

date: ___ **9/24/17****Bible Passage: Genesis 6—9**
(The Flood)

God Is a Covenant Keeper, Part 1

REMEMBER VERSE

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory
and honor and power, for you created all things.**

Revelation 4:11a

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

As I read the Scripture leading up to the building of the ark, I wondered what God must have felt. I knew that my focus shouldn't be on the destruction that took place, but instead on God's lasting promise. Still, to truly understand the depth of His promise, I needed to feel some of the emotion God experienced when He made a decision with such extreme consequences. So I asked. And He answered. I reread the passage. My heart began to ache. Grief and sorrow overtook me.

I walked outside. A morning rainstorm had just subsided, and I was on a quest to find a rainbow. Frustrated by the colorless gray sky, I cried out to God, "Please? I just want to see a rainbow!" A couple of hours went by—more rain, no rainbows. I'd almost given up hope when I looked to the sky once again. Stretching as far as the expanse was the biggest double rainbow I'd ever seen! I was awestruck. All I could do was tell God over and over how much I loved Him.

There it was in the sky above me: the symbol of the promise God has kept for thousands of years. Death wasn't the end of His plan then, and it's not the end now. Because of who He is, we have redemption. We have forgiveness. We have the hope and promise of eternal life! God keeps His covenants.

Cristi Thomas
Tru Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

God had a plan He was moving forward with, but it wouldn't result in complete destruction. God equipped Noah with all

he would need for the journey ahead. Archaeologists have created speculative drawings of the ark's design based on their findings and modern imaging. An interesting twist in their research comes with the possibility that there were no steering devices on the ark—no rudder, no sails. Nothing physically attached to guide the ark. All who boarded the ark needed to trust God completely; safety and navigation were left to Him alone (Genesis 7:23—8:22).

After the flood, everything about life on earth changed. The flooding actually altered the earth's atmosphere. Some geologists suspect it had never rained prior to the great flood. (Genesis 2:5–6 also mentions there was no rain—that God watered the earth with a mist from the ground.) They believe that perhaps a water vapor canopy-like covering may have been over the earth to make streams form condensation—much like a greenhouse effect—creating a lush environment for plant and animal life. After the flood, the natural mist and streams that came up from the ground were replaced by rain and changing seasons.

Immediately after leaving the ark, Noah built an altar to worship God. God said, “I now establish my covenant with you ... a covenant for all generations to come. ... This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth” (Genesis 9:8–17). Why does God mention this promise eight times within nine verses? Eight times! Why is this so important to Him? His repetition impresses us with the truth that a covenant is a promise God makes with His people. And we know that God never breaks His promises! Our God keeps His covenants.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

Read through the biblical account of God and the floodwaters in Genesis 6—9:17. Before you begin to read the account, ask God to show you something about Himself that you've never noticed before. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you through His written Word.

Once you've finished reading, take a few minutes to write down your observations from Scripture. Then go back and read chapter 9:1–17. Ponder how this lasting covenant God made with Noah and his family still impacts us individually today. What does it mean to you?

As you spend time in the Scriptures, pray God will reveal Himself to you in a new way. Pray you'll know His deep love in a way you've never experienced before. God always keeps His promises.

EXPLORE::

Small Group Leaders


Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

Drops of Water

When people were hurting themselves and one another rather than obeying Him, God decided to send massive amounts of rain and floodwaters to the earth. Today children will explore the amazing properties of water.

SUPPLIES (per small group)



- Plate (small)
- Eyedropper
- Bottle or cup (clear)
- Water
- Food coloring 
- Coins (4, various sizes)
- Paper towels

SET UP

Fill the clear bottle or cup with water and add food coloring to make colored water. Set all the supplies out on a table.

RELATE

Welcome the children and have them gather around the table. **Today we're going to hear about a time in The Big God Story when God sent a really, really big rainstorm. Have you ever gone outside after it rained and noticed big drops of water on the grass and trees, or on the slide at the park?** Pause for responses. **Water can make really big drops—or “bubbles”—because water likes to stick together.**

Place a paper towel square in the center of the plate. Then place your first coin in the center of the paper towel. Hold up the eyedropper and the bottle and explain that the bottle is filled with colored water. **I wonder how much water I can make drop on this coin before the bubble bursts?** Using the eyedropper, drop colored water onto the surface of the coin, counting the drops out loud. When the surface tension breaks, the water will spill onto the paper towel. Do the same with the other coins. Give children a chance to guess how many drops they think will fit on each coin before you begin dropping water. (Hint: A U.S. penny can hold an average of 35 drops of water.) **Was this more water than you expected to stay on the coins?**

DISCOVER:: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Ponder Point

God Is a Covenant Keeper

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)
- Worship music (suggestion: “I Can Sing,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat

worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse image (see Resources)
- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

RELATE

Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while the children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

REMEMBER VERSE

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory
and honor and power, for you created all things.
Revelation 4:11a**

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Worthy: Deserving; only God is worthy of worship

Glorify: Brilliant, radiant beauty that brings praise to God

Honor: Worship, exalt

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

You are worthy: Point to sky then place hands on heart.

our Lord and God: Make letter "L" with right index finger and thumb at left shoulder. Move "L" diagonally down to right hip.

to receive glory: Hold out open, bent arms, palms up.

and honor: Keep arms out and tilt head back to face up to sky.

and power: Make strong arms.

for you created all things: Cross arms over each other in front of body and then open arms up and out.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [What'slit: Rainbow](#) (see optional image in Resources)
- Wardrobe of Wonder

What'slit: Rainbow

The rainbow serves as a reminder to us of God's love and promise. God always keeps His promises. He has kept His promises for thousands of years, and He will continue to do so until He returns.

RELATE

Tech: Cue image. Invite a child volunteer to "spy" on the What'slit by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, *cue the Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect*. Have him whisper the identity of the What'slit in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What'slit. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What'slit from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

Today's part of **The Big God Story** has to do with a rainbow. Where do we see a rainbow? Children respond. **Yes, in the sky. When might we see one?** Kids answer. **Yes, we might see one after it rains a lot. We're going to hear about a time in The Big God Story when there was lots of rain and the first rainbow was seen in the sky. I think that's what we're going to find out today as we learn from The Big God Story! Do you know what time it is?**

The Big God Story

Genesis 6—9

God Is a Covenant Keeper

Storytelling Technique: Visual Imagery and Actions

SUPPLIES

- [The Big God Story intro clip and image](#) (see Resources)
- [Mountain image](#) (see Resources)
- Optional: card stock (large sheet), glue

PREPARE AHEAD

For easy viewing during storytelling, either print the Mountain image and mount onto a large sheet of card stock, or cue the image to project onto a screen.

RELATE

Tech: Cue The Big God Story intro clip and image. **Friends, when we were together last, we learned about Adam and Eve and how they lived in the special garden together with God. But they disobeyed God and had to leave the garden. Put your hands on your shoulders if you remember that God promised them He would make the way to be with them always. That promise is Jesus! Let's ask God to show us what He wants us to learn from**

Him today. Open this time in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet your hearts and minds.

Many, many years ago, there was a man named Noah. Noah loved and obeyed God. God loves all the people He created and wants them to be kind and loving to one another. But almost all the people who were living in the world with Noah weren't obeying God. The Bible tells us the people were saying and doing terrible things that hurt themselves and one another. It hurt God's heart to see the people He loved living this way. But Noah was a man who did what was right. He followed God and listened to Him. One day, God talked with Noah. God told Noah that He was going to send a giant rainstorm with a mighty flood, covering everything. But God promised to save Noah and his family. God gave Noah plans to build a strong boat for the great storm. This huge boat was called an ark. What do you think Noah would need to build this great big boat? Children respond.

Noah gathered everything he needed to build the ark, and he trusted God to tell him how to build it. Let's pretend we're Noah and build an ark together! Have children stand and "build" the boat together by acting out the motions: hammer nails, paint sides, and inspect their work. When finished, sit back down. **One day, the ark was finally done. It was big enough to hold Noah, his family, and every kind of animal God would send.**

God sent all the animals to board the ark, and the animals obeyed God. What kind of animals do you think were on the ark? Take a couple of suggestions. **After every creature God called was safely on board, Noah and his family climbed in. When the last person entered, God shut the door. As soon as it closed, water began to fall from the sky and burst out from the deepest part of the ground. After many, many, many days of rain, thunder, and lightning, the great storm began to calm. The rain began to fall very quietly until (pause) it stopped. Pause. Who stopped the rain and the flood?** Children respond. **God did. Did Noah trust God to keep His promise?** Children respond. **Yes, he did.**

God remembered Noah, his family, and all the animals in the ark. He watched over the ark and kept everyone inside safe. Just as He promised, God saved Noah's family from the flood—God's big story would continue through them! Slowly the waters dried up. The great ark reached the top of a mountain and rested there. Tech: Cue Mountain image, or Storyteller shows image. When it was time, everyone came out of the ark. Was the ark God told Noah to build big enough and strong enough for the storm? Children respond. **Yes, it was. Did water fall from the sky and flood from the ground?** Children answer. **Yes, it did. Did God protect Noah, his family, and all the animals?** Kids respond. **Yes, He did!**

Because of God's goodness and protection, Noah's heart was full of love and thankfulness for God. As soon as he left the ark, Noah worshipped God with a gift. God was so happy with Noah that He blessed Noah and his family. Then God made a covenant, or a promise. Remember, when God makes a covenant, He keeps His promise, no matter what. He's going to do what He says, no matter what. God promised never to wipe out the entire world with a flood again. God's covenant wasn't just with Noah; He made it with all people who will ever live.

Does anyone know what God gave us to help us remember His promise? Wait for responses. **God told Noah He would put a rainbow in the sky after it rains so everyone would know and remember that God made a covenant, and we can trust Him. Where did we see a rainbow today?** Children respond. **The wardrobe! That's right! Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect. Hold up rainbow from the wardrobe. Our What'sIt is a rainbow, the beautiful way God reminds us every time it rains that we can trust Him because God is a covenant keeper.**

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- Crayons

RELATE

Noah was a man who loved and obeyed God. God blessed Noah and his family, and made a special promise to him.

I wonder ... How did Noah feel when he first heard God's plan?

I wonder ... Why did Noah worship God right after he left the ark? How did his heart feel about God?

I wonder ... How does my heart feel about God right now?

I wonder ... What will I think the next time I see a rainbow in the sky?

BLESS::: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)

RELATE

Send out your little ones with a blessing by praying Scripture over them. The time of blessing is an opportunity for children to practice another physical posture of worship. Have children place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up as if cupping them together to hold water. This is a posture that demonstrates our willingness to receive what God has for each of us. Read the Remember Verse from Revelation 4:11a over the children: **You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things.** You may choose to read through the Scripture more than once as God's Spirit leads you.

Close your time with a prayer of blessing.

Children, may you remember that God keeps His promises, no matter what. You can always trust Him!