

God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16



Worship Theme:



We can count on God.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise God for his faithfulness in their lives.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
1 Let's Praise God! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	Sing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "God Has Given to Me" • "God Is for Me" • "Do Lord" • "Praise Him" • "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" 	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	* The Rains Came Down Use props to learn the story.	Classroom Supplies: Bible, large bowl, plastic tub, toy boat, pitcher of water, toy trees and flowers, clay, small cup
	Cookie Dough Rainbows Work together to make rainbow cookies.	Classroom Supplies: For every 3 children: resealable bag, 2/3 cup flour, 1/4 cup powdered sugar, 1/4 cup margarine, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla; several colors of food coloring
	Rainbow Praises Make a rainbow with streamers.	Classroom Supplies: 1 colorful crepe paper streamer per child

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	* "The Lighthouse" Watch a video showing that we can count on God the way ships count on lighthouses.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment
	Rock Solid Through the Storm Go over the story of Noah, praise God with 2 Samuel 22:47, and make rock reminders of God's dependability.	Classroom Supplies: Bible, newsprint, tape, markers and crayons, 1 rock per child
	* Rainbow Reminders Make rainbows out of sunshine, and talk about promises.	Classroom Supplies: Bible; for every 5 children: index card, scissors, sheet of white paper, clear glass, water, tape, sunshine

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Offer their gifts to God.	Classroom Supplies: Bible, box, offering bowl, 1 tissue per child, 1 index card per child
	Prayer Altars Make "altars" with their hands.	

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let's Learn the Point!

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16

Genesis 6 wraps up with Noah obeying “God” (*Elohim*). Chapter 7 begins with “the Lord” (*Yahweh*) speaking to Noah. The use of these two names in these places is noteworthy. The name *Elohim* tends to be used to emphasize God’s justice, and the name *Yahweh* most often connotes God’s mercy. In chapter 6, Noah carried out God’s orders that would result in judgment on humankind. In chapter 7, we see the administration of God’s mercy in the salvation of Noah’s family and the animals.

Imagine the puzzlement of Noah’s neighbors as hundreds of pairs of creatures began wandering toward the ark. No doubt they saw animals they’d never seen before. And then they saw animals they knew and feared walk tamely into the ark. Surely they must have wondered, “Could this Noah guy be right after all?” But we don’t read about any of them repenting. They were so hardened in their opposition to the things of God that they couldn’t see the truth when it stared them in the face.

When the flood came, it wasn’t caused only by rain. We read also that “the springs of the great deep burst forth.” Water came shooting upward from under the earth’s surface as rain deluged the earth from above. There was so much water that it covered the highest mountains by more than 20 feet! Some scientists believe that this event involved the sliding of continents and the creation of mountain ranges as subterranean plates slid and crashed together. It was likely a very scary time for those inside the ark.

Once the rain stopped, it took almost a year for the water to recede sufficiently for Noah and his family to leave the

ark. It’s interesting that one of the birds that Noah sent out to see if the earth was getting dry returned with an olive leaf. The olive branch has come to symbolize peace. Perhaps in the time of Noah it symbolized a new peace between God and his creation.

Notice that Noah had a method for testing to see if the earth was dry, but God told him when it was dry (Genesis 8:15). God was taking care of Noah and his family, just as he had promised. When Noah and his family came out of the ark, no one had to tell Noah to worship God. Noah knew that God had done what he had promised in saving them through the ark, and Noah was grateful.

In Genesis 9:12-16, God again demonstrated his love for Noah. God made another promise, signified by the rainbow. The rainbow will always remind us of God’s promise to Noah and the fact that God always keeps his promises!

Devotion for Leaders

God’s promises bring comfort, hope, and inspiration. And so does Jesus! Thank God for Jesus, our living promise!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: How do you feel about promises? Can you keep a promise? Can you trust a friend who makes a promise to you? When God makes a promise, its worth is priceless and its strength unmatched. Do a brief search in your Bible for some of God’s promises, and write them down. Thank God for his unbroken promises!

Why We Worship for Leaders

Noah and his family lived through a one-of-a-kind natural disaster. Most people have had the experience of being worried by a tornado, a blizzard, a hurricane, or an electrical storm. But even the worst of our present-day storms last no more than a few days. Noah and his family coped with torrential rains and water that burst forth from the ground, and it lasted for almost six weeks. Noah and his family were confined to the ark for more than a year—that's plenty of time to consider the changes they would encounter when the world dried out. Friends and neighbors would be gone, and cities would be destroyed. There would be no more civilization. Noah and his family would have to start all over.

And yet, through it all, God cared for them, protected them, and provided for them. There's no indication in Scripture that Noah or any of his family ever lost faith in God. Perhaps they knew, as the children in your children's church will learn today, that God is utterly dependable. God always has our best interests at heart. God always keeps his promises. God always acts with love, justice, and integrity. We can count on God!

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready.

The Lighthouse—Watch "The Lighthouse" at least once before the children arrive.

Rock Solid Through the Storm—Write the words of 2 Samuel 22:47 on a sheet of newsprint, and tape it to the wall.

Rainbow Reminders—Gather a piece of paper, an index card, tape, and a pair of scissors for every five children. Put one glass of water for every five children on a table that's accessible to the children but out of the way.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let's Praise God!

Play KidsOwn Worship music videos as children arrive. Delegate greeters to stand at the entrance to welcome the other children by saying, "We can count on God!"

When you're ready to begin, have the children stand shoulder to shoulder and squeeze together as tightly as they can.

Say

Hello, everyone! Today we're going to worship God because we can count on him. That means we can lean on God. He'll hold us up because he's dependable and trustworthy. Let's all lean to the right and say, "I can count on God! He won't let me fall!" Lean to the children's right, and lead them in saying, "I can count on God! He won't let me fall!"

Now let's all lean to the left and say, "I'll lean on God because God is dependable." Lean to the children's left, and lead them in saying, "I'll lean on God because God is dependable."

Have the children return to their seats.

Say ➤ **The Bible says to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. It says we shouldn't lean or depend on our own understanding of what to do. Instead we should recognize God for who he is, and God will guide our steps. Wow! Let's say, "Thank you!" to God for all he's given us by singing this song.**

▶ Sing "God Has Given to Me."

Say ➤ **One of the ways we show people we thank them is by clapping our hands. When we really want to show them how special they are, we stand up and clap our hands. This is called a standing ovation. Let's give God a standing ovation because we can count on him to be for us! Stand up and clap your hands.** Have the children continue standing as they sing.

▶ Sing "God Is for Me."

Say ➤ **Today we are worshipping God because we can count on him.**

- Ask** ➤
- **What does it mean when we say we can count on someone?** (That person is dependable; we can trust that person; they'll do what they say.)
 - **What kinds of things do trustworthy people do?** (They keep promises; they don't let you down; they do everything they say they'll do.)
 - **How many people do you know who are completely trustworthy?** (My parents are trustworthy; everyone has let me down sometime; my best friend is trustworthy.)

Say ➤ **The Bible tells us that God is completely trustworthy. One of the ways God shows his trustworthiness is by keeping his word. Listen to Psalm 145:13b. It says, "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." That means we can trust God. God will keep his promises. He will be faithful. Let's say this Bible verse to each other as a reminder of God's trustworthy character.**

Have the first person in each row say, "The Lord is faithful to all his promises." Have the second person in the row respond by saying, "And loving toward all he has made." Then have the second person say to the third person, "The Lord is faithful to all his promises." Then have the fourth person continue, and so on until the end of the row. If your kids aren't sitting in rows, have them find partners and say the verse phrases to each other.

Say ➤ **We know that this is a true promise because it's written in the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true. All through the history of**

the church, people have sung about God's faithfulness. Songs about God's faithfulness are even in the Bible. Let's read a verse about God's faithfulness from 2 Timothy 2:13.

Read kids the words of 2 Timothy 2:13.

- Ask**
- **How do we know if we're being faithful to God?** (If we're doing what the Bible says; if we trust God and tell others about him.)
 - **What would it mean to be unfaithful to God?** (If we lie or cheat or steal; if we don't obey him; if we don't trust him.)
 - **What does it mean to you that God remains faithful, even if we're not?** (God loves us even if we do something bad; God isn't just good to us when we're good to him.)
 - **What do you think it means that God "cannot deny who he is"?** (God never changes; he will never be anyone but God; he is always perfect.)

Say Let's sing a song about how God is faithful to remember us.

 Sing "Do Lord."

Say God's faithfulness is a big reason for praising him. It's so great to know that God won't let us down. He won't disappoint us. We can count on him. God's faithfulness brings us joy. Let's praise God for the joy he brings us by singing "Praise Him."

 Sing "Praise Him."

Say Let's give God another standing ovation to let God know that we worship him as the only one who we can count on all the time. Take time for the standing ovation, and end it by singing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God."

 Sing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God."

Ask one of the children to pray for the group.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 75-76

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Give the Preschool Activities page to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* "The Lighthouse"

Say ▶ Let's watch a video that illustrates the point that we can count on God.

 Watch the video "The Lighthouse." The segment explains how ships depend on lighthouses to guide them and connects that to Psalm 27:1.

After the video, have the children gather in groups of three or four to discuss the following questions. After each question, have volunteers report their answers back to the group.

- Ask** ▶
- **What would happen to the ships if the lighthouses weren't there?** (They'd crash; they'd get lost.)
 - **What would happen to us if God wasn't there?** (We'd have lots of problems; we'd be lost in life.)
 - **How does knowing that God is more dependable than a lighthouse affect what you think and feel about him?** (I know I can trust him no matter what; it makes me feel safe and comforted.)

Say ▶ **God is dependable. We can always count on him to love us, to guide us, and to be available to us. God keeps his promises all the time. God does his best for us all the time. There's never any reason to wonder if God is there or to wonder if God has forgotten about us. God shines his light for us all the time. Such a God is worthy of our praise and our worship.**

Rock Solid Through the Storm

Say ▶ **There's a word in the Bible that is used to describe God. The Bible says God is like a rock. Listen to 2 Samuel 22:47.** Point to the Scripture you wrote on newsprint before class, and read it aloud.

- Ask** ▶
- **What do you think it means to say that God is like a rock?** (God is sturdy; rocks don't change, and neither does God; we can depend on God.)
 - **What does it mean to you that God is like a rock?** (It makes me think that God is strong; it's important to know that I serve a trustworthy God.)

Distribute a rock to each child.

Say ▶ **Let's put a symbol on these rocks to show that we can count on God. Think of a simple drawing that illustrates God's dependability, and draw it on your rock.**

Set out markers and crayons, and allow time for kids to draw. Then collect all the markers and crayons.

(continued on page 77)

God Floods the Earth

Session 6

Genesis 7–8; 9:8–16

Worship Theme:



We can count on God.

Easy Prep for Leaders

The Rains Came Down—Prepare a small diorama of small toy trees and flowers inside a large plastic tub. Secure them to the bottom with clay or modeling dough. LEGO toy trees and flowers would work well. If you don't have these handy, you can use natural items such as pine cones and dandelions. You'll also need a pitcher of water, toy boat, plastic tub, and small cup.

Cookie Dough Rainbows—For every three children you expect, measure into a resealable plastic bag a scant 2/3 cup flour, 1/4 cup powdered sugar, 1/4 cup margarine, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla, and several drops of food coloring. Make up at least three bags of dough, using a different food coloring in each one. Push the air out of the bags, and close them securely. You might want to tape the bags shut.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo talk about how hard it rained during "The Rains Came Down." Theo can also shake a streamer during the "Rainbow Praises" activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



* The Rains Came Down

Set the diorama on the floor, and gather the children around it. Put a pitcher of water nearby. Show children the toy boat.

Say God told Noah to build an ark. Noah knew that he could count on God, so Noah followed all of God's instructions and built an ark that would hold his family and all the animals. Noah and his family got into the ark and closed the door. Noah and his family knew they could count on God to keep them safe. Have one of the children place the toy "ark" on the bottom of the bowl.

The Bible says that after Noah and his family entered the ark, it started to rain. It rained, and it poured. Make a motion of rain falling down, and have the children join you. And it rained, and it poured. Make a motion of rain falling down. For 40 days and 40 nights, it rained and it poured. Make a motion of rain falling down. The flood waters started to rise, and the ark started to float. Noah and his family were counting on God to keep them safe. Slowly pour water into the diorama.

As the water rose higher and higher, it lifted the ark high above the earth. Pour in more water. The water rose higher and higher, and the ark floated on the water. The water eventually covered even the mountains. Still Noah and his family were safe. They were counting on God. Keep pouring water until the bowl is full.

After 40 days and 40 nights, the rain stopped. The springs stopped spraying, and the rain

stopped falling. Noah, his family, and all the animals were safe and snug in the ark. The ark was floating on a huge ocean. All the towns and cities and mountains and fields were covered with water.

After many days, God sent a wind to blow over the earth and dry up all the water. Have the children make soft "wind" sounds as you scoop water out of the bowl. You may wish to have children come forward to scoop out the water as you speak.

As the water went down, the ark eventually came to rest on the top of mountains called Ararat. Noah sent out a dove. But the dove couldn't find any place to land, so it returned. A week later Noah tried again. This time the dove came back with an olive branch in its mouth. This told Noah that the trees weren't covered by water anymore. Soon the ground would be dry, too.

After another week, Noah sent the dove out, and this time it didn't come back. When the ground was dry, God told Noah to come out. God promised Noah that he would never destroy the world with a flood again. As a reminder of his promise, God put a rainbow in the sky. Whenever we see a rainbow, we are reminded that we can count on God to always keep his promises. Let's cheer for God.

Have all the children clap and cheer for God because God is dependable.

Cookie Dough Rainbows

Have children form groups of three, and hand each group one of the bags of ingredients you prepared before the session. Have the children take turns kneading the bags until the mixture forms cookie dough. While the kids are working, talk about God's promises and God's dependability.

- Ask**
- What promises does God make to us?
 - Why is it important to keep our promises?
 - What do you count on God to do?
 - Why do you think God always keeps his promises?
 - Why do you think God is always dependable?

When the cookie dough is ready, open the bags and give each child a walnut-size pinch of each color of dough. Have the children mush their dough pieces together to make rainbow cookies.

Say **Isn't God great! All through the storm, God protected Noah and his family. God gave them a wonderful reminder. He put a beautiful rainbow in the sky to help them remember that he was dependable in keeping his promises. We can count on God to keep his promises. God is good! Let's eat our good rainbow cookies to celebrate the fact that we can count on God just as Noah did.**

Let the children enjoy eating their cookies. If you have enough time and dough, make extras for the children to take home.

ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

Rainbow Praises

Say **Let's make a rainbow with streamers.**

Give the children different colored streamers, and have children line up in a row. It would be very effective to do this activity in front of a mirror or a window that acts as a mirror.

Say **Let's praise God because we can count on him. Let's shake our streamers to praise God.**

Have the kids shake their streamers to create a shimmering rainbow of color. Then have all the children say, "Yea, God! We know we can count on you!"

(continued from page 74)

Say The Bible tells us about a man who depended on God. He spent a lot of time on a boat. This man, Noah, knew that God was dependable. Noah counted on God for his survival during a terrible storm. Let's use our rocks, the Bible verse, and the story of Noah to praise God. I'll tell the story. When I point to you, it's your turn to hold up your rock and say the verse.

One day God told Noah that a storm was coming. God wanted Noah to build a large boat. Noah trusted God, and he counted on God to help him. Point to the kids.

Noah spent more than 100 years building the boat. God told Noah what kind of wood to use, how big to build the boat, and how to make the doors and windows. Noah followed God's instructions because Noah counted on God to instruct him. Point to the kids.

God directed all the animals to come to the ark when the ark was ready. Noah loaded the animals onto the ark and gathered his family inside. Noah trusted God to guide him and keep him safe. Point to the kids.

God closed the door, and the storm began. For 40 days the storm raged. Then for almost a year, Noah and his family waited for God to tell them when it was safe to leave the ark. Noah counted on God to lead him into the future. Point to the kids.

God sent a rainbow as a sign of his promise never to destroy the world in a flood again. Noah counted on God to keep his promise. Point to the kids.

We can count on God to keep his promise, too. God sent the rainbow as a symbol of a promise much longer than 4,000 years ago, and God has kept that promise since then! God also promised that he'd send his Son to save us, and he followed through on that one, too! God sent Jesus to be a friend to us, just as he promised. This shows how sturdy and dependable God is. God is our rock. He is strong and sure. God is dependable. God took care of every detail for Noah. And God has taken care of each of us, just as he promised. Let's praise God one more time. Point to the kids, and say the verse with them.

* *Rainbow Reminders*

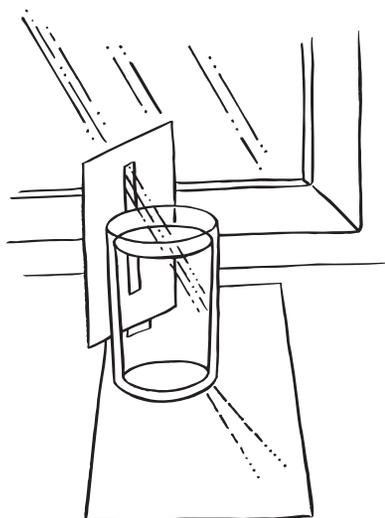
Use the supplies you gathered before worship to set up workstations on the floor around the perimeter of the room.

Say The Bible tells us that the rainbow is the sign of God's promise to us.

Ask • Why do you think a rainbow is a good symbol for God's dependability? (It includes all the colors; there is no end to a

Worship Leader Tip

If there's no available sunshine during your worship session, use flashlights to make the rainbows.



rainbow like there's no end to God's promises; God keeps sending rainbows to remind us that we can count on him.)

Say ▶ **Let's make rainbows right now to celebrate the fact that God makes and keeps promises. God is dependable; we can count on him. There are workstations set up around the room. When I say "go," go to one of the workstations. Don't touch the materials until I tell you to. There should be no more than five people at each workstation.**

Have the children gather around the materials in groups of no more than five. Adjust the groups if you need to so that younger children are grouped with older children.

Say ▶ **Listen carefully to the instructions so that you know what to do. First, one person in each group needs to cut a half-inch slit in the middle of the index card. The slit needs to go the long way down the middle of the index card. While one person in your group is cutting the slit, send another person to the table to get one glass of water.** Pause while children do this.

Next, another person in the group needs to carefully tape the index card to the glass so it stands up tall right against the glass. Be careful; you don't want to spill any of the water. Pause while kids do this.

Now have the fourth group member place the piece of white paper in a sunny place on the floor. Have the fifth person put the glass on top of the paper so the card faces a window. When the sun shines through the slit in the paper, it'll also shine through the water in the glass and will form a rainbow on the white paper. You may need to experiment with the position of the paper and the glass to get a rainbow. You also may need to move closer to the window.

When all the groups have made rainbows, have all the kids stand where they can see all of the rainbows.

Say ▶ **When God caused the sunlight to break apart in the sky and form a rainbow after the flood, God told Noah to remember every time he saw a rainbow that God had promised not to destroy the earth with a flood ever again. The Bible tells us we can count on God to keep his promises.** Have a volunteer read Psalm 145:13.

The Bible is full of promises that God made. Let's pretend that each rainbow you made stands for one of the promises God made to us. Think of a promise God made, and we'll praise God for it.

Call on the kids to share promises that God made. As each child shares, have the entire group say, "We praise God because he has promised..." Complete the sentence with the promise the child mentioned. Continue until several kids have shared their ideas.

3

Let's Pray!*The Offering*

Say There are many things people trust in other than God; there are many things people depend on. The Bible was written thousands of years ago, and even then people trusted in things rather than in God. I'll read a verse from the Bible. Listen to what people might have trusted in then. Read Psalm 20:7.

- Ask**
- **What might some people have trusted in other than God?**
(Horses; chariots.)
 - **In our world today, what do people trust in other than God?**
(Money; famous people; power; toys.)
 - **Why is that a bad idea?** (They can't do anything for us; those things don't love us.)
 - **Why is it a good idea to trust God?** (We can have a friendship with God; God takes care of us; we can count on God.)

Say The Bible tells us that God is dependable. We know that God is stronger and smarter than anything else. We know that he'll keep his promises to us. Other things may fail us, but we can count on God.

At times, all of us have placed our trust in something other than God. Think for a moment about what you've trusted other than God.

Show the children a tissue and an index card.

Say When we trust in God, we're trusting in something strong and solid, kind of like this index card. When you bend an index card, you can make a tent that'll stand strong and tall. Demonstrate this for the children; blow on the tent, being careful to blow so the tent doesn't fall over. When we trust in something else, we're trusting in something shaky, kind of like this tissue. When you fold a tissue, you can make a tent that'll stand for a little bit, but it'll be very shaky. Demonstrate this for the children, and blow on the tissue tent so it falls flat.

Before we collect the offering today, I'll give a tissue and an index card to each of you. Think about something you've trusted in other than God. When you come to the front to give your offering, think about that thing while you put your tissue in this box over here. Indicate a box to one side of the room. Pretend that you're throwing away the thing you've trusted in.

Also think about a way you can trust in God. Tell God how you're going to trust him as you put your index card in the offering bowl. If you brought money to give as an offering, you can put that in the offering bowl, too.

Take time for kids to give their offerings. If you'd like, you can play *KidsOwn Worship* DVD while kids are giving their offerings.

Prayer Altars

Say When Noah left the ark after the rains had stopped and the ground was dry, one of the first things he did was make an altar. He worshipped God. He prayed. We don't use rocks to make altars today. We know we can pray to God anywhere. But for today, let's make an "altar" with our hands and thank God for being dependable. If you have the room, gather children into circles of about 10 children. Let them make altars using all their fists, much like a huddle. Then lead children in saying: **Thank you, God, for being dependable. We know we can count on you.**

While you are still in an attitude of prayer,

Say Let's think of things we can promise God. It means something to God when we keep our promises to him just as it means something to us when he keeps his promises to us. Have the kids silently pray to God.

Then close the prayer with a cheer. Have the children hold their arms in the air and pray, "Yea, God!"



Encouragement for Leaders

Remember as you teach your students that what you say may very well bless the hearts of adults at home!

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