

Noah's Ark



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Here are some ideas for your toddler group based on the story of Noah. It presents the flood as God's 'spring clean' of a world spoiled by people's unkindness. It might fit in well with the themes of colours, animals or when the weather has been particularly wet!

Ready:

Cut out some big raindrop (pear drop) shapes. When the children arrive they could have fun decorating them in rainbow colours and adding glitter. Alternatively, everyone could join in painting a big rainbow!

It would be useful to have a toy ark with Noah and the animals for the story (or you could use bricks, toy hammers and playmobil figures).

Serve some animal-shaped biscuits at coffee time!

Teddy:

Dress Teddy in some boots, anorak and a rain hat and give him a child's umbrella; one with rainbow colours would be appropriate!

Go:

Your aim is to show that we can always trust God to keep his promises and to take good care of us.

Storytelling tip:

As a 'way in' to the story, display your raindrops or a weather chart and sing, "I hear thunder". Ask the children to mime putting on boots, a raincoat and hat and putting up an umbrella. Pretend to go for a walk and mime jumping over and splashing through puddles. Ask everyone to practice saying "splish, splash, splosh" ready for the story whenever you say, "It's going to rain and rain and rain!"

Song: *I hear thunder*

I hear thunder, I hear thunder, hark don't you,
hark don't you?

Pitter-patter raindrops, pitter-patter raindrops,
I'm wet through, so are you!



The story: Noah's Ark

Leader:

God was feeling sad. Everywhere he looked, people were spoiling his world by arguing and fighting. No-one loved God any more – except for one man. Who do you think that was? It was Noah! Noah was the only kind man. He listened to God and tried to please him.

"Noah, old friend," said God one day, "My world is looking very grubby. It needs a good spring clean. So I'm going to send a BIG flood to wash all the unkindness away. It's going to rain and rain and rain!"

All:

Splish, splash, splosh!

Leader:

"A flood!" cried Noah. "I'd better get my boots on. Will the water come over my wellies?"

"Higher!" said God.

"Will it come up to my raincoat?" asked Noah.

"Higher still!" said God.

"What about the top of my rain hat?" asked Noah.

"Even higher!" said God. "The water will be so high that it will cover the tops of the mountains!"

"Oh, dear," said Noah. "Then I'm going to get wet!"

God smiled. "Don't worry, Noah. You are a good and kind man. I promise to keep you and your family safe and dry. But you must build yourselves a big wooden boat called an ark.

Give it a door and lots of rooms and a roof to keep out the rain. Here are the instructions ... "

Noah looked up at the blue sky. It didn't look like rain. But he knew that he could always trust God and he wanted to obey him. So he began to build the ark ... *shall we help Noah?* (Ask everyone to build a simple boat shape with bricks, or make a hammering sound with toy hammers, or help you put a toy ark together.)

Leader:

So Noah built the ark.

"Now," said God, "I want you to fetch animals and birds of every kind and take them into the boat."

Shall we help Noah collect all the animals into the ark?

Leader:

"Are all the animals aboard?" asked God. (*Ask the children.*)

"Yes, all aboard!" said Noah.

"Then it's time for you and your family to go inside and shut the door," said God. (*Place Noah inside.*)

Inside the ark, Noah and his family and all the animals waited ... they looked out of the windows and they saw the blue sky turn grey. Great clouds covered the sun and the ark became very dark. Soon big, fat raindrops drummed on the roof, *boom, boom, boom!* And then the heavens opened and it began to rain and rain and rain!

All:

Splish, splash, splosh!

Leader:

"What a downpour, what a cloudburst!" cried Noah. "Look at those puddles! I hope our boat will float!" *What do you think?*

The water rose higher and higher. It lifted the boat up above the rooftops ... and the treetops ... and even the mountaintops! The boat *did* float! It floated above everything and God kept his promise. Noah, his family and all the animals stayed safe and dry. For forty days and forty nights, it rained and rained and rained!

All:

Splish, splash, splosh!

Leader:

... Until one day, it stopped! Listen! (*Pause*) No more raindrops drumming on the roof!

Then, very slowly, the floodwaters trickled away just like bathwater going down the plughole! The water went down ... and down ... and down ... and with a creak and a groan, the ark settled on a mountainside.

"Now", said Noah, "I wonder if the world is still wet. Let's open a window and send a dove to see if there's anything green out there yet."

The dove fluttered up into the sky ... (*send a dove round the group*) and came back with a twig, all green and dry. So Noah opened the door of the ark and guess what they saw? A *rainbow* in the sky!

"Noah, old friend," said God, "My rainbow's here to say, never again will everything be washed away! I promise!"

So Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the ark. How they stretched, breathed in the fresh air and raced about in the sunshine! And they all said thank you to God for keeping his promises and giving them a fresh start in his sparkling world!

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for all the colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet! Whenever we see a rainbow, help us to remember that you are always taking care of us!
Amen

Party bag:

Give out the Noah's Ark activity sheet to encourage parents to explore today's themes at home.

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Activity sheet: Noah's Ark

(Genesis 6:9-9:17)

Just for parents:

God sees that his world has been spoilt by the evil and violent ways of people. He decides to wash away every living thing but to make a fresh start with the one good man who listens to him and obeys him. God rescues Noah along with his family and animals.

As parents, perhaps we can understand how God felt when we are faced with our own children arguing and fighting. This wasn't the dream we had of blissful family life! We shouldn't lose heart. God is taking care of us and our families. And one day, we will see our children mature and spontaneously display acts of kindness. So they have soaked up our values after all! How can we deepen our trust in God?

Story time:

Retell or play the story of Noah, perhaps with a toy ark, or with a toy boat or empty margarine carton in the bath. Wonder about it together:

- I wonder how God felt when he saw people spoiling his world.
- What do you think they were doing?
- I wonder why God wanted to rescue Noah?
- I wonder what it was like inside the ark all that time. Have fun imagining what Noah's family might have seen, heard, touched, tasted and smelled!
- I wonder how we can please God, like Noah.

Prayer:

Paint a rainbow together. Choose a different colour every day and praise God for vegetables, fruit, animals, insects, flowers, clothes, etc of that colour.

Clean and sparkling:

Put on boots and waterproofs and wash any grubby garden toys, furniture or a car together. Chat about God giving the world a spring clean.

Eye-spy a rainbow:

Wherever you go, look out for rainbows in the sky, on toys and clothing, in reflections, etc! Chat about the rainbow being a sign of God's promise not to flood the world again. Ask if God kept his promise to Noah?

Emphasise the importance of keeping a promise made and model this in the family.

Why not show your child that you love them by buying them an unexpected gift such as rainbow socks, a Noah picture book or rainbow crayons?





Playtime

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