

THEME FOR UNIT 11: We Love God
UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 22:37

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY THANK GOD

BIBLE BASIS

Noah thanks God for protecting him and his family (Genesis 8:13-22; 9:13-15).

BIBLE TRUTH

We can thank God.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

LESSON AIM

That your students will thank God for what He does for them.

1

LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Name people and things to be thankful for

Materials: "Woolly Lamb" Teaching Aid 3

2

BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures the story of Noah thanking God
- Review with an activity



Materials: Bible, "Noah and His Family Thank God" Teaching Aid 10, "Noah Obeys God" and "Ark: Noah Obeys God" stand-up figures Teaching Aids 8 and 9

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the Bible memory verse with an action poem
- Color and paste yarn on a rainbow



Materials: *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 7, yarn, crayons, glue; *Optional*—cotton balls

4

LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about children thanking God
- Name things children are thankful for

Materials: *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 7



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



Understanding the Bible

Noah, his wife, 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 the “mountains of Ararat” (Gen. 8:4) considered to be in the area of the land of Turkey today. 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 (8:13-17). 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 (8:22).

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 rainbows as beautiful reminders 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.

Understanding Your Students

Preschoolers may not have learned yet that the many gifts they enjoy daily are from God. Since they are totally dependent upon grown-ups, they often think that everything comes from their families. But it is God who provides for families. He also provides a loving teacher to show how to express thankfulness to God.

Children are learning from your example that prayer time is a special time to be close to God. In Life Response this week, you’ll help the children contribute to prayer time by naming things for which they are thankful.

CLASSROOM TIPS

Try these suggestions to develop thankful attitudes in your preschoolers.

- Each week you can comment on the weather outdoors. Talk about how thankful you are for every kind of day God gives. When it thunders, stop to thank God for His care during a storm. When the sun shines, thank God for the sunshine.
- Let your students look at pictures of the things their parents help them have such as food and clothes and homes. Point to objects they like to use at Sunday school. Then thank God for each of these things.
- Let the phrase “Thank You, God” be one that the children hear often from you. It will quickly become a natural prayer for them to say.

WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- You may play a song from the DisKit CD to gather your children for worship.
- Ask a student helper to collect any offerings. Thank God for the offering. **Dear God, our offering is one way we can show You that we love You. Thank You for all you have done for us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**
- Today’s prayer time can help your students become aware of God’s care. **Dear God, You take care of us by giving us food and families and clothes. Thank You for Your care. We love You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**



BEFORE CLASS

Give each child a personal greeting. Mention your thankfulness for each individual child as they arrive today. **I am so thankful to have you in my class to learn about God every week. Today we will learn about how we can thank God.**

Have children give their offerings. They can mark their attendance by coloring a square, drawing a happy face, or adding a small sticker. Then lead children to the first activity of the day.

GETTING STARTED

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



Arts and Crafts: Color a rainbow mural. Draw a large rainbow on butcher paper before class and let the children color it. You may rubberband together clusters of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple crayons for children to use. **Today we will learn why we have rainbows.**



Puzzles: Work animal puzzles. **We can be thankful that God put animals into our world. We will learn about some animals who got to ride on a boat.**



Blocks: Use blocks to build a boat. If you have plastic animals, the children will enjoy moving them in and out of the boat as they recall last week's story about Noah. **God kept Noah and his family and the animals safe inside the ark.**

1

Life Need

5 minutes

Objective: That your students will name people and things for which they are thankful.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about Noah showing God he was thankful.

Show the "Wooly Lamb" teaching aid. **I'm thankful for our friend Wooly. Aren't you?** (*Encourage your class to say good morning to Wooly.*) **Hi, Wooly. How are you today?** (*Wooly whispers to you.*) **Oh, no! Children, Wooly says that he has been sick.**

(*Wooly whispers to you again.*) **Wooly says that while he was sick, he learned something important that he wants to tell you about. (Wooly nods). What did you learn, Wooly?** (*Wooly whispers.*) **Wooly says he learned to be thankful for his mother, who took care of him. (Wooly whispers again.) And for warm sunshine. (Wooly whispers.) And friends to play with in the grass.**

(*Wooly whispers.*) **Guess what, children? Wooly wants to know if you can think of something you are thankful for this morning. (Wooly whispers and shakes a little). Wooly is so excited! He says, if you want to, you can come up and stand next to him when you tell us something for which you are thankful. (Have Wooly whisper in your ear before you ask the following questions.)**

Who are you thankful for? (Children will probably name their family members, teachers, friends, neighbors, and grandparents.)

What are you thankful for? (You may need to point out the difference between being thankful for a person and an object. Children may name things that are basic needs like food, clothes, and a home. Others may talk about a favorite book or toy. Accept all the children's answers.)

How do you let someone know you are thankful? (Children may talk about saying thank you, sending a thank-you note, or giving someone a hug. You may want to give an example of a thankful attitude you have shown in the past.)

That was fun, Wooly. Thank you for helping us remember that we should be thankful every day. (Put Wooly away before beginning the Bible story.)

We can thank people. Today we are going to learn that we can thank God. Today's Bible story tells us about Noah and the animals getting off the ark. As you hear the story, listen to find out how Noah thanked God.



Wooly Lamb
Teaching Aid 3

2

Bible Learning

10 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn that Noah thanked God for protecting him and his family.

You will use “Noah and His Family Thank God” Teaching Aid 10 and the stand-up figures from “Noah Obeys God” and “Ark: Noah Obeys God” Teaching Aids 8 and 9.

Bible Story

Our story today comes from the Bible. It is in the book of the Bible called Genesis. *(Show the children where Genesis is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to Genesis 8 as you tell the story.)*

Pitter, patter. Pitter, patter. It was raining hard. God had sent a flood of water that covered the whole earth. But God kept Noah, his family, and all the animals safe in the ark. *(Show the ark, Figure 2. Place Noah, his family, and the animals, Figures 1, 3, and 4, behind the ark.)*

Pitter, patter. Pitter, patter. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The water covered everything—even the tops of the mountains.

Finally, the rain stopped. After many days, there was dry land. God said, “Noah, come out of the ark. Bring your wife and your sons and their wives with you. Bring out all

the living things in the ark. They can have little ones and there will be more animals.” *(“Walk” Noah, Figure 1, out of the ark.)* **Tromp, tromp, tromp.** *(“Walk” the animals, Figure 3, out of the ark.)* **All the animals came out of the ark. Noah’s family also came out of the ark.** *(“Walk” the people, Figure 4 out of the ark.)*

Noah and his family were happy to be on dry land. Noah wanted to thank God for keeping

him and his family safe during the flood. Noah built a special place with stones. This place was called an altar. It was a place to thank and worship God. *(Stand Teaching Aid 10 behind Figures 1 and 4. Point to the altar on the poster.)* **He made the altar out of big stones.** *(Act out lifting big stones.)* **Noah and his family praised God. Noah thanked God for keeping him and his family safe.**

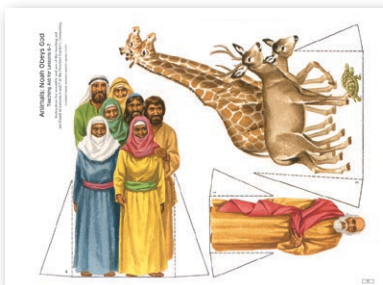
God was very happy when Noah thanked Him.

God made a special promise, called a covenant, to Noah. God said that the whole earth would never be covered with water again. Then God put a rainbow in the sky to help people remember this promise. *(Point to the rainbow on Teaching Aid 10.)*

Every time we see a beautiful rainbow after it rains, we can remember God’s promise. We can thank God too, like Noah did.



“Noah and His Family Thank God”
Teaching Aid 10



“Noah Obeys God” and “Ark: Noah Obeys God” Teaching Aids 8 and 9

Bible Story Review

Let’s pretend we are Noah and his family. We need to build an ark. Arrange two rows of chairs. The children can sit between them and pretend they are in the ark. **Shh, children. Let’s listen to the rain. Drip, drop. Drip, drop.** *(Have the children wiggle their fingers for raindrops. Slowly bring the rain to a stop as the children stand up and pretend to look outside.)* **The rain has stopped. I’ll open the door so we can go outside. Bend down and touch the floor. The ground is dry now. I see a rainbow. Why did God put a rainbow in the sky?** *(It is God’s promise that the whole earth would never be covered with water again.)*

Lead your class around the room. **Let’s pretend to gather stones so we can make a special place to thank God as Noah did.** Say a prayer of thanks.

Bible Application

10 minutes

Objective: Students will learn that they show love to God when they thank Him.

Bible Memory Verse

Noah thanked God for keeping him and his family and all the animals safe. We can thank God because we love Him, just as our Bible verse says. Let's say our Bible verse together: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" Matthew 22:37. Now let's say our rhyme together and listen for our Bible verse as we say it.

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart.

(Clap, clap.)

Listen and obey.

(Cup hands around ears.)

Thank Him every day.

(Fold hands in prayer.)

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart.

(Clap, clap.)

Let's say our Bible verse again: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" Matthew 22:37.

How did Noah show love to God? (By thanking Him.)

How can you show love to God? (By thanking Him.)

We can thank God.

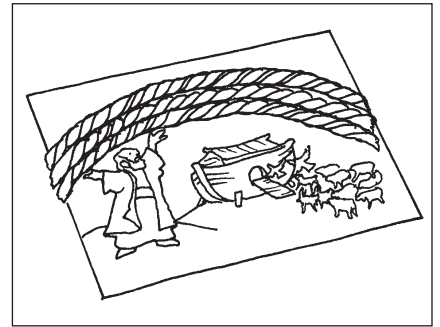
Handcraft

I'm going to show you how to make a rainbow picture. You may have seen a real rainbow in the sky. The next time you do, remember to thank God as Noah did.

Before class, remove Lesson 7 from Make-It/Take-It. Cut different colors of yarn into strips that can be pasted on the rainbow. (You may separate the strips by color, putting all the strips of each color in one paper cup.)

Have each child put a finger on the top band of the rainbow and slide his finger to the other end. Do this with each band to give the child a sense of the shape of the rainbow. Let the children paste the yarn strips onto the sections of the rainbow. Or your students will enjoy coloring their rainbows with the crayon clusters they used in Getting Started, Arts and Crafts project. *Optional*—children may glue on cotton balls for clouds.

Noah thanked God for protecting him and his family. We show love to God when we thank Him for everything He does for us.



Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 7



4

Life Response

10 minutes

Objective: That your students will name things to thank God for and then say a prayer of thanks.

Read aloud to your students "Thank-You Pictures" from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 7, back.

Present-Day Story

The children in the Sunday school class learned how Noah thanked God for keeping him and his family safe during the Flood.

God was happy with Noah. He put a rainbow in the sky to promise never to cover everything with water again. The rainbow is a reminder of God's promise.

Aunt Mary gave paper and crayons to the children. "Color pictures of the things God gives us."

Anthony got a blue crayon. He drew a blue sky. Kiara got yellow crayons. She drew pretty flowers. Tiana got all the colors of the rainbow and made a rainbow.

"These are all beautiful pictures of things God gives us," said Aunt Mary. "We show love to God when we thank Him for what He has done. Let's do that now."

Anthony said, "Thank You, God, for the sky."

Kiara said, "Thank You, God, for the flowers."

Tiana said, "Thank You, God, for the rainbow and Your promise."

Aunt Mary said, "Thank You for these children. We thank You because we want to show our love for You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Closing Activities

Show children the Bible story picture on *My Sunday Pictures*. **Today we heard the rest of the story of Noah. God cared for Noah, his family, and the animals. God kept them all safe in the ark. After Noah left the ark, he built an altar and thanked God. We can thank God too.**

What are some ways we can thank God?

(Encourage the children to come up with a variety of possibilities.)

They may include singing, playing a song, praying, listening and obeying, saying "thanks," and so on.)

Noah thanked God for keeping him, his family, and the animals safe from the flood.

What are some things you want to thank God for? (Families, friends, Sunday school, and a special toy are answers children may have.)

Let's pray and thank God. As we pray, I want you to name one thing you are thankful for. **Dear Lord, we thank You for** (have children name one thing). **In Jesus' name. Amen.**

We have been learning about different ways that we can show love to God. We showed love to God today by thanking Him for some of the things we named.

Be sure each child has a rainbow Make-It/Take-It project and *My Sunday Pictures* lesson card.

Say a personal goodbye to each child.

Remember to thank God this week.



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 7 (back)



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 7 (front)

