

WE CAN TRUST GOD TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

TRUST IS... firm and confident belief in someone.

God flooded the earth but spared Noah's family by having him build the ark. Then God promised never to send another flood to cover the earth. That's just one of the many promises we can find in the Bible. When we learn about the promises of God, there's only one thing to do—trust Him. He'll always do what He says. Use this lesson to help children learn that we can trust God to keep His promises.

Genesis 6:9–7:10;
8:13-17; 9:8-13:
God Sends a Rainbow

WHAT KIDS DO	WHAT YOU'LL NEED
God Sightings (5 minutes) Share ways they've seen God at work.	
Bible Experience (10 minutes) Interact with an account of Noah and the ark.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • spray bottle with water
Rainbow of Promises (15 minutes) Draw rainbows and learn about God's promises in the Bible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • copies of the handout (<i>found at the end of this lesson</i>) • crayons • pencils
Clay Rainbows (5 minutes) Make rainbows with clay and talk about God's promises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • multi-colored clay
Who Can You Trust? (15 minutes) In pairs, do a trust walk around your classroom area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blindfolds for pairs • obstacles such as chairs and piles of books
Life Application (10 minutes) Talk about how flames are like promises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean jar with lid • votive candle • long butane lighter • potholder



ILLUSTRATION BY PAIGE BILLIN-FRYE

*Photocopy the Take-Home page at the end of this lesson for each child.

TRUST DEVOTION

How much more would we trust God in our everyday lives if we remembered that God always keeps His promises? The rainbow is just one of the many signs that God is faithful to His word, no matter what. At times we may want to second-guess God and try to take matters into our own hands, but instead we can rest in the knowledge that God will always keep His promises.

BIBLE FOUNDATION FOR TEACHERS

*Genesis 6:9–7:10; 8:13-17; 9:8-13:
God Sends a Rainbow*

SIN TAKES OVER

The sin begun by Adam and Eve multiplied even more in the generations that followed. The sin became so great, in fact, that the Bible describes the heart of humanity as “consistently and totally evil” (Genesis 6:5).

A DIFFICULT DECISION

God’s statement that He’d wipe out the human race may seem as if it stemmed from anger or a desire for revenge, but instead it was a sorrowful acknowledgment that to make things better, most of the earth’s population would have to die. The people God had created had turned completely against Him, so God decided to start over with the few who remained faithful.

NOAH IS SAVED

Fortunately, one righteous man still loved God. God would save Noah, his wife, his three sons, and his sons’ wives from the flood. God commanded Noah to build an ark that would house Noah’s family and two of every kind of animal, so life could begin again after the floodwaters receded.

A BEAUTIFUL REMINDER

The Bible says the rain lasted 40 days and 40 nights, destroying every living thing on the earth. When the rain stopped and the water dried up, God established a covenant not only with Noah and his family, but also with every living thing that would ever walk the earth. God placed a beautiful rainbow in the sky as a promise to all humanity that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. Even now, thousands of years later, we can see

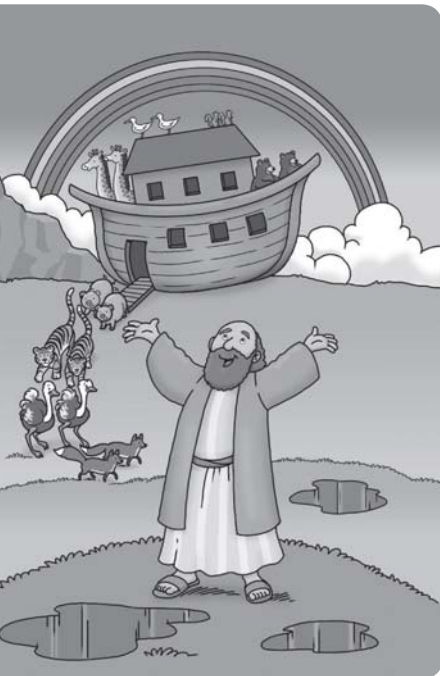


ILLUSTRATION BY DANA REGAN

the sign of God's covenant after it rains and remember that God always keeps His promises.



GOD SIGHTINGS

As a group, share God Sightings—ways you've seen God at work. Then celebrate how God is at work in your lives through a prayer of thanksgiving.

BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Read aloud Genesis 6–9.

Tell children they can help you bring the Bible to life. Whenever they hear an animal mentioned, have them sound off with that animal's noise. For thunder, have them stomp their feet.

Say: **Many years ago, the earth was bad. Only a man named Noah was good. God told Noah that He would bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy everything. God told Noah to build an ark so that Noah, his family, and every living creature would survive.**

Noah obeyed. He built the ark and loaded the animals onto the ark. First came the dogs (*pause after each animal to allow noises*), **then the cats, then the owls, then the lions, then the pigs, then the cows, then the chimpanzees, then the sheep, then the coyotes, then the horses, then the fruit flies, and finally the kangaroos. When all the animals were loaded, they made a noise that could be heard for miles.** (*Pause for animal noises.*) **Soon darkness covered the sky.** (*Turn off most of the lights.*)

Huge clouds began coming in from the north. They rolled slowly across the sky. Soon the skies were filled with clouds. Never before had anyone seen clouds like these.

Soon it began to lightning (*turn lights on and off rapidly*) **and thunder** (*stomp feet*). **The animals became frightened and began to cry out.** (*All animals sound off.*)

Then came the rains. (*Mist water over their heads.*) **The rains continued and filled all the streams and rivers and**

THE LESSON

YOU'LL NEED:

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ spray bottle with water

FOR TEACHERS: DOUBT CAN FEED FAITH

"Everyone at times can have doubts. But doubts don't change truth or upset God. Often when we can't see or feel something, we doubt if it's real. But just like air you can't see—God is there. Put another way, 'Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the confidence in things not seen.' "

—John Trent in *Children's Ministry Magazine*

lakes and oceans. Finally the entire earth was covered with water.

After 40 days and 40 nights, the rains stopped. (*Stop water misting.*) The clouds began moving back to where they came from. The sun began to shine (*turn on lights*) and the waters that covered the earth receded.

When it was safe, Noah opened the door. Out came the chimpanzees (*pause after each animal*), then the cats, and the dogs, then horses, cows, and the lions, then the owls, and the sheep, then the coyotes, the pigs, the fruit flies, and of course the kangaroos.

God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise to never flood the earth again. God blessed Noah's family. Noah and his family and the animals all went forth to live a happy life as they replenished the earth.

Lead this discussion: **Why is God's promise to Noah important to us today? What can you learn about God from today's skit? Trust is firm and confident belief in someone—why can we trust God to keep His promises?**

YOU'LL NEED:

- ✓ Bibles
- ✓ copies of the handout (*found at the end of this lesson*)
- ✓ crayons
- ✓ pencils

RAINBOW OF PROMISES

Say: **After God flooded the earth, He promised Noah that He'd never do it again. Let's each make a rainbow to remember God's promises.** Distribute Bibles, handouts, and crayons. Lead kids through these steps, inviting volunteers to read aloud the verses.

Color a red arch to remember that red apples are good to eat. Read Philippians 4:19. Ask: **What is God's promise here?**

Color an orange arch to remember to be careful. Read Psalm 18:30. Ask: **What is God's promise here?**

Color a yellow arch like the sun. Read Hebrews 13:5. Ask: **What is God's promise here?**

Color a green arch to remember resting in the grass. Read Matthew 11:28. Ask: **What is God's promise here?**

Color a blue and indigo arch to remember feeling sad. Read Psalm 55:22. Ask: **What is God's promise here?**

Color a purple or violet arch to think of someone you love. Read Romans 8:39. Ask: **What is God's promise here?**

Lead this discussion: **Which of God's promises means the most to you right now? Why do you trust that God will keep that promise in the future?**

Say: **The colors of the rainbow remind us that God keeps His promises to forgive us, help us, answer our prayers, love us no matter what, and never leave us. Just like Noah, we can trust God to keep His promises.**

CLAY RAINBOWS

Talk about: **God sent a rainbow for Noah to see as a reminder of His promise to never flood the earth again. The rainbow is a reminder of God's promise to us, too. We can trust God to keep His promises.**

Set out the colorful clay and let kids make rainbows to remind them of God's great promises.

As they're working, read aloud Psalm 33:4. Lead this discussion: **What does it mean to trust God? Which of God's promises is the easiest for you to trust? Which of God's promises is the most difficult for you to trust?**

Say: **This week, people may break or keep promises to you. But no matter what happens, you can trust God to keep His promises.**

WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

Have everyone get into pairs. Let the child wearing the most blue be the person in each pair to be blindfolded first. Once blindfolds are on, quickly make an obstacle course in the room with chairs and piles of books or other large objects.

Supervise as kids lead their blindfolded partners around your classroom area, making sure no one gets injured along the way.

YOU'LL NEED:

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ multi-colored clay



YOU'LL NEED:

- ✓ blindfolds for pairs
- ✓ obstacles such as chairs and piles of books

Then have them switch places so everyone gets a turn to be blindfolded. Rearrange some of the obstacles.

Afterward, lead this discussion: **What was it like to be blindfolded and to trust the other person? How does that compare to trusting God?**



YOU'LL NEED:

- ✓ clean jar with lid
- ✓ votive candle
- ✓ long butane lighter
- ✓ pot holder

TEACHER PREP

Remove any labels from a clean jar to keep the label from lighting on fire. Practice this object lesson before demonstrating it so you'll know the time needed for the flame to extinguish. Place a votive candle inside the glass jar.

If possible, dim the lights—it will make the candle easier for kids to see. Keep one light on so you can see even after the flames extinguish.

LIFE APPLICATION

See the Teacher Prep box in advance of this activity.

Light the candle inside the jar. Say: **When someone makes a promise to us, we trust them to keep that promise. We're counting on them to follow through.**

Hold up the jar so kids can see the flames.

Say: **If the person making the promise lets us down, we can feel disappointed and it's hard to trust that person again.**

Place the lid over the top of the glass jar. Within a few seconds, the flame will run out of oxygen, dwindle, and go out.

Talk about: **This flame going out is like what happens when a promise is broken and we lose our trust in someone.**

Carefully remove the lid using a potholder. Then re-light the candle—this time leaving the lid off.

Say: **When God makes a promise, He never lets us down.**
● **We can trust God to keep His promises.**

Lead this discussion: **Tell about a time someone broke a promise to you. How was that like or unlike our candle experiment? How do we know that God won't break His promises?**

Talk about: **Think of our flame like trust between two people. When people make promises to each other, sometimes they keep those promises and the flame keeps burning, and sometimes they break the promises and the flame goes out. If someone breaks a promise to us, we**

have a hard time trusting that person to keep promises in the future. When God makes promises to us, He always keeps them. Our trust in God will never burn out! That's why we can trust God to keep His promises.



PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for giving us so many wonderful promises. Help us learn to trust everything You do. In Jesus' name, amen.

TAKE-HOME PAGE

Give each child a Take-Home page to take home. Encourage kids to select one of the six challenges for the week ahead.



PRACTICING TRUST

Keep growing in your faith and character. Choose one of the following challenges to do this week to trust God to keep His promises.



CHALLENGE 1

Take a bath with some small plastic animals and a plastic bowl. Place the bowl in the tub and the animals in the bowl. Watch the animals float in their safe, dry “ark.” When it’s time to get out of the tub, imagine that you see a rainbow in the sky. As the water drains and your ark reaches dry ground, thank God for keeping His promises to you.



CHALLENGE 2

Make a promise to someone, such as, “I promise to pick up my toys.” With your parent’s permission, draw a rainbow on the back of your hand using washable markers. Whenever you see the colors, remember that God keeps His promises, and remember to keep yours.



CHALLENGE 3

On a sunny day, ask a grown-up to help you make a backyard rainbow. Hook up a garden hose, and shoot a thin spray of water straight into the sun. Watch for the rainbow to appear. Think about the promise God made to Noah. Thank God for His promises, and ask Him to help you trust each one.



CHALLENGE 4

Take a picture of the rainbow you made with the clay. Then email or text it to friends and family with this message: #trustGod.



CHALLENGE 5

Draw a picture of the ark as you share about Noah with a younger sibling or friend. Have him or her draw a rainbow as you explain the promise God made to Noah, and to all of us.

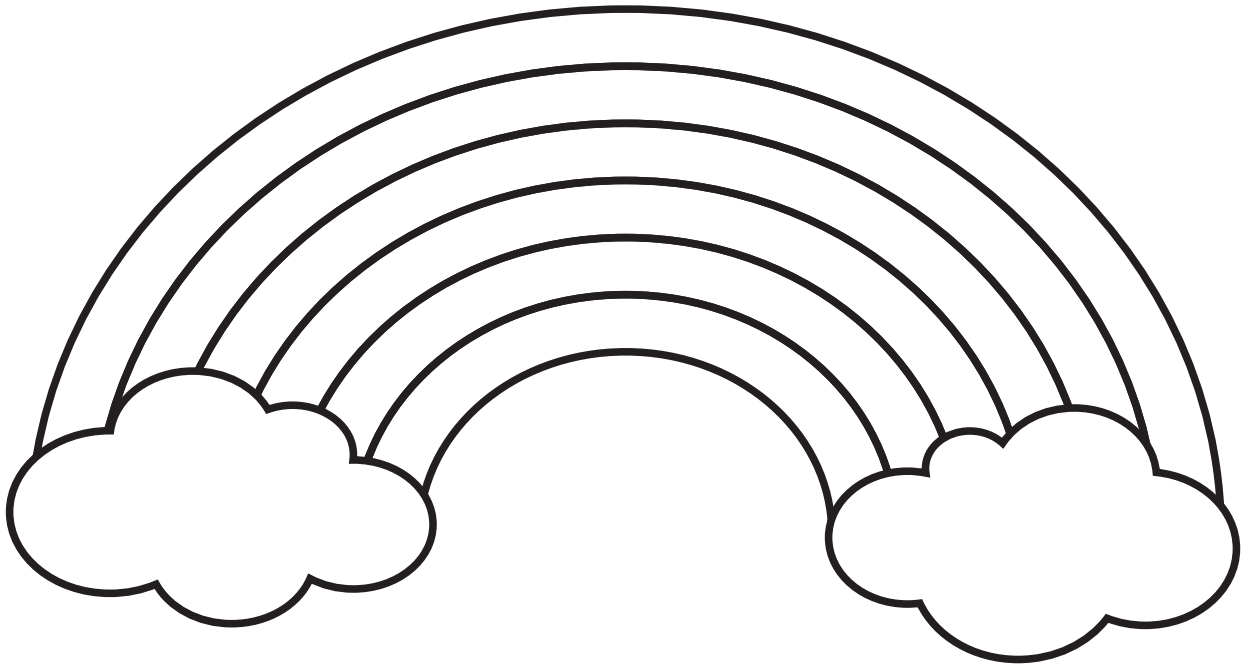


CHALLENGE 6

Be trustworthy like God. Being trustworthy means that someone can believe you when you make a promise. Make a promise to someone today, and then keep it without being asked.



RAINBOW OF PROMISES



Color a **RED** arch to remember that red apples are good to eat. Read Philippians 4:19. What is God's promise here?

Color a **GREEN** arch to remember resting in the grass. Read Matthew 11:28. What is God's promise here?

Color an **ORANGE** arch to remember to be careful. Read Psalm 18:30. What is God's promise here?

Color a **BLUE** and **INDIGO** arch to remember feeling sad. Read Psalm 55:22. What is God's promise here?

Color a **YELLOW** arch like the sun. Read Hebrews 13:5. What is God's promise here?

Color a **PURPLE** or **VIOLET** arch to think of someone you love. Read Romans 8:39. What is God's promise here?
