

A New Beginning Noah After the Flood

Aim:

God is our hope and we should worship Him

Teacher's Preparation

"and God remembered Noah.." Genesis 8:1

In *Genesis*, the story starts with Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and also shows lineage of people from Adam all the way to Noah. The story of Noah begins with the fact that as the population on earth began to grow, God saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thought of his heart was only evil all the time" (vs.5). This made God very sad to see His people become evil and do things that God did not like. God wanted to wipe away all of mankind because of their evil doings, but Noah was a man that God favored because he was righteous and blameless. He did everything God wanted him to do and obeyed God. God instructed Noah to build an ark and gathered animals two by two into the ark. He also had his wife on the ark, along with his three sons (Shem, Ham, Japheth) and their wives on the ark. For 40 days the rain came and flooded the earth wiping away all of the evil people and creatures of the earth and that is how our story lesson begins.

Isn't that the best feeling to know that God never forgets about us! There were probably times when Noah was building the ark and in the ark when he thought God had forgotten about him. What we can definitely take from this lesson is that no matter what may happen to us or what bad situation we may face, we can rest assured that God always remembers us. Because of this reality, we can live in everlasting hope. So what should our response be to God who would never leave us? It should be just as Noah did when he came out of the ark. "And Noah built an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings on the altar." Since we don't literally offer burnt offerings, the most appropriate offering to God would be to offer our hearts to God and worship Him in our own heart, in our family, and in our church. (If possible, gather children at the front of church altar. Another option would be to show pictures of different kinds of altars in Bible times and in today's church. Ask questions that would cause them to think about the purpose of the altar.)



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Genesis 8:13-22

13 By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. 14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. 17 Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19 All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Student Introduction

Do you know what an altar is? Why does our church have an altar? There is nothing magical about this wood, carpet, or steps. But it isn't just any place. This is where we as Christians can come and bring our problems to God as we pray with our Achen and other members of our congregation. It is as if we are laying our problems on the altar to give it completely to God. This place is also where we, as Christians can come and dedicate or make promises to God, and also come to ask for forgiveness of our sins. In today's lesson, we will learn why Noah built an altar to God.



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Main Ideas

Background:

We all know the story of Noah and the ark. Noah had his hope in God and knew God would protect him, his family, and the animals in the ark. Noah's hope in God continued when it rained 40 days and 40 nights. Finally, in Genesis 8:13-14, the flood ended and the water had completely dried up from the earth. Let's see what Noah does when God instructs him to finally come out of the ark. **Dry land!**

In Genesis 8:15-17, Noah listened as God instructed him to have everyone and everything come out of the ark. They were all safe and on dry land! What do you think Noah did after all those days in the ark?

What would you have done if you finally got off the ark? Maybe jump up and down for joy? **A Celebration!**

In Genesis 8:18-20, the Bible tells us what Noah did. He first obeyed God and got everything out of the ark. After leaving the ark, Noah then built an altar and offered burnt offerings. By doing this, he was praising God, accepting that they were all saved from the flood because of their faith in God. From the very beginning, Noah made a choice to put his hope in God and that God would bring all of them to safety. And God did exactly that! **God's Promise!**

Altar
a place
designed
for
worship to
God

In Genesis 8:21-22, the Bible tells us that God was very pleased with Noah when He saw the altar and the offerings. Noah made God very happy! God promised Noah that He would never curse the ground again because of man and that He would not destroy any living creature with water as He had just done in the flood.

Jesus is our Perfect Sacrifice!

Noah honored God by building the altar to worship Him. During the Old Testament times, people used the altar to worship and bring an offering to God. The offering was shedding the blood of an animal. Does anyone notice an animal on our church altar every Sunday? So, why do we not do this today?

This is because Jesus is our perfect sacrifice. Jesus came into this world and died on the cross and shed His blood for all of our sins! He did this because He loved us so much. We don't have to build an altar and offer up a dead animal anymore! As Christians, our desire should be to please God with our worship of Him and to always thank Him for sending us the greatest sacrifice, Jesus Christ. Do you come to church just to see your friends? Or do you come to church to worship and learn about God?

Sacrifice
giving up
something
that you
want to
keep in
order to
help
someone
else

Activities

Have a poster board with the words "Our Best" and "Half Effort" with a line down the middle. Use sticky notes with the following scenarios written on them. Next, have the children examine and determine which category the scenario belongs to, and place the notes on the board. Have them do this in a group. Second, give them two sticky notes and have the students write two scenarios from their life when they gave their best effort and half effort.

This will take advanced preparation:

Lesson Review

- After leaving the ark, Noah praised God.
- Noah made a choice to put all his hope in God and God blessed him.
- God was happy because Noah trusted in Him and gave thanks.

How can you make God happy like Noah did?

Do you have a special place in your home where you can go and pray or read the Bible?

Values For Life

We have the choice to make God happy or to make Him sad. Sometimes this may not feel like an easy choice but we should remember how God always provides for our needs and how much we need to thank Him for.

Worship
showing
God our
love and
respect in
everything
we do by
giving Him
glory and
honor

My Decision

Do you put your hope and trust in God or in something else to make you happy?

If I asked you fill in this sentence, what would you say? I put my hope in God because_____.

It is important to know why you put your hope in God. It's not because your Sunday school teacher or achen told you to. We know from Noah's story and other stories in the Bible that God can be trusted. God knows every situation that happens in our lives, whether it is at home, school, or with friends. As we put our hope in God, it is not so God will do what we want, but so that He will do what is best for us.

Memory Verse

As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day and for letting us learn about your servant Noah. We thank you for promising to be with us always. We ask that you help us trust and place our hope in You and that Your will be done in our lives. We love you, Amen.