

## Lesson

# 5

# Noah Thanks God

### BIBLE BASIS

Noah and his family leave the ark and thank God for His protection (Genesis 8:13-22; 9:13-15).

### BIBLE TRUTH

Thanking God shows we love Him.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."  
Matthew 22:37

### LESSON AIM

That your students will praise God for His love and protection.

5

1

### LIFE NEED (5 MINUTES)

- Play a game and talk about thanking people

2

### BIBLE LEARNING (10–15 MINUTES)

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

**Materials:** Bible, "Ark and Rainbow" and "Noah and Animals" Teaching Aids 6 and 7, *Storytime* for Lesson 5, crayons or pencils

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### BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the memory verse with a rhyme
- Make a stand-up ark and color it

**Materials:** *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 5 and add-on figure of Noah and his family, crayons, markers, glue or tape

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### LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about a child who recognizes ways God protects her
- Play a game to identify ways God shows His love and protection
- Thank God for His love and protection

**Materials:** *Storytime* paper for Lesson 5

## Understanding Your Students

Young children learn about God from their families and teachers. If they feel safe and secure in their environments, it's natural for them to thank and praise God for His love and protection. Last week's lesson emphasized ways God keeps us safe. This lesson will focus on the fact that a child's feeling of security and trust in God should lead to praise and thanksgiving.



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

## Understanding the Bible

Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives were completely dependent upon God during the Flood. No means of power was used to direct or guide the ark. Noah and his family were not in charge. God was the only navigator.

After 150 days the ark landed on one of the high peaks of mountain ranges in Armenia, Mount Ararat (Gen. 8:4). It was months later before the earth was dry enough for Noah and his family to come out. In the second month and twenty-seventh day of Noah's 601st year, Noah, his family, and all the animals left the ark (vss. 13-17). This was one year and ten days after the Flood started (Gen. 7:11).

Noah's first act on dry land showed that obeying God was still his first priority. He built an altar and took one of every "clean" animal and bird to sacrifice as a burnt offering to the Lord (Gen. 8:20). "Clean" animals referred to those animals acceptable for sacrifice.

Noah offered this sacrifice because of his great thankfulness. It was an act of sincere worship of God, who had sustained Noah, his family, and the earth. God responded to Noah's sacrifice by promising never to destroy humanity with such a great flood again. He further decreed that as long as the earth remained, He

would allow planting and harvesting, seasons of the year, and day and night (vs. 22).

As a sign of the new covenant with Noah and with all people, God placed a rainbow in the sky (Gen. 9:13). Now, thousands of years later, we can still point to the rainbow as a beautiful reminder of God's love and protection.

Sometimes we pass over words as we read without thinking about them. For example, Genesis 8:13 in the KJV speaks of the "face" of the ground. The NIV translates "face" as surface.

In Genesis 8:21, we meet what Bible scholars call an anthropomorphism. Anthropology is the study of humans, and an anthropomorphism is when God speaks of Himself as if He had a human body or feelings so we can better understand His ways.

"God is spirit" (John 4:24), and a spirit does "not have flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39). God, angels, the devil, and demons are spirits—without bodies, so (normally) invisible. But, sometimes in the Bible God speaks as if He had a physical nose ("The Lord smelled," Gen. 8:21) or face (Ps. 13:1) or arms (Deut. 33:27; Isa. 59:1) to help us picture God (who is a spiritual being) doing the sort of things we do.

## Classroom Tips

This lesson about Noah helps the children understand the heart attitude behind why we say thanks to God. These tips might make your lesson more effective.

- The importance of this lesson will be grasped when children understand that gratitude comes from their hearts and not just their lips. Emphasize that Noah expressed deep gratitude to God for saving his life and his family and the animals. He immediately responded with thankfulness and worship to God.
- This lesson helps the children realize what they can be thankful for. Encourage them to be grateful for small and large things.
- Point out how being thankful shows our love for God and each other. When we are grateful, we are saying, "Thank you for caring for me."

## Worship Activities

- Play or sing a song from the DisKit CD in the Creative Teaching Aid packet.
- Give students arriving a chance to contribute their offerings. Sing an offering song or lead in a prayer of thanks.
- Have students share times when God has kept them safe from harm. Then pray together and thank God. **Dear God, we love You because You are so great. You show Your love for us in so many ways. One way is by keeping us safe. Thank You! In Jesus' name. Amen.**



## Before Class

Your warm welcome will convey God's love and protection to your students. Greet each child by name. **I'm so glad God kept you safe and happy last week. Today we'll thank God for keeping you safe. Thanking God shows we love Him.** Have your students mark their attendance with a small sticker, a happy face, or by coloring in a square. Children may give their offerings, then lead them to the first activity of the day.

## Getting Started

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of Noah thanking God for His protection.

- **All Those Animals:** Let the children see what a big job it was to let all the animals off the ark. Have them draw pictures of different animals. **Count all your animals.**
- **Puzzles:** Children can work puzzles that show pictures of things for which they can thank God. **We can thank God for all of these things.**
- **What Would You Do?:** Provide drawing paper and crayons. Ask the children to draw pictures of the first thing they would do after being inside the ark for a full year. **We will learn what Noah did when he finally got off the ark.**



## Life Need 5 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will play a game and talk about thanking people.

5

This activity will prepare students for the lesson about how thanking God shows we love Him.

Ask the children to sit in a circle with you. Say "thank you" to the first child on your right. Then have him or her say back to you, "you're welcome." Now have the first child say "thank you" to the second child. The second child says "you're welcome" back to the first. Then the third child says "thank you" and the fourth one says "you're welcome." Let this pattern continue all the way around the circle until the child on your left is saying "thank you" to you.

**Now we will make the game more difficult. We will go around the circle in both directions. I will start the "thank you," "you're welcome," going to my right. But I will also start the same pattern going to my left. We will start going to the left first.**

Say "thank you," to the child on your left. That child says "you're welcome" to you and then turns to the next child on his or her left and says "thank you." The next child on the left says "you're welcome" and continues the pattern. Once the "thank yous" and "you're welcomes" are smoothly going to the left, start the pattern going to the right.

Once both patterns are going the fun begins! You might well imagine how mixed up the children will become when the "thank you," "you're welcome" pattern going left meets the same pattern going to the right. Most likely the class will be laughing too much to successfully keep the "thank you," "you're welcome" patterns going.

**It's hard to keep the "thank yous" and "you're welcomes" going when they meet! This game was fun. Saying "thank you" to others should be fun. Let's talk more about saying "thank you" to others. Who do you say "thank you" to?** (The children will probably name a wide variety of people.)

**What have you thanked someone for?** (Some experiences might be about gifts that were given at holidays, birthdays, and special events; visits and time spent; help given; meals shared, etc.)

**Why do you say "thank you" to people who give you something or help you?** (You might hear about polite manners parents teach, appreciation for the things or help given, it's what we should do, feelings of love for the person who gave something, and so on.)

**What are ways you thank people?** (You might hear ideas like: give a card, give a hug, say "thank you," etc.)

**Our Bible story is about a time when Noah thanked God. Let's listen to find out why and how Noah thanked God.**



## 2 Bible Learning 10–15 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will hear how Noah showed love to God by thanking Him for His protection.

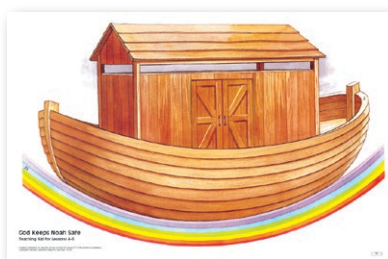
You'll need all of the figures from Teaching Aids 6 and 7. Attach velcro, found in your Creative Teaching Aids, to the back of Figures 12 and 13. Velcro should already be attached to the other figures. Show your students the first book of the Bible, where the story of Noah is found.

### BIBLE STORY

God told Noah to build a huge boat called an ark. Noah and his family, and two of every kind of animal went onto the ark to be safe during the flood. (Place the ark, Figure 2, on the board.) God sent rain to cover the earth with water. All the people and land animals, except those in the ark, were destroyed. God cared about Noah's safety. God kept Noah and his family and the animals safe during the flood.

God stopped the rain after 40 days. The earth was covered with water—even the tallest mountains were under water. Noah and his family, and the animals were safe in the ark, floating on the water. Slowly the flood waters evaporated until more and more land appeared. Finally the ark landed on a mountain. Soon Noah removed the roof of the ark so the sun could shine in. Before long, Noah could see that the ground was dry.

When the earth dried, God said, "Noah, come out of the ark with your family. Let out all of the animals, too."



"Ark and Rainbow"  
Teaching Aid 6



"Noah and Animals"  
Teaching Aid 7

**Noah opened the doors to the ark.** (Open the doors, add the ramp, Figure 3.) **Noah let the animals out of the ark.** (Have the children name the animals on Figures 4–10, as you move each down the ramp and spread them around the board.) **Noah and his family left the ark.** (Walk Noah, Figure 1, and family, Figure 11, down the ramp and to one side.)

When Noah came off of the ark, he wanted to show love for God by thanking Him. Right away, Noah built a stone altar for God. (Add altar, Figure 12, near Noah.) Then Noah worshiped God and prayed. The Bible doesn't tell us what Noah said to God, but he probably prayed something like, "Thank You, God, for keeping my family, the animals, and me safe. I love You." Noah showed God he loved Him by thanking Him.

God was pleased that Noah showed his love by thanking Him. Then God made a promise. He said, "I will never again cover the whole earth with water."

God put a sign of His promise in the sky. Sometimes, after a rain, you can see it. What is it? (A rainbow.) A rainbow reminds us of God's promise to never again flood the whole earth. (Add rainbow, Figure 13, above the ark.)

Noah loved God. Thanking God shows we love Him.

### BIBLE STORY REVIEW

- What did Noah do right after he got off the ark? (He built an altar for God, worshiped, and prayed to thank God for His protection.)
- Why did God put a rainbow in the sky? (As a reminder of the promise He made to never again flood the whole earth.)

Distribute *Storytime* for Lesson 5 and point out the rainbow activity on page 4. Have the children color it.



*Storytime,*  
Lesson 5, page 4

# 3 Bible Application 10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn that they can thank and praise God for protecting them.

## MEMORY VERSE

Help students find the memory verse on page 4 of *Storytime*. Read the verse together. **This is a new verse we will be learning.**

**Last week we learned about how Noah loved the Lord, believed what He said, and obeyed Him. Today we learned how Noah showed love to God by thanking and praising Him for keeping him and his family safe.**

**Let's practice our rhyme and our new memory verse that tells about loving and obeying God.**

**"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."**

*(Hug self.)*

**Hear His Word and hurry to obey.**

*(Touch ear; run in place.)*

**Ask the Lord to show you what is right.**

*(Fold hands.)*

**When He shows you, do not run away!**

*(Form open Bible with hands; run in place.)*

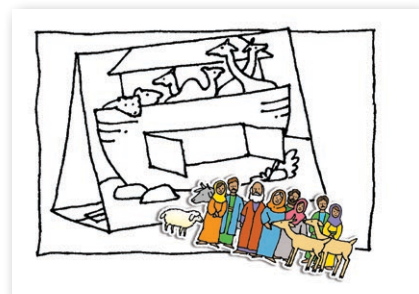
Did you hear our Bible verse? Let's say it:  
**"Love the Lord your God with all your heart"**  
**Matthew 22:37.**

**Noah loved God with all of his heart.  
That is why Noah thanked God.**

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

## HANDCRAFT

For this Bible craft project, your students will need Lesson 5 from *Make-It/Take-It* and the add-on figure of Noah and his family (from the middle of the book). Provide markers or crayons for the students to color their crafts. Help children glue or tape the add-on figure to the X on the page. Help students punch out the windows on the ark and fold them back. Then help students fold the ark back on the broken line at the center. Fold the tabs back and tape them together, without overlapping them, to form a base.



**Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 5**

Ask the children to practice telling the story of Noah to a partner.

**Noah knew that thanking God shows we love Him. You can show your love to God by thanking and praising Him for protecting you.**



# 4

## Life Response 10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will praise God for His love and protection.

Read aloud to your students “Taking Care of Mia” from pages 2 and 3 of *Storytime* for Lesson 5.

### PRESENT-DAY STORY

Mia sat down in a seat next to her mother on the big airplane. Her family was going back home to Kenya. Mia looked out the airplane window at the tall buildings. She looked at the city and said, “Goodbye.”

Mia was excited about seeing her home and her friends in Kenya.

“Let’s fasten our seat belts, Mia,” her mama said. Click.

Mia waved to all the people outside the airplane. The plane lifted into the sky.

Ding, dong. Mia heard a sound like a bell. She pointed to the lights above the seat. Mama said, “That means keep your seat belt on, Mia.”

It was a long flight. Mia looked out the window. She liked to see how tiny everything looked. After a while, she fell asleep. When she woke up, she saw that it was raining outside. She was afraid.

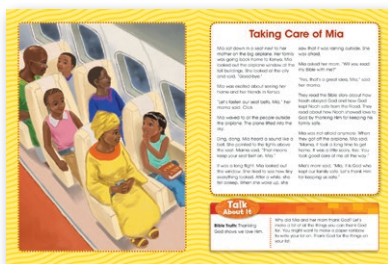
Mia asked her mom, “Will you read my Bible with me?”

“Yes, that’s a great idea, Mia,” said her mama.

They read the Bible story about how Noah obeyed God and how God kept Noah safe from the Flood. They read about how Noah showed love to God by thanking Him for keeping his family safe.

Mia was not afraid anymore. When they got off the airplane, Mia said, “Mama, it took a long time to get home. It was a little scary, too. You took good care of me all the way.”

Mia’s mom said, “Mia, it is God who kept our family safe. Let’s thank Him for keeping us safe.”



*Storytime, Lesson 5, pages 2-3*

### CLOSING ACTIVITIES

■ **Why did Mia and her mom thank God?** (They thanked Him for His protection.)

Play an “I Spy” game to help students identify ways God shows His love for us and protects us. Look around your room or take your students on a church tour to find objects and people God provides to keep us safe.

You might describe a floor mat, window blinds, safety latches on cabinets, safety plugs in electrical outlets, a member of the church staff, or some of the children’s parents.

Give one hint at a time and let the children try to guess the item or person before they hear the next hint. The child who guesses correctly can tell how the item or person keeps children safe.

**Let’s make a list of the things and people God uses to protect you.** Allow children to name things while you write them down. You might want to make a rainbow on the whiteboard to write the list on.

Pray with your students. Ask children to name something from your list to thank God for. **Dear God, You keep us safe at home and church and everywhere we go. You are even with us on the playground when we climb and swing and jump with our friends. Thank You for taking good care of us, Lord.** (Have children name one thing to thank Him for.) **In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Your students will need to gather their Make-It/Take-It handcraft ark projects and *Storytime* papers.

Say a personal goodbye to each student. **Praise and thank God this week for His protection.**



*Storytime, Lesson 5, page 1*