

## Lesson

# 4

# God Keeps Noah Safe

### BIBLE BASIS

God protects Noah from the Flood (Genesis 6:15-22; 7:11-17, 24).

### BIBLE TRUTH

Our loving God cares about our safety.

### MEMORY VERSE

"The Father himself loves you." John 16:27

### LESSON AIM

That your students will know that God is able to keep them safe.

4

1

### LIFE NEED (5 MINUTES)

- Students discuss their own safety

**Materials:** "People and Places" Teaching Aid 3

2

### BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Tell the story of Noah building the ark
- Review with questions and an activity



**Materials:** Bible, "Ark and Rainbow" Teaching Aid 6, "Noah and Animals" Teaching Aid 7, *Storytime* for Lesson 4, crayons or pencils

3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the memory verse with a rhyme
- Do an activity that shows how God uses people to show He cares about our safety.



**Materials:** *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 4, pencils, crayons, tape

4

### LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about a child who recognizes ways God protects him
- Children name ways God protects them

**Materials:** *Storytime* paper for Lesson 4

## Understanding Your Students

Students are old enough to know that sad things happen to people sometimes, but often not mature enough to verbalize questions about why. This means that many of their fears are internalized. For example, an expressed fear of darkness may really be an unspoken fear of monsters.

For this reason, the Bible story about Noah this week focuses on God's protection of those who obeyed Him, rather than on His punishment. Later, as your children mature and study this story in depth, they will understand that God is a kind and just God.



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

## Understanding the Bible

After Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden, people became more wicked. There was violence, a decline in morality, and decaying family life. God decided to destroy His creation with a flood and start all over again. We do not know with certainty the exact date of the Flood.

The main characters of Genesis are: (1) Adam and Eve (Gen. 1—3); (2) Noah (Gen. 6—9); (3) Abraham (Gen. 12—25); (4) Isaac (Gen. 26); (5) Jacob (Gen. 25—37); and (6) Joseph (Gen. 37—50). Each of the last three people mentioned is the son of the previous person.

Noah was a descendant of Seth and an ancestor of Abraham. Because Noah pleased God, he and his family were not to be destroyed in the Flood. He was probably 480 years old when God gave him the command to build a great ship on dry land with room for his family and a large assortment of animals.

Noah is a prime example of obedience to God, since he spent his life following a plan from God that he may not even have understood.

The ark Noah prepared for the Flood according to God's directions can be compared to the size of a football field, the ark being longer. A cubit, (Gen. 6:15-16) is about 18 inches long. Genesis 6:14 says the ark was made of gopher wood. This is the only place

gopher wood is mentioned in the Bible. The *Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge* states, "Some suggest that 'gopher' referred to wood covered with pitch, the substance to seal the cracks in the ark." Other scholars believe that gopher wood may be the same as cypress wood, as mentioned in the NIV.

The ark had three decks. Probably large animals were on the lower deck, smaller animals on the middle deck, and family living quarters on the top deck.

A window under the roof provided light and ventilation.

Ordinarily, Noah was to take both genders of each type of animal into the ark (6:19-20) for later reproduction. The exception to this rule was with regard to clean animals (7:2-3). For the purpose of later animal sacrifices (8:20) seven of each clean animal were to be taken into the ark.

The Bible says the door in the side of the ark was closed by God (Gen. 7:16). Then the rains began until "the waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits" (Gen. 7:20).

The "mountains of Ararat" (Gen. 8:4), where the ark came to settle on land, are considered to be in the area of eastern Turkey today.

## Classroom Tips

To help your students show love to God by becoming more obedient and trusting as Noah was, try these ideas:

- Share times when God has protected and kept your family safe such as during a thunderstorm, when someone was afraid at night, and when someone was sick.
- Point out that God gives us people to obey such as parents and teachers. Their rules are made for our protection and happiness, because they care about us and want us to be safe just as God does.
- Discuss some of your class rules and the need for obeying them to keep everyone safe and happy. You might even practice what to do in case there is a fire.

## Worship Activities



- Play worship music from the DiskIt CD.
- Have children give their offerings, then say a prayer of thanks.
- Pray with your class. **Dear God, We know that You care about our safety. Help us to learn more about how You keep us safe. We love You, Father. In Jesus' name Amen.**

## Before Class

Mention how important each student is to you as you greet each student by name. **It's good to see you today. I'm glad God kept you safe all week! Today we will learn about how God cares about our safety.** Students who have offerings may place them in the offering container. Have students mark their attendance with a sticker, a happy face, or by coloring in a square. Lead children to the first activity of the day.

## Getting Started

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of God protecting Noah and his family from the Flood.

- **Safety Jobs:** Have children draw people and things people use to help us be safe in dangerous places. Children might draw firefighters and a fire truck, a crosswalk guard and stop sign, etc. **God gives us people and things to help keep us safe.**
- **Danger signs:** Print the word "Danger" on the board for the children to copy as needed in their signs. Put out paper, scissors, glue, and markers to create attention-getting signs to use in any dangerous place. **God cares about our safety.**
- **Grocery List for a Year:** Ask the children to make a list of how much food they think they would need for a whole year. Let them write and draw pictures on the board. **God knew how much food Noah and his family and the animals would need. Our Bible story is about how God kept Noah's family safe.**

4



## Life Need 5 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will talk about their own safety.

This activity will prepare students for the lesson about how God cares about our safety. Bring out the "People and Places" Teaching Aid. **Let's look at these pictures. I will point to one and I want you to tell me a way that God protects the children.**

**Tell me a way that God protects the child on the swing.** (Let children respond. They may say God protects her through her parents, teachers, grandparents, etc.)

Go through the rest of the pictures in the same way.

**What are some dangerous things, times, and places you know about?** (Let the children think and talk about their experiences. Accept the danger they sense. They might talk about travel in a car, high places, fear of animals, the risk of falling while riding a bike, dangerous things at home such as cleaning products, and so on.)

**What are some things that keep you safe?** (You might hear ideas like: fire and smoke alarms, fire drills, street crosswalks, stop signs, seat belts, pot holders, life jackets, stair handrails, etc.)

**Why do people want you to be safe?** (Accept and appreciate what they say. They might talk about love, care, desires to protect.)

**Who cares about your safety?** (Possible suggestions might be family members, friends, school teachers, firefighters, crosswalk guards, etc.)

**Noah was in a dangerous situation. Listen to our Bible story to learn who cared about his safety.**



"People and Places"  
Teaching Aid 3



# 2

## Bible Learning 10–15 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will hear how God protected Noah from the Flood.

Punch out Figures 1-11 from Teaching Aids 6 and 7. Attach velcro, found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet, to the back of the figures. Show students where Genesis 6 is in your Bible.

### BIBLE STORY

God was sad because the people He had made were so evil all the time. God decided to flood the earth with water to destroy the people who were not good. All of the people and animals on earth would be in great danger!

But Noah pleased God. Noah was a good man who honored God through the choices he made. *(Put Noah, Figure 1, on the board.)*

God told Noah about His plan to destroy people with a big flood because they were so evil. But God cared about Noah's safety. He told Noah how to be safe through the flood.

God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people. Make yourself an ark of wood." An ark is a big boat. *(Add ark, Figure 2.)*

God told Noah to build the ark 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. God said to put a roof on it and build three levels inside. The ark needed to be big, and strong, and safe for Noah, his family, and the animals that God wanted Noah to take with him on the ark.

Then God said, "You and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will go into the ark. You will bring two of all the animals into the ark

with you to keep them safe through the flood that I will send. Take every kind of food that you and your family and all the animals will need so all can eat while living on the ark." God told Noah this because He cared about Noah's safety.

Noah listened to God and believed what He said. Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Noah and his three sons built the ark just as God said. It took a long time for them to finish the ark. *(Add ramp, Figure 3, to the ark. Open doors.)*

Noah put food into the ark and brought his family onto the ark. *(Walk Noah's family, Figure 11, up the ramp. Slide the figure partly through the slit in the ark so it looks like they are standing on the deck.)* God sent two of all the animals to Noah and he brought them onto the ark. There were two cows and two mice. *(Walk cows, Figure 4, and mice, Figure 5, onto the ark.)* God sent two tigers and a pair of turtles. *(Bring Figures 6 and 7 onto the ark.)* Pairs of deer, dogs, and ostriches came because God made it happen. *(Add Figures 8, 9, and 10 onto the ark.)* Two of every kind of animal came and went up into the ark.

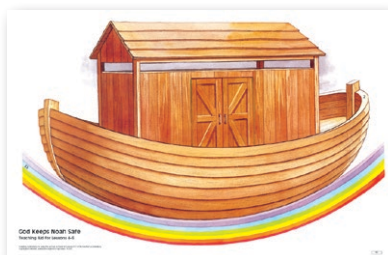
Everything was ready. *(Walk Noah onto the ark.)* Then God shut the doors to the ark. *(Close doors.)* God sent the rain just as He said He would. So much rain fell that even the tallest mountains were covered with water. Everything on the earth died, but God kept Noah, his family, and the animals safe just as He said He would.

God cared about their safety. God cares about our safety too.

### BIBLE STORY REVIEW

- How did God keep Noah safe?  
(By telling Noah what to do to be safe.)

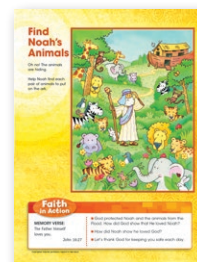
Distribute *Storytime* and have children complete page 4.



"Ark and Rainbow"  
Teaching Aid 6



"Noah and Animals"  
Teaching Aid 7



Storytime,  
Lesson 4, page 4

# 3 Bible Application 10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn that God keeps them safe.

## MEMORY VERSE

Help students find the memory verse on page 4 of *Storytime*. Read the verse together.

**Noah loved the Lord, believed what He said,  
and obeyed Him. God loved Noah. He kept Noah  
safe. Our rhyme tells us God will keep you safe  
every day. Let's say our rhyme together.**

**God made the green grass under your feet.**

*(Touch ground.)*

**And God made the sky so blue.**

*(Wave arms overhead.)*

**God will keep you safe every day.**

*(Point to children.)*

**"The Father himself loves you."**

*(Hug self.)*

Did you hear our Bible verse? Let's say it:  
**"The Father himself loves you" John 16:27.**

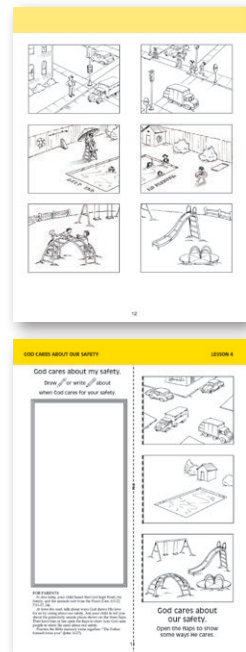
Collect the *Storytime* papers and put them away  
until the end of class.

## HANDCRAFT

Students will need Lesson 4 from *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It*, pencils, crayons, and tape. Show the page as you explain how children will first open the windows, and then fold the page in half. After they color both sides, have them tape the page closed and open the windows to see people who God uses to care about our safety.

Ask children to draw or write about other people they know God might use to keep us safe. Encourage children to talk with each other about their pictures and writing.

**God kept the animals and  
people on the ark safe. He  
keeps us safe too. God provides people to us  
at different times and places because He cares  
about our safety.**



**Make-It/Take-It,  
Lesson 4**



# 4 Life Response 10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will name ways God protects them.

Read aloud to your students “A Trip to the Zoo” from pages 2 and 3 of *Storytime* for Lesson 4.

## PRESENT-DAY STORY

Li and his dad were going to have a special day together. Dr. Chan let Li decide where he wanted to go. Li picked the zoo, because he likes to see all the different animals. When the day came, Li was excited to see the animals.

When they got to the zoo, Li could not wait to see the animals. He ran ahead of his dad. Dad called out, “Li, stop! Stay with me!”

Li’s dad motioned with his hand for Li to come back. When Li came back, Dr. Chan said, “Li, we have all day to see the animals. I want to help keep you safe. Please stay with me.”

Li knew his dad was right. He said, “I’m sorry, Daddy.”

Li wanted to see the tigers first. They watched the tigers walk around and play with each other. They even got to watch a zookeeper feed the tigers.

Then, Li and his dad walked hand in hand to see the elephants and the giraffes. Daddy bought Li some crackers so they could feed giraffes together. Li held the crackers as a giraffe stuck out its long purple tongue to take the cracker.

“Daddy!” Li said. “The giraffe licked my hand. His tongue is rough. It’s cool.” Daddy told him that is how God made giraffes.

When the crackers were gone, Li ran to see the orangutans. Daddy was right behind him.

There they discovered a surprise. One of the orangutans had a baby!

Li pressed against the glass and said, “Daddy, look how tiny the baby is! I wish we could hold him.” Li’s

dad replied, “Li, that baby orangutan is cute, but it is still a wild animal. The tall glass is needed. It keeps the animals safe in their area and us safe from the animals.”

As they left the zoo, Li thought for a minute, then said, “I am glad you keep me safe, Daddy. I am glad God keeps us safe, too.”

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

- **How was Li kept safe?** (Li’s dad made sure Li stayed close to him, the glass kept him safe from the orangutans.)
- **What are some things God gives people to keep them safe?** (Legs to run away from danger; houses to keep them warm and dry; parents to help them.)

**God takes care of us wherever we go. God also gives us parents and teachers to help us learn to be safe. We can ask them for help if we’re not quite sure what to do. We can be safe when we obey.**

- **Can you name ways God has protected you?** (Allow for responses.)

**Let’s thank God for His protection. Dear Lord, You are always watching over us. Thank You for giving us families and teachers to keep us safe in all the places we go. Thank You for the ways You protect us. (Have children name what they just mentioned.) In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Make sure children have their *Storytime* papers and Make-It/Take-It projects.

Say a personal goodbye to each student. **Tell your family about how God protected Noah and how God protects you.**



*Storytime, Lesson 4, pages 2-3*



*Storytime, Lesson 4, page 1*