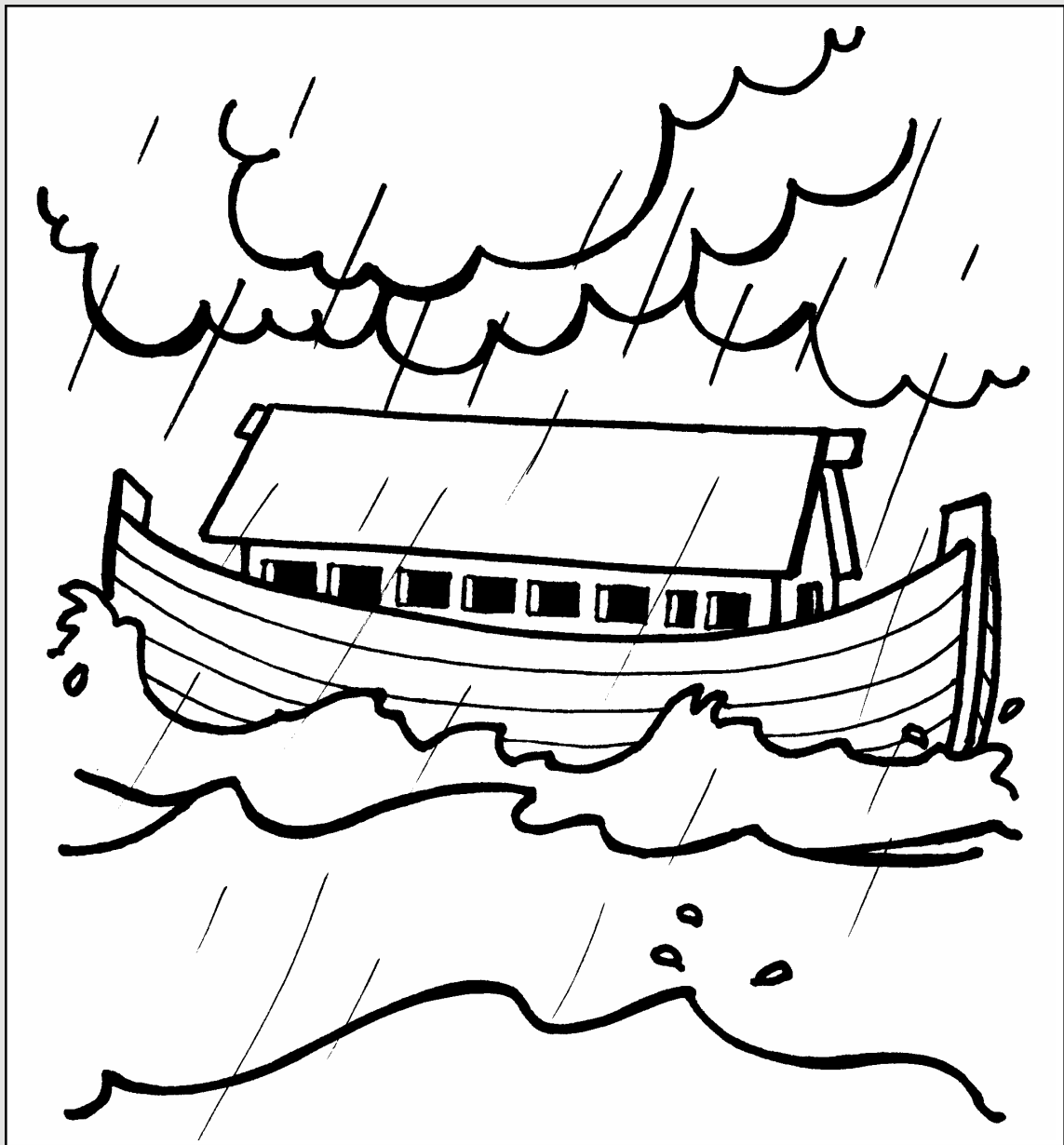
Scripture:
Genesis 6-9

What does this say about God and man?

- God knows everything
God knows man is sinful (Genesis 6:5)
- Man is a sinner; he needs God and cannot save himself
- God is holy and cannot tolerate sin
- Sin must be punished; the punishment for sin is death
- God communicates with man
- God is merciful
God spared Noah and his family; God sent Noah to preach repentance
- God is all-powerful
God sent a flood that covered the earth
- God is faithful
God remembered Noah and the beasts (Genesis 8:1)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Can you make a flood? Could you flood your yard if you had a lot of water? How about the city you live in? Could you flood the **whole earth**? Can **anybody** flood the whole earth? (Only God is powerful enough to flood the whole earth.)
- * What happened to all the people that were not on the ark? (They died.) Was it right for God to destroy all those people? (Yes, because sin deserves to be punished with death.)
- * Noah and his family trusted God to save them. Could they have saved themselves? (No, only God can save His people from His judgment.)



**God judges the world
and sends a flood**