

Preparing the Lesson

H₂Oh! Everywhere: Noah

Genesis 6:9–9:17 — God rescues me.

Key Point

God pours out His love for me by rescuing me from death and by washing away my sins through Jesus Christ.

Law/Gospel

From the moment of birth, my heart is inclined toward evil and unbelief. I deserve to be drowned in the flood of God's wrath. **Out of His pure goodness and mercy, God rescues me from sin, death, and the devil, washing away my sins for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose again for me.**

Context

In the generations before Noah, the world fell more and more into the sin of unbelief. One example of this widespread wickedness is given in the opening verses of Genesis 6. The “sons of God” were marrying the “daughters of man” (v. 2). This probably refers to believing descendants of Seth (“sons of God”) falling into apostasy because they married unbelieving descendants of Cain (“daughters of man”). The text also tells us that original sin had so corrupted humanity that the inclinations of their hearts were only evil, all of the time (v. 5). In response, God announces judgment on His fallen creation. All of humanity, indeed all living things, would be destroyed, except for Noah and his family, who trust in God. They and the animals they gather into the ark are saved.

Commentary

The account of the worldwide flood is one of the most scandalous in all the Scriptures. It is also one of the most beautiful in its presentation of the Gospel.

Flood narratives were common in the ancient world. In the epics of Gilgamesh and Atrahasis, the gods decide to destroy the world with a flood because the people of the earth are too noisy (the earth has become overpopulated) and the gods cannot get the sleep they want. They save one man and his family so that the gods can continue to be worshiped.

Because of these epics, the world often tries to argue that what we have in the Scriptures is plagiarized from other Near Eastern literature. This allows them to discount

the biblical flood account as a fictional story with no enduring historical or theological value. There are two problems with this perspective. First, the other accounts could just as easily have been derived from the biblical account. Second, the other accounts offer a theology that is completely at odds with that of the Scriptures.

The gods of the ancient epics are self-serving and care nothing for the welfare of humanity. The God of Scripture is at the same time angry with the people of the earth because of their unbelief, yet compassionate toward them.

It grieves God that the coming judgment is necessary (Genesis 6:6–7). He would rather have not created humanity than be forced to destroy it. God saves Noah and his family because they still believe and trust in Him. Noah is a “righteous” man (v. 9). Righteousness in the Scriptures is always a matter of faith, never a matter of good or righteous deeds (15:6).

The Book of Hebrews says that Noah's building of the ark “condemned the world” (11:7). It demonstrated that because of the world's unbelief, wrath was coming to wipe out all life that was not saved in the ark. After Noah and his family enter the ark, God shuts the door. God Himself is taking responsibility for the flood. He alone has the authority to execute judgment against the unbelieving world.

The salvation of the eight people in the ark is used in the New Testament to point to the rescue we receive in Baptism. Our old Adam is drowned and dies, but we are saved and granted a clean conscience before God (1 Peter 3:18–21).

The flood shows us what we all deserve: wrath, death, and destruction. The ark shows us what we all receive on account of God's mercy: eternal life, earned for us by Christ on the cross and given to us through the waters of Baptism.

PODCAST

Visit

cph.org/sundayschool

and listen to the
Seeds of Faith podcast
each week!

Lesson 1

H₂Oh! Everywhere: Noah

Genesis 6:9–9:17

Connections

Bible Words

The Lord will rescue me . . .
and bring me safely into His
heavenly kingdom.
2 Timothy 4:18

Faith Word

Promise

Songs and Hymns

Happy Now We Gather
(LOSP, p. 9; Director CD 6)
Rise and Shine (LOSP, p. 66)
Father Welcomes (LSB 605;
Director CD 2)

Catechism

Baptism

Take-Home Promise

God rescues me.

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Investigation Station

What you do: If you have one, play a CD with Sunday School songs on it as the children arrive. Welcome the children by name, mark attendance, and have them put their offerings in the offering basket.

To provide a connection to what the children will learn in the Bible lesson, set up an Investigation Station in the room. This week, set out a dishpan filled one-third with water on a low table and items that float and sink, such as a craft stick, cork, large paper clip, cups, a small ball, and stones. Have towels handy for wiping up spills.

Optional: On another table, set out rainbow bags, enough for each child to have one. Make these by putting about half a cup of white paint in a plastic zipper sandwich bag. Add a few drops of red, blue, and yellow paint to each bag. Seal shut with packaging tape.

As they arrive, get children started in either the water or rainbow activity. At the water table, let the children test which objects float and which don't.

Ask **What items floated on the water? Which ones sank to the bottom?** Let children answer. **Today you'll hear about a time when there was water everywhere!**

At the rainbow table, let the children squish and mix the paint. Comment that the colors are the same as those in a rainbow. Tell them that they will hear more about rainbows and a promise from God in the lesson.

When it's time to begin, sing a clean-up song (page 6). Have children gather for the opening and Bible story, walking the way their favorite animal would.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
Rainbow picture Dishpan of water Items that sink & float <i>Optional:</i> Sunday School CD, ziplock sandwich bags, tempera paints, packaging tape	Story bag Rainbow picture Student Leaflet 1	Story bag Rainbow picture Baptismal shell Basin, doll, towel & water White paper plates Heart stickers Yarn Crepe paper Cotton balls <i>Optional:</i> Labels	Take-home items

Beginning in God's Name

What you do: Begin with this opening, or use Resource Page 1 at the back of the book.

Sing "Happy Now We Gather" (*LOSP*, p. 9)

Say In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Encourage the children to join you in saying the Invocation and "Amen." Tell them "Amen" is the special word they get to say at the end of prayers and other parts of the church service.

Offering Have a child bring the offering basket forward. Sing an offering song.

Pray Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us to learn more about You and Your love for us in Jesus. Help us listen for a promise that You give us in the Bible. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Celebrate Birthdays, Baptism birthdays, and special occasions

2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

Promise Clue

What you do: Put a picture of a rainbow in your story bag. Copy and color the rainbow on the Director CD, or search online for one and put your tablet device in your story bag to use to show the picture.

Say I am glad you are here, boys and girls! Each week, when you come to Sunday School, you will hear a Bible story that has something to do with H₂O. Do you know what H₂O is? It's water! What are some things we do with water? Accept comments.

In today's Bible story, I want you to listen for water and what it does. I brought another clue to listen for. It's in my story bag. Let's see what it is. Show the rainbow picture.

Ask What is this? (A rainbow) Have you ever seen a rainbow outside? When? Accept answers. God put a rainbow in the sky to remind us of a promise He made. Let's find out how water and a rainbow can tell us more about God's love!

God's Promise in the Bible

What you do: Tell the children to copy your actions as you tell the story.

Say Today's Bible story is from the Book of Genesis in the Bible. Show Bible. In the beginning God made the world, and it was good. But before very long, the people God made did wrong things. Soon, there were many, many people in the world who didn't love or obey God. They did many wicked things. This made God angry. Make an angry face.

God said, "I am sorry that I made the earth. I will make it rain for lots and lots of days. Water will cover the whole earth. Spread arms wide. I will wash away what I made and make it clean again. Pretend to wash hands.

But a man named Noah and his family still loved and obeyed God. Show a happy face. God wanted Noah and his family to be safe from the flood because they believed in Him. Cross hands over heart. So, God made a plan to rescue them from the flood.

God told Noah to build a big, big boat. Reach up as high as possible. **He told him how to build it. Every day Noah worked on the boat. He sawed boards.** Pretend to saw. **He hammered nails.** Pretend to hammer. **And he covered the outside of the boat with tar so it wouldn't leak.** Pretend to paint. **The boat was called an ark.**

When the ark was finished, God said, "I'm going to save two of every kind of animal too." Hold up two fingers. **Then God had the animals come to the ark. There were big animals.** Hold hands far apart. **And tiny animals.** Hold hands close together. **There were animals that hopped.** Hop. **And animals that crawled.** Crawl. **There were even animals that flew.** Flap arms.

When Noah and his family and all the animals were in the ark, God closed the door. Clap hands together. **Then it rained and rained for forty days and nights.** Rapidly clap hands on legs. **The whole earth was covered with water, even the mountains.** Move hands back and forth. **Only the people and animals on the ark were safe.**

The ducks were safe. Quack, quack. **The puppies were safe.** Woof, woof. **The bees were safe.** Buzz, buzz. **Most importantly, Noah and his family were safe.**

The water stayed on the earth a long, long time. But when the waters went down and it was safe to come out, God opened the door of the ark. Put hands together and pull apart. **God said, "Come out of the ark. Bring your whole family and all the animals."**

So, out they came. All the big animals. Hold hands apart. **And tiny animals.** Hold hands close together. **The animals that hopped.** Hop. **And the animals that crawled.** Crawl. **Even the animals that flew.** Flap arms. **Quack, woof, buzz, moo.** Repeat sounds with children. **Soon all the animals were out of the ark. Noah and his family came out of the ark too.** Walk in place. **They were happy that God saved them.** Point to corners of mouth as you smile. **Noah built an altar to thank God for rescuing them from the big flood.** Pretend to stack stones; then kneel and fold hands.

Then God made a promise to never send a big flood like that again. To remind Noah and us of His promise, God put something special in the sky. Do you know what it was? A rainbow! Make an arc. **Every time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's promise.**

God, our heavenly Father, keeps all His promises! God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. God rescues me. And God rescues you in a special way too. Do you know how? (He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.)

Option: Young children need to move. Reviewing the story with movement helps their brain process the information and remember it better. If you have time, lead them in the action rhyme "Noah and the Flood" from *Wiggle & Wonder* (CPH, p. 35) or sing "Rise and Shine" (LOSP, p. 66).

Review

What you do: You will need Student Leaflet 1 and crayons or pencils. Direct the children's attention to the Search & Find activity on pages 2 and 3 of the leaflet.

Ask What did God tell Noah to do? Build a big boat.

How did God rescue Noah and his family? God kept them safe and dry in the ark.

After the flood, what did God put in the sky? A rainbow

Say Use your finger to point to the ark. Now point to the rainbow. What prom-

Faith Word

promise—doing something you say you will do

ise did God make with the rainbow? (God promised never to send another flood that would cover the earth.) **The rainbow reminds us of God's promise. God, our heavenly Father, keeps all His promises!**

Look for the Bible, which tells us of God's promises. Now find Jesus' face. God rescued Noah from the flood. God rescues us through His Son, Jesus, who paid for our sin on the cross. Have children work alone or with a partner to find the remaining items. Give help as needed.

Bible Words

The Lord will rescue me . . . and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.
2 Timothy 4:18

Say **Rescue means "to save." How did God rescue, or save, Noah?** (God rescued him from the waters of the flood by keeping him safe in the ark.)

Ask **Have you ever needed to be rescued?** Let children answer. Give a suggestion of your own, such as, If we are stuck in a tree, we may need someone to come rescue us.

We all need to be rescued in another way. Because we all think and do wrong things, we need to be rescued from sin, don't we? How does God rescue us? (God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Jesus died on the cross for us and then rose again on Easter.)

The Bible tells us (read from Bible): **"The Lord will rescue me . . . and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom." Let's say those words together. Do what I do.**

Say **The Lord
will rescue me . . .
and bring me safely
into His heavenly kingdom.**

Point upward.
Point to self.
Hug yourself.
Hold hands out, palms up, and raise upward.

3 We Live (25 minutes)

Use these activities to help the children grow in their understanding of what the Bible story means for their lives. Choose the ones that work best with your class.

God's Promise for Me

What you do: Put a picture of a rainbow and a baptismal shell in your story bag. You will also need a doll, basin, some water, and a small towel and copies of Activity Page 1 and crayons.

Ask **What was our story clue today?** Show the rainbow picture. **Yes, it was a rainbow. God rescued Noah and his family and the animals from the flood. Then He put a rainbow in the sky to remind them of His promise not to flood the world like that again.**

To rescue someone means you get the person away from danger or things that hurt the person. How did God rescue Noah? Yes, God told Noah to build a big boat so Noah and his family and the animals on board would be safe from the waters of the flood.

Does God rescue us from harm and danger too? Yes! Let's think about ways

God rescues us. Hand out Activity Page 1 and crayons. Point to the pictures on the left side of page.

Ask What do these pictures show? Let children tell. **They all show troubles, don't they?**

Point to the girl afraid of a dog. **This girl is afraid of the dog. Who can rescue her?** Have children draw a line from the girl to the police officer with a dog muzzle. **God gives us police officers and firefighters to rescue us from troubles.**

Point to the boy afraid in the tree. **This boy is afraid he will fall out of the tree. Who can rescue him?** Have children draw a line between the boy and his grandpa with a ladder. **God gives us grandpas and grandmas and moms and dads and others who love us to rescue us. They help us when we are in trouble.**

Point to the girl afraid in the water. **What is happening in this picture?** (The little girl is in the water.) **She looks afraid. Who can rescue her?** Have children draw a line to the lifeguard. **How does a lifeguard rescue us?**

Point to the children fighting. **These children are fighting. How does God rescue them from sin?** Have children draw a line to Jesus on cross. **God rescues us from sin through Jesus.**

Say In our story today, you heard about a lot of water and how God rescued Noah and his family. God also uses water in a special way to rescue us. Do you know how? I brought another clue to help you. Allow guesses; then take out the baptismal shell.

Ask What is this? Have you ever seen a shell used in church? When?

Say Sometimes pastors use a shell when they baptize someone. The pastor scoops water with the shell and pours it over the person's head. He says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Pretend to baptize the doll.

Through water and His Word, God rescues us. He washes away our sins for Jesus' sake and makes us His children. He promises that when we believe in Jesus, we will go to heaven when we die. Cross hands over heart. And we know that God, our heavenly Father, keeps all His promises!

Craft—Rainbow Promise Waver

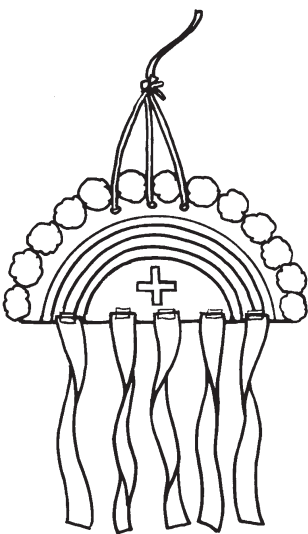
What you do: Make rainbow promise wavers. You will need large white paper plates, crayons or markers, pieces of 10-inch yarn, cotton balls, heart stickers, and 12-inch crepe-paper streamers in rainbow colors. You'll also need scissors, tape, and glue for the children to share. Cut each paper plate in half. Write "God Keeps His Promises" on the board for children to copy.

Option: Print the words in bubble letters on the paper plates ahead of time, or print labels with the words to attach to the plates. If you have a class of young children, omit the words.

Make a sample rainbow promise waver to show the children.

Say God promised Noah that He would never send another big flood to cover the earth. God put a rainbow in the sky to show that He would keep His promise.

God also promised that He would send a Savior to rescue us from sin, all the wrong things that we think and say and do. And God kept His promise! Who is our Savior? (Jesus)



Snack

Make layered rainbow Jell-O for snack, or serve rainbow goldfish crackers. Talk about how a rainbow reminds us that God always keeps His promises. What did God promise Noah? What does God promise us?

Today you will make a promise waver to remind you that God keeps His promises. Show sample.

Give each child half a paper plate. Have children draw and color a rainbow on the flat semi circle part of their plate and put a cross below it. Over the rainbow, they can glue cotton balls for clouds.

On the opposite side of the plate, have children copy or decorate the words “God Keeps His Promises.” Give children heart stickers to put around the words and have them draw another cross. Younger children can just decorate this side.

Give each child five colored streamers to tape to the bottom edge of the plate. Punch three evenly spaced holes along the arched top edge of the plate.

Help children tie a piece of yarn to each hole, then tie all three pieces of yarn together to make a knot. Finally, tie a longer piece of yarn to this knot. Children can hold their wavers by the yarn and wave them up and down.

4 Closing (5 minutes)

What you do: Gather the children’s take-home items so they can be easily distributed.

Sing Stanza 2 of “Father Welcomes” (LSB 605)

Pray Dear God, thank You for Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue me from sin by dying on the cross for me and coming alive again on Easter. Thank You for always keeping Your promises. Amen.

Sing To the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

God keeps all His promises,
Promises, promises.
God keeps all His promises
That He makes to me.

Say Today we learned that God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. Let’s say “God rescues me” together. Lead the children in saying this together.

God at Work through You

Organize a Sunday School project, such as donating cleaning items to make a flood relief bucket for distribution by the LCMS Disaster Response team following disasters. The 5-gallon containers are filled with paper towels, cleaning supplies, rubber gloves, rags, glass cleaner, and the like. See a full description of the supplies needed and how to organize the project by searching “Disaster Response Flood Relief Bucket” on lcms.org. The Director CD also has information on this project.

Talk about how this kind of project is a way that God works through you to help rescue those in need from troubles, such as floods and other natural disasters.

To the Rescue

Draw a line from those with problems to someone who can rescue them.

