



Noah Builds the Ark

Genesis 6:5-22

Third-and fourth-graders are the gatekeepers of the rules. They're keenly aware of who's obeying and who isn't. A child this age may also see obedience as a way to keep the social fabric of his or her world together, even to the point of policing peers. Use this lesson to affirm kids' desire to obey, but remind them that kindness to others, as well as obedience, pleases God.



► **Bible Point**
God wants us to obey.

Key Verse
"We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will create a plan of obedience.

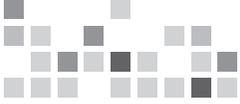
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Instant Arks <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Obey a series of instructions to make parts of a picture.	washable markers, large poster board, ruler, scissors, tape Teacher Pack: "Instant Ark" cards 	Cut apart the "Instant Ark" cards. Hang the poster board on a smooth wall.
2 Bible Exploration	All Aboard! <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Study God's instructions to Noah, and make plans for how to obey.	Bibles, pens, paper, washable markers, tape, scissors, brown paper grocery bag, cardboard shoebox, craft sticks, 1 copy of each of 4 signs (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: "Noah's Ark" poster, Bible Timeline 	Set up the following stations in different parts of the room, each with a Bible, pens, paper, markers, and the additional items listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station 1: "How Big Was It?" sign • Station 2: "Shopping List" sign • Station 3: "Shipyards" sign, tape, craft sticks, scissors, cardboard shoe box, brown paper grocery bag • Station 4: "The Floating Zoo" sign

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Navigational Chart <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Think of ways to help them obey God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Map from the "Navigational Chart" activity	

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Instant Arks Supplies

washable markers
large poster board
ruler
scissors
tape

Teacher Pack
“Instant Ark” cards

Instant Arks Easy Prep

Cut apart the “Instant Ark” cards. Hang the poster board on a smooth wall.

1 GETTING STARTED

Instant Arks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids form six groups, and invite a willing child in each group to be the Artist (he or she won't be allowed to look at the group's instruction card). Then give each group one “Instant Ark” card, making sure the Artist in each group doesn't see the card.

Say: **Each group has a picture on a card that represents your group's directions for creating a picture. We'll go in order of the numbers on the cards and when it's your group's turn, send your Artist up to the poster board to draw. Artists will use a ruler and a marker to draw according to the directions he or she hears from the group.** Pause to allow groups to study their cards and to allow for any questions about the instructions.

Say: **Everyone else in the group, work together to tell your Artist how to draw just the dark black lines you see on your card. Let's start with the group that has card number one.**

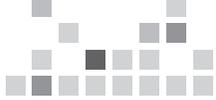
If kids have trouble translating the pictures on the cards, use these instructions as a guide:

- **Card 1: Draw a long, horizontal line across the middle of the page.**
- **Card 2: Draw a horizontal line that's centered 10-12 inches below the first line and is half as long as the first line. Connect the top line to the bottom line on each end using lines that curve slightly.**
- **Card 3: Draw a horizontal line that's centered about 3 inches above the first line, and again, about half as long. Draw two vertical lines connecting the ends of this line to the line below it.**
- **Card 4: Draw four vertical lines equally spaced within the top rectangle.**
- **Card 5: Draw a line centered about 3 inches above the top line, and about 2 inches shorter than the top line. Don't connect the ends.**
- **Card 6: Draw a slanted line extending from each end of the top line down just past the top corners of the rectangle.**

Ask:

- **Group Six can see on their card how the drawing is meant to look. What needs to change on our drawing to make it match what you see on the card?**

If the drawing doesn't look quite right, flip the poster board over and allow kids to try once more.



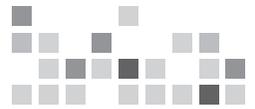
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- When you started drawing, what did you think the picture might be?
- What made it easy or difficult to obey the instructions?
- What makes it easy or difficult to obey instructions at home, at school, or anywhere else?

Say: **Obeing instructions was important in this activity to be able to draw a picture of the ark—a big boat. In the Bible, Noah had to follow God’s instructions exactly to build the ark. God gave Noah clear instructions, while our instructions for drawing the ark were more difficult to understand. Sometimes it’s easy to obey God and sometimes it’s difficult, but ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY either way. Let’s learn more about Noah and why God wanted him to build the ark.**



All Aboard! Supplies

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- Bibles
 - pens
 - paper
 - washable markers
 - tape
 - scissors
 - brown paper grocery bag
 - cardboard shoebox
 - craft sticks
 - 1 copy of each of 4 signs (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack
“Noah’s Ark” poster
Bible Timeline

All Aboard! Easy Prep

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Set up the following stations in different parts of the room, each with a Bible, pens, paper, markers, and the additional items listed below:

- Station 1: “How Big Was It?” sign
- Station 2: “Shopping List” sign
- Station 3: “Shipyards” sign, tape, craft sticks, scissors, cardboard shoe box, brown paper grocery bag
- Station 4: “The Floating Zoo” sign

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

All Aboard!

What You’ll Do

Say: **Today we’re going back in time to the days before the giant flood. Have kids find and point to Noah on the Bible Timeline. Say: In Noah’s time, the world wasn’t a very nice place. All the people in the world, except Noah and his family, were evil and it made God sad. God decided to send a flood that would wipe away all living things and basically start over. Because Noah was close to God, God warned him of what was coming and gave him instructions for building an ark. The ark was a massive boat designed to save Noah, his family, and a small portion of the world’s animals from the flood water that would cover the entire earth.**

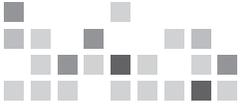
Ask:

- What do you think of God’s plan to give the world a new start?

Say: **In this activity, you’ll have the opportunity to help Noah prepare for the flood. You can choose to work at one of four stations. At Station 1, you’ll make a chart to show how big the ark actually was, comparing it with objects we know about today. At Station 2, you’ll prepare a shopping list for supplies to be taken onto the ark. At Station 3, you’ll build a simple model of the ark. And at Station 4, you’ll decide how to care for the animals on the ark.**

Allow kids to each choose one station and move to it. The stations are designed to appeal to different learning styles, and kids will naturally gravitate toward the activity where they’ll feel most comfortable. If a station is over- or under-represented, invite willing kids to move to another station.





Say: **At each station, you'll find paper and pens for writing or drawing your plans. Save a piece of paper to make a poster to present to the rest of the group. You'll also find a Bible at each station. Begin by taking turns reading Genesis 6:14-22 to learn more about Noah and the ark. Then discuss how your group will approach your project.**

Make sure everyone in your group is involved. You can use the Bible to check out facts and details. You can also use this "Noah's Ark" poster. Hold up the "Noah's Ark" poster. It has directions to help each group with its assignment. Tape the poster to a wall at kids' eye level. Allow kids up to 15 minutes to work. Remind them of their assignments as needed.

Circulate among groups to offer help and encouragement as needed. Guide kids with these hints:

- At Station 1, kids can draw a picture comparing the size of the ark with a man, a bus, a building, a football field, and so on.
- At Station 2, kids can estimate how much hay and water might be needed to supply all the animals. Or they can discuss what different kinds of food may have been taken aboard.
- At Station 3, kids can build a model of the ark, showing the three decks. Kids could then use tape and craft sticks to make and connect a roof to the body of the ark.
- At Station 4, encourage kids to be creative in thinking of how Noah could've situated the animals. For example: How did Noah keep the birds contained, or didn't he? What kind of watering system could Noah have created? Which animals does it make sense to place next to each other?

After 10 minutes, tell kids to begin wrapping up their projects. After another 5 minutes, have each group make its presentation to the entire group. After each group's presentation, lead everyone in a round of applause.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

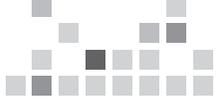
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to obey the instructions given for your projects? Explain.**
- **Compared with your instructions for your projects, how clear were God's instructions to Noah? Explain.**
- **What do you think might have made Noah's task interesting or boring now that you know more about the ark?**
- **What can you learn from Noah's obedience?**

Say: **Noah knew that he could trust God, so he continued to obey God until his task was complete. He didn't give up on obeying God no matter how hard it might've been. ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY, and we can learn a great lesson from the way Noah obeyed God. You can choose to obey God, even when it isn't easy or when it's hard work.**





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Navigational Chart

What You'll Do

Have kids form pairs, making sure new partners weren't in the same groups during the last activity.

Say: **Boat captains usually have something called a navigational chart. It's a chart that tells them where to go and where not to go—sort of like a map for the ocean. Let's make charts to help us navigate our lives to obey God. The first thing boat captains must do is figure out what obstacles might be in their way. Let's figure out some obstacles we might run into when we try to obey.**

Distribute pens and today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids find the "Navigational Chart." Have each child complete the left side of the chart, titled "Obstacles." Let kids finish writing, and then have them discuss their answers with their partners for a few minutes. Invite willing kids to share their answers.

Say: **Next, captains must figure out possible ways to get around those obstacles. We'll do that for our lives, too. If others create obstacles in our lives, how can we still obey God? Our Key Verse, Acts 5:29, says: "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29). Repeat the Key Verse with me.** Lead kids in saying the Key Verse. **Now, work with your partner to think of ways to fill out the right side of the chart, titled "How to Obey."** Give kids a few more minutes to talk and write.

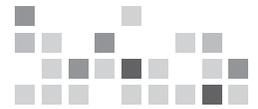
Say: **After captains have made their navigational chart, they use it to create a map that'll help them remember what obstacles to watch for and how to get around them. Let's do that, too! On your Bible Sleuth Truth page, under your chart, you'll see the beginning of a map. Draw pictures to represent the things you listed under "Obstacles." Those are your obstacles to avoid. Allow time for kids to draw. Now you can draw a dotted line from Start to Finish, making your way around the obstacles. Along your dotted line, write the Key Verse to show that following God is the way to get around your obstacles.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What discoveries did you make about things that can be obstacles to obeying?**
- **What did you write for things you can say to someone who's trying to get you to do wrong?**
- **Tell about the people you can turn to for help in obeying God.**
- **What else can help you navigate around the obstacles you came up with?**



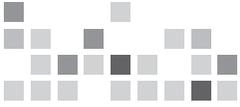
Navigational Chart Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

Navigational Chart Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Say: **Obedying God means trusting that God knows what's best for you. Noah knew that even though obeying God meant a lot of work, God's directions to build the ark would save him and his family. Unlike people, God will never ask you to obey something that's wrong. ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY him because it's best for us. When we obey God, we chart the best course for our lives.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY this week and make a plan of action. Look at the Daily Challenges listed on your Bible Truth Sleuth page, and decide which steps of obedience you'll take for this week. Then discuss it with your partner.**

Kids can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Ask two adults how they've obeyed God in their lives.**
- **Obey your parents the first time they ask you to do something.**
- **Talk to God when it's difficult to obey, and ask for his help.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

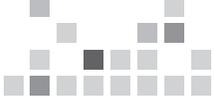
Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.**

Say: **Noah obeyed God by building the ark, and God spared his family in the flood. Let's remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**



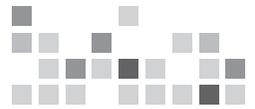


Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about obeying God. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for being someone we can always trust and asking him to help us obey, just as Noah did. Allow time for kids to pray silently about the obstacles they drew on their maps as they trace their finger on the dotted line they made around the obstacles.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

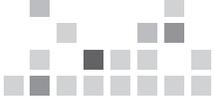
Map from the “Navigational Chart” activity



How Big Was It?

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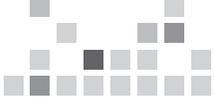
Shopping List

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Shipyards

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The Floating Zoo

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Grades 3 & 4

Lesson 5

Fall Quarter

