

## **THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** October 30, 2016

**SUBJECT: GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Noah (2)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 7:17-24; 8:1-22; 9:1-17; Matthew 24:37-39; 1 Peter 3:20

**AIM:** To help the children see (1) God's righteousness in judging the unrighteous people, and (2) God's faithfulness and loving care in saving those who respond to His call.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** 1 Corinthians 1:9a (God is faithful...); Genesis 6:9 (Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; and Noah walked with God.); Genesis 7:5 (And Noah did according to all that Jehovah commanded him.); Psalm 119:89-90a (Forever, O Jehovah, Does Your word stand firm in heaven. Your faithfulness is from generation to generation;)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 25 (I Believe God); 30 (Only Believe); 9522 (Everything We Do and Say); 2503 (Father Noah); 9540 (As For Me and My House); 9410 (I Believe The Promises of God); 9005 (All Things Came Into Being); 15 (Walking With Jesus)

**CRAFT IDEA:** Color a rainbow on the rounded edge of half of a paper plate. Glue cotton balls on the corners for clouds. Write GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES. *Note: If the serving ones use a different craft relating to Noah's ark, please pay attention to accuracy of the picture.*

**BACKGROUND:** Like his great-grandfather Enoch, Noah walked with God. At the time of Noah, man had become so crooked and evil to the point that God decided to destroy man and beast from the face of the earth (Gen. 6:5-7). But Noah lived a righteous life and found grace in the eyes of God. God opened His heart and told Noah of His plan to flood the earth. He also told Noah to build an ark for himself and his family and gave him instructions on how to build it. Noah followed God's instructions and started building the ark when he was about 480 years old. It took a long time to build the ark—about 120 years. During this time, Noah told others around him about the coming flood, but none listened or believed Noah. After the ark was completed, God commanded Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, to go into the ark with all the animals that Noah had gathered. Jehovah then shut the door of the ark.

**CONTENT:** Just as God had said, when Noah was 600 years old, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that very day all the springs of the great deep burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened and the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. Can you imagine how much water gushed out of the springs and fell from the heavens continuously during those days? The flood water increased, lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth, even 15 cubits (approx. 23 feet) above the high mountains. All the living creatures and ungodly people died in the waters. Only eight people remained alive—Noah, his wife, his three sons: Ham, Shem and Japheth, and their three wives. Noah and his family were saved from the judgment of the flood. After the rain stopped, the flood waters were on the earth for one hundred fifty days before they receded.

God remembered Noah and his family who were with him in the ark. God made a wind to pass over the earth and the waters subsided. In the seventh month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. The waters receded and diminished steadily until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark and he sent out a raven; and it went out, going back and forth until the waters had dried up from the earth. Then Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had abated from the surface of the ground. The dove found no place to rest and returned to the ark. Noah waited seven more days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove came back to him

toward evening time with a freshly plucked olive leaf in her beak. Noah knew the waters had gone down. After seven more days, Noah sent out the dove for the third time, and this time, the dove did not return.

Finally, after about one year in the ark, the water was all dried up from the earth. Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. Then God told Noah to go forth from the ark. Eight people emerged from the ark along with all the animals. When Noah came out of the ark, he built an altar to Jehovah to offer burnt offerings to please God. Jehovah smelled the satisfying fragrance; and Jehovah said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I ever again smite everything living as I have done."

God blessed Noah. God made an everlasting covenant with Noah, his children, and with every living animal that never again would there be a flood to destroy man and the earth. God also promised that as long as earth remains, seed time and harvest, the seasons, and day and night, would not cease. The preservation of these natural cycles was very important for life to continue and multiply. God set a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of His covenant with man. Whenever God looked at the rainbow set in the clouds, He would remember His everlasting covenant. Today when we see a rainbow, we are reminded of the promise established by God never to destroy the earth again by flood.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:***Please do not cover all the applications, but pray and fellowship over which ones are appropriate for your age group.*

- **God is a righteous God.** God righteously judged the unrighteous and unbelieving, wicked and corrupt people by the flood. For 120 years, Noah warned the evil and corrupt people of God's coming judgment. Yet they did not believe him nor change their ways and consequently perished in the flood (Matt. 24:38-39). As God's children we should know that what He says, He will do. We should not be deceived; God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7a). Even if others around us may not acknowledge God or may be disrespectful of the authorities He has placed over us (parents, teachers, coaches), we should not join in. We should not use the Lord's name in vain when others are disrespecting His name. We should honor and obey our parents and teachers. We should have a proper fear of God and of authority.
- **God always remembers us and cares for us.** God always remembers us, just like He remembered Noah, his family and the animals in the ark during the flood for a whole year. He did not leave them in the ark and forget about them. He remembered them and saved them from perishing in the flood. He remembers everyone that belongs to Him. He knows our innermost thoughts (Psa. 139:4); He has numbered the hairs on our head (Matt. 10:30). His eyes are always on us. His heart is always caring.
- **God always keeps His promises.** Have you ever promised something but were unable to keep that promise? God always keeps His promises. After the flood, the rainbow was a sign of God's promise to Noah that He would not judge the world by flood again. He also promised to keep the seasons, day and night. With each sunrise and sunset, with every change in season, and whenever we see a rainbow, we are reminded of God's faithfulness in keeping His promises.
- **God is a loving God.** God gave Noah a way of salvation. He loves the people in the world (John 3:16) and very much wants to save them from the judgment of the lake of fire. He wants all men to repent and believe into the Lord Jesus. Like Noah, we can be a herald of righteousness (2 Pet. 2:5), taking the opportunity to tell our friends about the Lord. Even if they might mock us, we are their *real friend* when we are faithful to tell them who God is. We can also invite them to children's meeting and other gatherings where they can learn more about the Lord.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*: Vol. 4, *God's Calling in the Old Testament*, Lesson 5 and the Church in New York City's Children's Meeting lessons: 10/24/93; 10/17/99; 10/30/05; 10/16/11; 10/23/11