

## Grade 1—Unit 10

# Hey, Noah! Are You Listening?

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In spite of almost unbelievable circumstances, Noah chose to follow God's directions and save a remnant of creation. Noah responded to God's call with a "yes."

### LESSONS

1. Noah Listens to God
2. Noah Listens to Rain
3. Noah Listens to God's Promise

# Unit 10: Hey, Noah! Are You Listening?

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## Unit Information

### SUMMARY

Unlike the last unit, which focused on wrong choices and their consequences, this unit focuses on someone who listened to God and made the right choice. Following the story of Noah, students will learn about a God of salvation and promises.

### KEY BIBLE TEXTS

Genesis 6:9-9:29\*

**Genesis 8:22 ( main memory verse)**

**Psalms 9:1, 2 (memory verse)**

**Isaiah 54:10 (memory verse)**

*\*texts used in lessons*

### BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

#### The Ark

At the beginning of this story, we read that “the Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain” (Genesis 6:6). God decided to wipe all that he had created from the face of the earth. He found one righteous man, Noah. Noah was “blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God” (Genesis 6:9). God, with signs of loving care, made plans to save Noah, his family, and part of the created world.

Noah listened to God’s instructions about building an ark and gathering together representatives of all living creatures. And “Noah did everything just as God commanded him” (Genesis 6:22).

Noah was given specific instructions about the ark he was to build. The ark would have been 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It was built of cypress wood and perhaps reeds. This massive ship was waterproofed with bitumen, or pitch. It was thought to have three stories: a lower, middle, and upper deck. The window was probably a continuous open space below the roof. There was only one door. Comparing it to other ships, it would have been five times bigger than the Mayflower, but half the size of the Queen Mary.

#### The Flood

Other peoples and religions of the Near East have stories of a great flood. The Hebrew people who heard the story of Noah would also have been familiar with some of the other stories. Even though there are similarities between the stories, the differences are remarkable. In other stories, there is no reason given for the flood; their gods acted capriciously. But Genesis tells us that the God of the Hebrews had a reason. People had become totally wicked. Only in the Hebrew version does God covenant with all people to never again destroy the world.

The God of the Hebrews showed compassion and love. God went to great lengths to save humanity, in spite of the aching sadness he felt about the way people were living. God continued to have a relationship with people.

The usual telling of the story has the rain beginning and continuing for 40 days and nights (Genesis 7:12). But the narrative also says that “all the springs of the great deep burst forth and the floodgates of the heavens were opened” (Genesis 7:11). The image is that of the earth going back to a stage prior to creation: no separation of waters above and waters below; no separation of land and sea.

### **The Promise**

The world was not destroyed forever; Noah and his family did see dry land. They trusted God without knowing the outcome. After the rain stopped, water remained on the earth. But God remembered Noah and caused the waters to recede (Genesis 8:1). When dry land appeared, God commanded Noah to send all the living creatures out of the ark. They were given a second chance to live in harmony with the earth.

Noah’s first action after getting back on dry land was to build an altar and praise God. God was pleased with Noah and made several promises. Never again would God curse the ground because of people and never again would God destroy all living creatures (Genesis 8:21). Never again would God send a flood to destroy the world. God set the rainbow in the sky as a sign of this new covenant with the earth. God promised, “Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember. . .” (Genesis 9:16).

From Noah’s story, we can be assured that God loves the created world. God took care of creation. God continues to be involved in the world. People are important vehicles for God’s acts in the world. Noah is one example. Even though we don’t understand God’s ways, we can believe that God will always work for good.

### **ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

- Noah was obedient to God, and we should be obedient, too.
- Because Noah and his family were faithful to God, God took care of them.
- We are thankful for God’s promises.

### **WORSHIP**

1. Sit in a circle, and ask the students to name ways in which God takes care of them. In between each item, say together as a class, “Thank you, God, for taking care of us.” Say a prayer of thanks.

2. God made a promise to never again cover the earth with a flood. God makes many promises throughout scripture. Are there promises people can make to God? Have the children write promises to God on strips of rainbow-colored paper. Make a bright-colored chain with the students’ strips of paper.

### **BULLETIN BOARD IDEAS**

1. Draw a large outline of an ark on mural paper and hang it on the bulletin board. Have students draw animals inside the ark, or cut magazine pictures of animals to paste inside the ark.

2. Show the sequence of the stories in this unit by sectioning off the bulletin board. Have students work together to illustrate their part of the story.

## MEMORY PASSAGES

This unit offers the following verses for students to memorize. You may copy and clip the following verses for students to take home.

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night will never cease.

Genesis 8:22

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1, 2

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed,  
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace  
be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 54:10

## MEMORY VERSE CONNECTIONS

*Make this memory verse connection during Lesson 3, step 4:*

Read Genesis 8:22, “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” Add this verse to the promise that God made to not destroy the earth again.

## ASSESSING TEACHING / LEARNING

Observing students and their interactions is one of the best ways to discover if students are practicing the lessons. Look to see if they cooperate with each other, if they use caring words, and if they practice peacemaking skills.

A quiz is also included, at the end of the unit.

# Hey, Noah! Are You Listening?

## LESSON 1: NOAH LISTENS TO GOD

### Objective

Students will recognize the importance of obeying God.

### Key Concepts

- Noah did what God asked him to do.
- Noah was obedient to God.
- We need to obey God, too.

**Text:** Genesis 6:9-7:16

**Estimated Lesson Time:** 30 minutes

### Materials

- Bible
- *Noah's Ark* by Jerry Pinkney
- Animal crackers
- For Extend the Lesson, option one: small brown-paper bags (1 for each student), crayons, markers, construction paper, scissors, glue.

### Teacher Preparation

- Mark or pace the size of the ark (450 feet long, 75 feet wide) in a large, open space outdoors. Put markers in the ground or make a chalk outline.
- If using Extend the Lesson, you may want to make a sample animal puppet from a small brown-paper bag.

## INTRODUCING THE LESSON

**Obeying and disobeying God.** Review the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. Ask how they disobeyed God and what happened as a result of their actions (consequences). Have the students show on their faces how God must have felt when these people disobeyed God. Explain that more and more people started doing things that God said were wrong. Have the children again show on their faces how God must have felt. Tell them that today's story is about someone who *did* obey God, even though everyone around him was disobeying. Have the students show on their faces how God must have felt when this person obeyed.

## LESSON STEPS

**1. Thinking about Noah.** Many students will already be familiar with the story of Noah. Invite them to share what they already know about Noah. Write responses on the board.

Then ask students to use one word to describe Noah. Add these responses to the list on the board.

**2. Read the Bible story.** Open the Bible to Genesis 6. Explain that the story is found in the Bible, but you are going to read the same words out of a book with

pictures. Read *Noah's Ark* by Jerry Pinkney. Allow time for the children to look carefully at the pictures, to see what is happening in each part of the story.

**3. Enjoy a snack** of animal crackers together.

**4. Discuss the story.** Emphasize Genesis 6:22, “Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.” Explain that making the ark was a huge project, especially for one person. Yet Noah obeyed God and did it anyway.

Ask the students to think about just how big a project it was to build the ark. Can they imagine how big the ark must have been, if several people and lots of animals were to live on it for awhile?

**5. Measure the ark.** Go outside to the open space where you have marked out the size of the ark. Have a student stand at each corner. Explain to the children that the ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. After the ark is measured, again ask the students if it is big enough for people and animals to live in.

Return to the classroom and ask the students why they think Noah obeyed God and built the huge ark. (*Noah loved God, listened to God, and followed God.*) We need to obey God, too, because we love God, listen to God, and want to follow God. Ask the students to share ways they can obey God today.

## **EXTEND THE LESSON**

*(This activity will extend the lesson to longer than 30 minutes.)*

- **Make animal puppets** to illustrate the animals that were gathered onto the ark, using paper bags, crayons or markers, and construction paper. Break into small groups and give students time to create a puppet show about what life must have been like on the ark.
- **Act out the story.** Set up a table to be the “door” of the ark. Note that only two of each kind of animal were allowed in the ark. Whisper to students which animal they are to act out, then have them take turns entering the ark. The rest of the class guesses which animals they are.

# Hey, Noah! Are You Listening?

## LESSON 2: NOAH LISTENS TO RAIN

### Objective

Students will understand that God takes care of us.

### Key Concepts

- Noah and his family were faithful to God.
- God took care of Noah and his family by having them live in the ark.

**Text:** Genesis 7:17-8:19

**Estimated Lesson Time:** 30 minutes

### Materials

- Dry sponge
- Glass pan
- Water in pitcher
- Bible
- *On Noah's Ark* by Jan Brett
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: "Noah's Ark" activity sheet (p. 254), crayons, markers

### Teacher Preparation

- If using Extend the Lesson, option one, practice reading the poems on page 253 and find other poetry about rain.
- If using Extend the Lesson, make copies of the activity sheet, one per student.

### INTRODUCING THE LESSON

**Create a rain circle.** Invite the students to stand in a circle. Begin an action and the child to your right will follow, then the child to their right, etc. Remind the students that they are to watch and imitate the action of the person to the left of them, instead of following your lead immediately. Do the actions in this sequence, to imitate the sound of a rainstorm: rub hands together, snap fingers, clap hands, clap hands and stomp feet, clap hands, snap fingers, and rub hands together. End with a time of silence. You might need to repeat the actions so the children can hear the progression of a rainstorm.

### LESSON STEPS

- 1. Review the last lesson,** reminding the students that God told Noah to make an ark and Noah obeyed. Now Noah and his family were safe, even though it was raining. In fact, it would rain for 40 days and nights, and cause a flood!
- 2. Demonstrate how a flood happens.** Hold up the dry sponge so the children can see it isn't wet. Place the sponge in the glass pan. Slowly pour water over the sponge. Note that, at first, the water is absorbed by the sponge. When the sponge is full of water, hold it up again and wring it out, so that everyone can see how

much water the sponge held. Then place it in the pan again, slowly pouring water until the sponge is full again. This time, continue pouring until the pan is full of water. Like the sponge, the earth can only absorb so much water. And so, if it rains for 40 days and nights, there will be too much rainwater for the earth to soak up. Then there will be a flood.

**3. Read the Bible story.** Open the Bible to Genesis 7-8. Explain that today's story is found in the Bible, but you are going to read the same words out of a book with pictures. Read *On Noah's Ark* by Jan Brett. Allow time for the students to look carefully at the pictures, to see what is happening in each part of the story.

**4. Discuss the story.** Remind the students that even though the earth flooded (like the sponge), Noah was safe. God took care of Noah by having him build the ark. Add that even though we might not have rain for 40 days straight and need to build an ark, God takes care of us, too. Ask the students how God takes care of us.

### **EXTEND THE LESSON**

*(This activity will extend the lesson to longer than 30 minutes.)*

• **Read rain poetry.** The following poems may get you started, but find others that will connect with your students:

#### **Spring Rain**

by Marchette Chute

The storm came up so very quick  
It couldn't have been quicker.  
I should have brought my hat along,  
I should have brought my slicker.

My hair is wet, my feet are wet,  
I couldn't get much wetter.  
I fell into a river once  
But this is even better.

#### **Untitled**

by Christina Rossetti

Boats sail on the rivers  
And ships sail on the seas;  
But clouds that sail across the sky  
Are prettier far than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,  
As pretty as you please;  
But the bow that bridges heaven,  
And overtops the trees,  
And builds a road from earth to sky,  
Is prettier than these.

• **“Noah's Ark” activity sheet.** Hand out the activity sheets, along with crayons and/or markers, and invite children to draw a picture of a time when God took care of them.

# Noah's Ark

Inside the ark, draw a picture of a time when God took care of you.



# Hey, Noah! Are You Listening?

## LESSON 3: NOAH LISTENS TO GOD'S PROMISE

### Objective

Students will recognize that God makes promises.

### Key Concepts

- God makes promises.
- A rainbow is a promise.
- We are thankful.

**Text:** Genesis 8:20–9:17

**Estimated Lesson Time:** 30 minutes

### Materials

- Bible
- “Rainbow of Thanks” activity sheet (p. 257)
- Crayons or markers in the colors of the rainbow
- Stones to make a simple altar
- For Extend the Lesson: *Noah's Ark* by Anne Wilson; *The Ark* by Arthur Geisert; and *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier, in addition to other picture books used in this unit

### Teacher Preparation

- Create a simple altar in one corner of the classroom, by setting a few stones on top of each other.
- Make copies of the rainbow activity sheet, one per student.

## INTRODUCING THE LESSON

**God takes care of us.** If you did the Noah's Ark activity sheet in the last lesson, look at the pictures the children drew and allow time for them to tell about a time that God took care of them. If you did not do the activity sheet, simply encourage the children to share about a time that God took care of them.

Remind the students that God took care of Noah and his family, and add that God even made a special promise to them. Does anyone know what a promise is? What kinds of promises do you, the teacher, make? What kinds of promises do the students make?

## LESSON STEPS

**1. Read Genesis 8:15-22.** Explain that an altar was a special place to worship God. Noah used his altar to thank God for taking care of him and his family, by keeping them in a safe dry place during the rain.

**2. Read Genesis 9:8-17.** Ask what promise God made (*never to flood the earth again*) and what sign that God gave for the promise (*a rainbow*).

**3. Make rainbows of thanks.** Hand out the “Rainbow of Thanks” activity sheet. Inside the rainbow, the students will write or draw things for which they are thankful, using the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Tell the students that each time they look at their rainbow of thanks, they can remember the promise that God made: that the whole earth will never be flooded again.

**4. An altar of thanks.** Gather around the altar, asking the children to bring their rainbows of thanks. If they wish, they may share with the class one thing they are thankful for and then put their rainbow on top of the altar.

**5. Prayer.** End the lesson with a short prayer of thanks.

### **EXTEND THE LESSON**

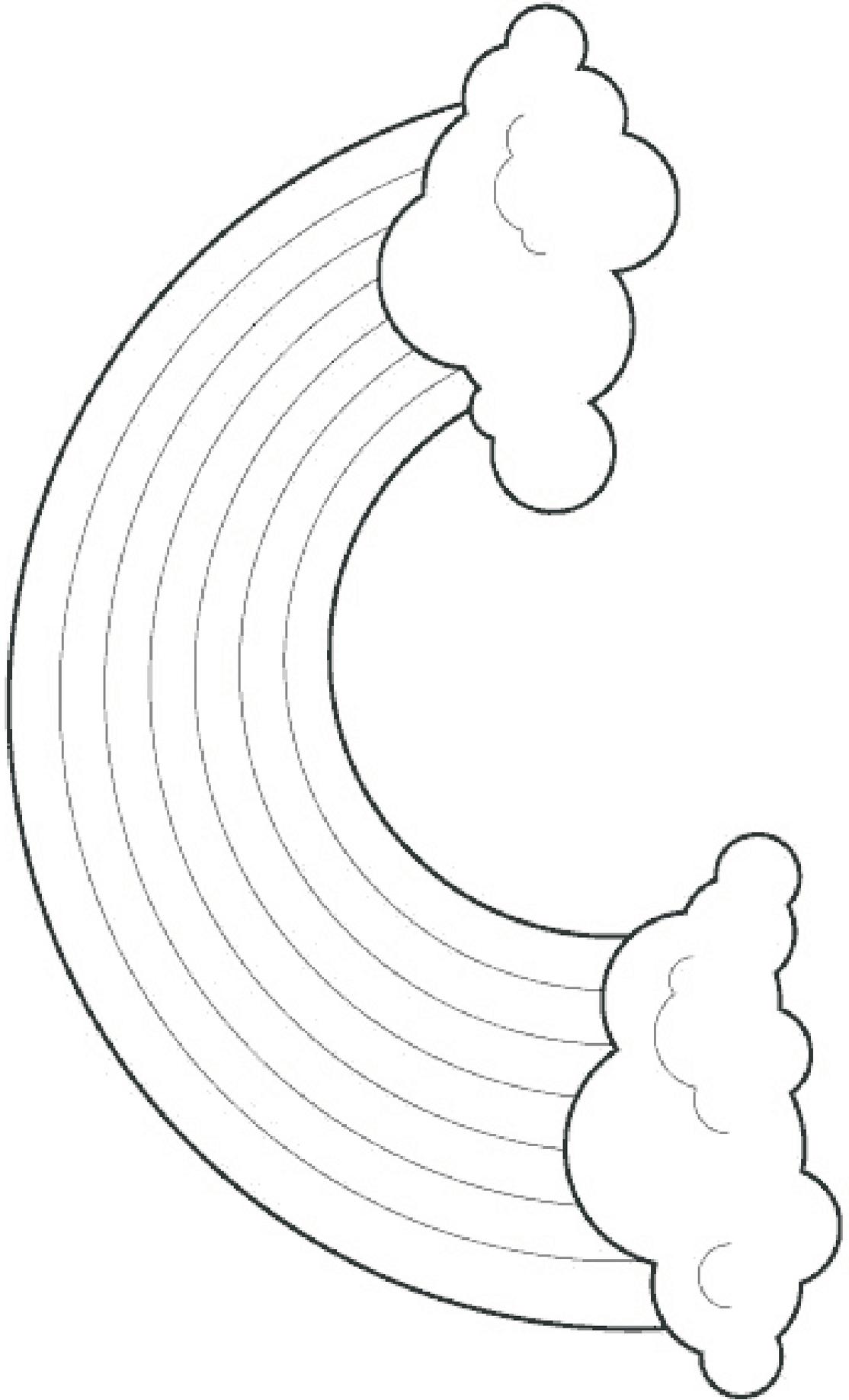
*(This activity will extend the lesson to longer than 30 minutes.)*

- **Look at books about Noah.** Compare various picture books about Noah and the flood. How are they alike? How are they different?

# Rainbow of Thanks

Write or draw things for which you are thankful.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Unit 10 Quiz

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the best answer:**

1. When Noah built the ark, he \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - a. Obeyed
  - b. Distrusted
  
2. Noah and his family were safe on the ark during the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Earthquake
  - b. Flood
  - c. Volcano
  
3. After Noah and his family left the ark, they worshipped God at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Church
  - b. An altar
  - c. The ark
  
4. God gave the rainbow as a \_\_\_\_\_ that the earth would never be flooded again.
  - a. Promise
  - b. Idea
  - c. Possibility
  
5. Does God always keep promises?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

**Draw your favorite part** of this story. Write why it is your favorite part.

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**Answers to Unit 10 Quiz:**

1. a. Obeyed
2. b. Flood
3. b. An altar
4. a. Promise
5. a. Yes

(Drawings will vary.)