
BIG IDEA: GOD HELPS US TO OBEY HIM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2021 — **STORY:** NOAH & THE FLOOD

BIBLE BASIS: GENESIS 6-9

SERIES: UNFAILING LOVE

Join us throughout the month of September as we learn about God's great UNFAILING LOVE! We will be going through stories in Genesis.

MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —JOHN 3:16

SCHEDULE

0:00–0:10	Welcome Activities/Check-In
0:10–0:15	Transition to Large Group (B100)
0:15–0:30	Large Group (Worship, Memory Verse, Global Partner Spotlight)
0:30–0:35	Transition to Small Group (Back to Classrooms)
0:35–1:05	Small Group (Storytelling, Questions, Big Idea Connection, Respond Activity)
1:05–1:15	Dismiss/Additional Activities (During Check-Out)

SERIES OVERVIEW

Date	Story	Big Idea	Bible Basis
August 21-22	ZONK		Review Weekend
August 28-29	Creation	God is Creator	Genesis 1-2
September 4-5	The Fall	God's Love Never Ends	Genesis 3
September 11-12	Cain & Abel	Turn to God, Not to Sin	Genesis 4
September 18-19	Noah & The Flood	God Helps Us To Obey Him	Genesis 6-9
September 25-26	Abraham	God Is A Promise Keeper	Genesis 15, 17, 18, 21
October 2-3	Isaac	I Can Always Trust God	Genesis 22
October 9-10	Jacob & Esau	God Has A Plan For Me	Genesis 25, 27

SEPTEMBER 18-19

STORY: NOAH & THE FLOOD

GENESIS 6-9

DEVOTIONAL

Our first house was a real “fixer upper.” The plumbing was held together by duct tape, every wall needed to be painted, and the basement looked like something out of a horror film. After everything on the main floor was to our satisfaction, we turned our attention to the basement. Demolition is fun! Can I say that? Anything that involves sledgehammers is a recipe for a ridiculously good time. We saved nothing and started over. We were able to design everything the way we wanted, and after months of hard work, we were able to put down the final glorious piece—the carpet. When it was all finished my wife and I celebrated by taking a nap. Following the nap, I went downstairs to take another glorious look at what we had accomplished. However, to my horror, one of my dogs had somehow managed to chew up a bottle of Gorilla Glue. There was a massive puddle in the center of the floor, which ruined our brand-new carpet. I was more than a little upset, and that was just carpet. I cannot even begin to wonder what it must have been like for our creator God, in the days of Noah, to watch the people He made in His image decimate His world and wreak havoc on one another.

In Genesis 6, we see difficult words that express how the events that had unfolded agonized our LORD. “And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.” (Gen 6:6 ESV) This says a lot about our God. It can sometimes be easy to write God off as this immaterial, impersonal force. But here we see that God is anguished to His core. The account of Noah is often voiced in a way that speaks heavily to God’s wrath and justice. And while those are certainly present, the story of Noah also expresses God’s preserving goodness in the Ark, a relationship of trust between a man and The One True God. In its simplest form, the story of Noah is a story of Grace. It’s a story that points to the day when evil is no more; death, mourning, and pain have passed away, and God once again will dwell with his people. God loves us and hasn’t given up on us.

John Garrison

GO! Contributor

PROVIDED RESOURCES

Welcome Activities: Coloring/activity pages; coloring supplies; blank paper, animal cards

Storytelling: None

Big Idea Connection: bucket, beanbags

Respond Activity: rocks

Additional Activities: Question cards, memory verse cards

***If you need any additional resources, please let us know so that we can provide that for you!*

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

OPTION 1: COLORING PAGE/ ACTIVITY PAGE

Allow students to color the coloring page or do the activity on the back.

OPTION 2: NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL MASH-UP

An activity to connect to today's lesson.

Hand each kid in your group a piece of paper and something to draw with. Pass out one "Animal Card" to each kid in the group. When you say "go," have the kids begin drawing their animal. After 20 seconds, say, "switch." Each kid will have to pass their drawing to the kid on their right. Without crossing out or scribbling over anything, each kid will have to make their new drawing look like the animal on their card. For example, if they have the "Elephant" card, but received a drawing that looks like a dog, they might add a trunk and big ears to the drawing. After 20 seconds pass, say "switch" again. Every time they get a new drawing, they'll have to try to "fix" it to look like their animal. For every new drawing they get, this should become more difficult. After the drawings have been passed completely around the circle (or when their drawings are too jumbled that they're having difficulty proceeding), have the kids take turns showing their drawing. Let the other kids in the group guess what each animal is supposed to be.

OPTION 3: STUDENT CHOICE

Allow students to choose which option they would like to do.

STORYTELLING

So far we've been exploring some amazing stories from the earliest parts of the Bible in the book of Genesis. The first week we looked at how God created everything in the world. The second week we saw how all the good things that God made were broken when sin entered the world. And last week we heard the story about how a jealous man, named Cain, gave in to sin and did something absolutely terrible to his brother Abel. Things went from perfect to broken and it only got worse. A long time had passed since Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. The world was a very dark place filled with sin. The hearts of humans were wicked and they weren't faithful to God. *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 6:5).* Can you imagine what people were doing to each other when everything in their hearts was evil? Can you picture the sadness, hurt, and anger on people's faces? *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 6:6).* All of this made God's heart "deeply troubled." God wasn't happy to see his creation this way. It made him upset and very sad.

God, seeing how evil the earth had become, decided to get rid of all living things except for one man and his family. This man "walked faithfully with God" when no one else did. His name was Noah. What do you think Noah looked like? Can you picture him? What's he wearing? *(Allow responses).*

One day God told Noah His plan. *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 6:13).* Can you imagine how Noah reacted to hearing this? Picture Noah's face as God gives him this news. But God made a promise to save Noah and his family. He told Noah to build a giant boat called an ark. It would be made of wood and it would have to be big enough to fit Noah's family, at least two of every animal on earth, and enough food to feed them all. To do that, the boat would have to be the size of one and a half football fields. Can you picture a wooden boat that big? Imagine Noah building it. Can you hear the sounds of Noah cutting wood and hammering nails?

When the ark was finished, God told Noah that the great flood was about to begin. *(Read Genesis 7:1, 4, 10)* *(Have volunteers read Genesis 7:13-14, 15-16).* Noah once again obeyed God. He put everything and everyone in the ark. When he was all finished, God Himself closed the giant door to the boat. Can you see yourself standing in the ark like Noah and watching the door swinging closed? Imagine the loud thud it must have made. Image what that must have looked like to be on the ark. What animals do you see? What does it sound like to have so many animals in one place? What do you think it smelled like?

Just as God had promised, water flooded the earth. For forty days and forty nights rain fell from the sky, and water shot up from the ground. Can you hear the rain and thunder?

STORYTELLING (CONT.)

Imagine yourself in the boat as it starts to rock and lift off the ground. *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 7:23).*

After 150 days, the waters on the earth started to go down. Noah sent out a dove from the ark. When it returned with an olive leaf, Noah knew that it had found dry ground. Eventually, the ark settled onto the side of Mt. Ararat. Imagine stepping out of the ark onto the side of the mountain. Look around. What do you see? Can you hear the waves crashing into the mountain? *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 8: 18-19)* After they left the ark, "Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it." *(Genesis 8:20)*

God made a covenant with Noah—a very special promise. *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 9:11)*. He promised that He would never again destroy the world with water. And to remind us of that promise, God did something. *(Have a volunteer read Genesis 9:13)*. God put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise to all living creatures. Picture that rainbow in the sky and what Noah and his family must have looked like when they saw it for the first time.

God asked Noah to build a giant boat big enough to fit at least two of every single animal! Imagine how hard that would be. But he never gave up. He kept on obeying God even though it was super hard! It makes you wonder—could you obey God if He asked you to do something that hard?

QUESTIONS

This can be done as a large group or in table groups

For Younger Kids:

1. Of all the things you imagined, what was your favorite? Describe it.
2. If you were Noah, how would you have felt when God told you He was going to flood the earth?

For Older Kids:

1. Of all the things you imagined, what was your favorite? Describe it.
2. What do you think this story teaches us about God?

BIG IDEA CONNECTION

Of all the things we heard in our story, you know what one of the craziest things to me is? That Noah was the only person in the entire world that was trusting and following God. Think about it. While everyone else was sinning, there was Noah...obeying God. I imagine it must have been hard to obey God, especially when no one else was doing the right thing.

God calls all of us to follow and obey Him, and sometimes, it can be hard. Let me give you an example. I need a helper who's really strong. *Choose a volunteer. Hand him the bucket and instruct him to hold it up by the handle with his arm stretched straight out to his side. Tell him he can't use his other hand or anything else to help him hold the bucket up.*

So let me ask you, is it hard to hold the bucket up right now? *(Volunteer responds.)* No, not really. You could probably hold it up for a while. It may have been like that for Noah. At first it might not have been so hard for Noah to obey God, but then God asked him to do some pretty hard things. We might find that in our lives too. Sometimes it might feel easy to follow God. But other times, it may feel really hard. God wants you to love everyone all the time, but maybe some of the kids at school are being totally mean to you. *(Place a beanbag in the bucket.)* God asks you to be honest and not to cheat, but maybe you can't remember the answer to a question on the test and it would be so easy to just look at someone else's paper. *(Place another beanbag in the bucket.)* God wants you to honor your parents, but maybe they keep telling you to do things you don't want to do. *(Place another beanbag in the bucket.)* Sometimes God asks you to do some really hard things.

I don't think it was always easy for Noah to obey either, but here's the great thing. In Genesis 8:1 it says, "But God remembered Noah." *(Place your hand under the volunteer's arm and help them hold the bucket up.)* God gave him this humongous task *(point to bucket)* of building a boat to save his family and every type of animal in the world. But God was with him, helping him the entire time. And you know what—it's the same for us. Sometimes it might be hard for you to obey, but in the same way that God remembered Noah, God remembers you too. God doesn't just say "obey" and then walk away. He sticks with us the entire time and gives us the strength to do what He asks. *(Thank and dismiss volunteer).*

God sticks with us because He loves us and when we obey Him, we're showing that we love Him back. That's what Jesus tells us. Before Jesus was betrayed, arrested and killed, this is what He told his friends *(Read John 14:15 together)*. When we make the choice to follow Jesus and be His friend, we show our love by listening and obeying Him. And Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit will be with us to help us. **Obeying can be hard, but we know that God will help us to do it.** He loves us and we can show our love to Him. *(Lead kids in prayer as you feel led by the Holy Spirit).*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

In today's story, kids learned about Noah and the Flood. God called Noah to do some challenging things. God remembered Noah and we know that God remembers us too. God calls us to obey His commands, and He will help us to do so. Our obedience shows our love for Him.

DO YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO OBEY?

Say: We talked about how it can be hard to obey on your own sometimes. Fortunately, as we learned, "God remembers us." He doesn't just ask us to obey and then leave us on our own. He's right by our side, giving us the strength to do what He tells us. We're going to do an activity right now that's going to help us experience what that's like.

Directions: Give each kid in the group a rock. Tell them that the rock represents something they have a hard time obeying. Ask them to think quietly for a moment what that is for them. It might also be helpful to have them think about the times they most often get into trouble. That's usually an indication that they're struggling to obey. Once they've had a moment to think about what that is for them, ask them to hold their rock out one at a time and tell the group what it is. When everyone who wants to share has had a chance, direct the kids to clutch their rock in their fist and then hold their arm straight out into the middle of the circle. Challenge them to hold their arm like that for as long as they can. They cannot use anything to prop their arm up. After a minute or two, you will see that the kids are beginning to struggle.

Say: Sometimes obeying without any help can be really hard, but like I said before, we're not alone. God is always with us. He gives us the strength to obey Him.

Directions: Tell the kids they can now use their other hand to help them hold their arm up. Tell them that their other hand is like the hand of God. When they begin to use their other hand, you will be able to see the relief in their faces. While your group is still holding their rocks into the middle of the circle, ask the kids to pray with you. Pray in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads you, asking God to give each one of the kids in your group the strength to do what is right.

Afterwards, ask the following questions:

1. What was it like when you had to hold your arm straight out for so long with nothing to help?
2. What did it feel like when you could finally use your other hand?
3. How do you think this relates to God helping us obey?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

*These **additional activities** are completely optional. These activities are meant to fill any time that you may have left. Students can participate or finish their respond activity. Have your adult helper check-out students while you do one or more of the options with the students who are waiting to be picked up by their parents.*

MUSIC BALL:

Bible Story Review Game

Have kids sit in a circle. Play the CD player and have kids pass a ball to the person next to them so it makes its way around the circle. Have one leader ready to pause the music. Whoever is holding the ball when the music is paused gets to answer a question about the bible story from the cards provided.

WORD DROP:

Bible Memorization Activity

Have kids sit in a circle. Place the stack of "Word" cards in the middle of the group. Each card will have a small part of today's Bible verse on it. Begin by having your group sort through the cards and figure out what order they go in. Have them lay the cards in the correct order in the center of the group. Allow your kids to read the completed verse a few times. When finished, have one of the kids in your group roll the dice. If they roll a 1–6, remove that number of cards from the verse. After removing the cards, have your group recite the verse again. (See below for a possible younger kid modification.) Continue doing this until all of the cards have been removed and your group can completely recite the verse from memory. If your group still needs more practice by the end, lay all of the cards back on the floor in the correct order and play another round.

Modification for Younger Kids: Lay the cards in the correct order for the kids to see. Slowly repeat the verse with the kids numerous times so they can begin to memorize it with you. When they seem ready, choose someone to roll the dice. If an even number is rolled, have the entire group recite the verse together. If an odd number is rolled, have everyone in the group make a silly face.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is God's Son?
2. What did God's Son do?
3. What does this verse tell us about God's love?