



God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16

Many third-and fourth-graders make promises to one another all the time. They promise, “I’ll be your best friend” or “I’ll invite you to my birthday party.” Promises are often disregarded as carelessly as they’re made. Sometimes even promises made by parents and other adults are broken, resulting in disappointment and hurt. Use this lesson to help kids discover that God’s promises are different. In a world of broken homes and broken promises, kids can find comfort in God—who faithfully keeps his promises.



► **Bible Point**
We can count on God’s promises.

Key Verse
“The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made” (Psalm 145:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will discover what’s special about God’s promises.

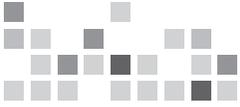
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Promises, Promises <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the difference between promises we make and the promises God makes.	Bibles, 1 index card per child, pens, a permanent marker, medium-size rock	
2 Bible Exploration	Noah’s Photo Album <i>(about 35 min.)</i> Pretend they’re photographing Noah’s experience on the ark, and draw pictures.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, colored pencils Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Rainbow Reminders <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make journals to keep track of God's faithfulness.</p>	<p>CD player, construction paper in at least 6 colors (several sheets of each color), scissors, pens, stapler Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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



Promises, Promises Supplies

Bibles

1 index card per child
pens
a permanent marker
medium-size rock

1

GETTING STARTED

Promises, Promises

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a pen and two index cards.

Say: **With your partner, write on one index card three things other people have promised you and what they did to keep their promise. Maybe your mom or dad promised to take you to your favorite restaurant and took you there for dinner. Or maybe a friend promised to help you pick up your room after playing and kept that promise. You'll have one minute to write three promises. Go!** Allow time. Invite willing kids to share their answers.

Say: **Now work with your partner to write on your other index card three promises you've seen broken. Maybe a friend promised to invite you over to play and then forgot. You'll have one minute to write. Go!** Invite willing kids to share their answers.

After kids have shared, have them tear the cards into pieces.

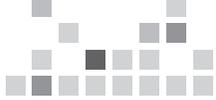
Say: **We've all made promises we sometimes can't keep. Broken promises can leave us feeling disappointed and even torn up—like these cards. But God *always* keeps his promises.** Hold up the rock. **This rock is a symbol of the promises God makes.** Have kids name a few promises God makes, and use a permanent marker to write a one-word summary of each one on the rock. Have kids pass the rock and try to tear it apart, like they did the index cards. Have pairs discuss this question, and then invite willing pairs to share their answers with the rest of the group.

Ask:

- **What's different about the promises on the cards** (hold up pieces of the torn cards) **and the promises God makes?** Hold up the rock.

Give each pair a Bible, and then help kids turn to Psalm 145:13. Read the verse aloud first, and then have kids repeat it with you: **"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).**

Say: **This verse helps us understand that ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES. They're rock solid.** Hold up the rock again. **We can trust God to do as he says.**



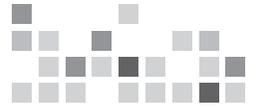
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about promises that are kept?
- What do you *not* like about broken promises?
- What makes it difficult or easy to keep the promises you make?

Say: ► **WE CAN COUNT ON GOD’S PROMISES.** God’s promises never break, similar to the way we can’t tear up the rock. Let’s find out about a special promise God made to a man named Noah.



2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Noah’s Photo Album

What You’ll Do

Have kids form trios, and give each trio a Bible and several colored pencils. Help kids to turn to Genesis 7 in their Bibles.

Say: **Noah and his family were about to start an amazing journey. Often when people go on trips, they take pictures of their adventure to capture important memories. The photos can go into a photo album after the trip to keep the special memories safe. Today we’ll pretend we’re with Noah on the ark to take pictures for Noah’s photo album.**

Distribute today’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids find the “Noah’s Photo Album” section.

Say: **In your trios, read the directions for the “Noah’s Photo Album” activity on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. Allow time. After reading the Bible passage for Photo #1, draw what you imagine would be in that photo. You’ll have four minutes to read and draw before moving on to Photo #2. I’ll play a sound clip for each photo and when it ends, that’ll be your cue to move on to the next photo. Ready? All aboard the ark!**

Play “Life on the Ark” (track 13 on the CD) to provide the appropriate sound effects. “Life on the Ark” has six sets of sound effects to go along with the six photo sections on the Bible Truth Sleuth page. You’ll be instructed to pause the CD at the end of each set. Give kids the time they need between sets to finish reading, and then play the CD again for the next sound effect.

After kids finish drawing, have them join another group to share pictures and discuss each drawing. Allow five minutes, and then have kids sit in a circle.

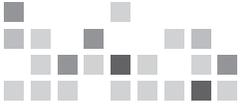
Noah’s Photo Album Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
CD player
colored pencils
Teacher Pack
CD: “Life on the Ark”
(track 13)

Noah’s Photo Album Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of the pictures you drew shows the greatest example of having to rely on God? Explain.
- Tell about the pictures you drew that can help you remember how God always keeps his promises.
- Noah, his family, and the animals had to wait a long time for the flood water to go away as God said it would. What makes it easy or difficult to wait for what's promised to you?
- If you were to draw a picture of a time you knew God kept his promises, what would you draw? Tell about it.

Say: God promised Noah and his sons that he'd never flood the earth again. As a sign of his promise, God put a rainbow in the sky—and still does to this day! God certainly has kept his promise. Every time you see a rainbow in the sky, remember that ► **WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES**. God will never lie to you. There are lots of reminders of God's promises all around us and it's good to write them down. Let's practice doing that now.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Rainbow Reminders

Rainbow Reminders Supplies

CD player
construction paper in at
least 6 colors (several
sheets of each color)
scissors
pens
stapler

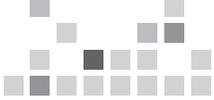
Teacher Pack

CD: "All His Promises"
(Psalm 145:13b) (track
14)

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Journals can be very helpful because they remind us of things that have happened. If Noah had kept a journal, he could have looked back at it any time he ever questioned whether God keeps his promises. One look at how God had taken care of him during the flood would've reminded him that ► **WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S**





PROMISES. And he would've known for sure that God would keep his promise never to flood the earth again. Let's make something to remind us of God's promises.

You'll be making Rainbow Reminders—journals you get to take home. In your journals, you can write about how God keeps his promises or make notes of any reminders of God's promises that you see.

Demonstrate for kids how to cut six sheets of construction paper and layer the sheets in varying colors and lengths (so the colors of the pages show one behind the other). See the photos for an example. While kids work, play "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 14 on the CD).

Staple the edges of each journal, and have kids cut an arc from the bottom right to the top left of their journals to create a rainbow shape. Play "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 14 on the CD) again while kids finish making their journals.

Say: **On the first page of your journal, write your favorite part about the way God kept his promise to Noah.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you write about your favorite part of the way God kept his promise to Noah? Why did you pick that part?**
- **What can you do the next time you have a hard time believing that God will keep his promises?**

Say: **Use your Rainbow Reminders to help you remember that ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES. Keep close watch for how God keeps his promises, and continue to write in your journal about what you see. And every time you see a rainbow, remember the promise God kept to Noah and all of us. Then write a note in your journal to thank God for always keeping his promises.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about ways to remember this week that ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES.**

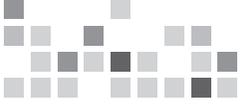
Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:



Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





- Look in the Bible at 2 Samuel 22:31 (God's promises prove true), 2 Corinthians 1:20 (God fulfilled his promises through Jesus), and Hebrews 13:5 (God will never leave you). Write in your journal about which of these promises is most special for you this week, and why.
- Write in your Rainbow Reminders journal at least once this week about a promise you see come true.
- Talk to God about any promises you've made and ask for help in keeping them.

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: **All these years later, God has never flooded the earth since he made his promise to Noah. He kept his promise! Let's thank God that ► WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S PROMISES 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 God's promises. 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 with prayer. Allow one minute for kids to tell a partner why he or she believes God will keep his promises. After pairs share, have them each raise their arms above their heads and join hands to make a rainbow shape. Then pray aloud: **God, thank you for putting a reminder in the sky to show us we can always count on you to keep your promises.** Invite willing pairs to tell God why they believe he will keep his promises. Close with: **We believe in your promises, God. In Jesus' name, amen.**