



**LESSON 1  
NOAH**

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Honors Right Living

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 6–9

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Sin in the world increases so greatly God chooses to destroy the world in a flood. Still, He remains faithful and honors righteousness by saving Noah and his family and establishing a covenant promise with them.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Know that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. —from Deuteronomy 7:9

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: You Are With Me, House of the Lord
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Honors Right Living

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 6–9

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Deuteronomy 7:9

Do you ever have moments where you realize that unless you step up, no one else will? Sometimes it's simple—in my home with my three kids, I often realize the sock on the floor will stay there forever unless I decide to take care of it. Or there are bigger things—a parent needing care and you are the one available to help. Or it's Saturday night and you get called to fill in for kids' ministry on Sunday.

I wonder if this is how Noah felt when he received God's instructions to build the ark. Out of all people on earth, God chose him for a monumental task that probably felt confusing and undesirable. But Noah was righteous, so Noah obeyed. God had seen in him the desire to do what is right—and because of this, Noah and his family were saved from the flood.

Living righteously isn't always fun, and it may not even seem rewarding at the time. The tasks God gives us often involve serving and giving of ourselves. And yet, as we do what God asks us to do, He honors us. He allows us to become more like Him, to grow in faith and good works.

So, whatever task God has called you to today, do it with a joyful heart, grateful that God honors righteousness.

—Denise Morris Snyder

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

“[Noah] was without blame among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God” (Genesis 6:9). Noah’s righteousness is evident in his trust of God throughout the flood story, and God honors him for it. Noah sounds like the Hebrew word for comfort or rest.

**WHAT?**

The world was full of violence and evil. God regretted making human beings and decided to destroy with a flood all life except for Noah’s family and the animals in his care. God faithfully delivered creation by keeping them all safe on the ark and establishing a covenant with Noah after the flood.

**WHERE?**

Noah and his family most likely lived somewhere in Mesopotamia, which comes from the Greek word meaning “in the midst of the rivers.” This usually implies the Tigris and Euphrates River Valley. They landed on Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4), which is in modern-day Turkey.

**WHEN?**

Genesis 6–9 comes shortly after the story of the first murder in Genesis 4. By Genesis 6, sin has corrupted the earth and filled it with violence. God has seen the worst of what humanity can be living under the reign of sin and has become greatly distressed by it.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY**

Noah walked with God, and God honored his righteousness by delivering creation from total destruction. In much the same way, Abraham walked with God. God honored his righteousness with the promise that would lead to Jesus, who delivers us from the power of death and makes all things new.

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

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**Welcome**

**Slide: Series Welcome Loop**

**As kids arrive...**

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

**Video: Countdown**

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

**Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions**

**SUPPLIES:** umbrella

Introduce the kids to Tac, the Curious Cat.

**Leader:** All right, friends, it's time for our visit with Tac the Cat! He is always curious about something. And I'm curious about what he'll be wondering about today. Let's find out!

**Tac the Cat:** Well, hello, my friends! I am so happy to see you today! I brought my umbrella because I heard you talking about rain.

**Leader:** Oh, Tac! We were talking about rain, but it's not actually raining. We did an experiment that looks like rain because we're learning about a time in the Bible when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights!

**Tac the Cat:** Oh! Well, I'm so glad to hear that it's not raining because my friends invited me to go play at the park with them later. But ... it's the park that my mom said not to go to. I'm curious about whether or not it would be right for me to go.

**Leader:** Tac, your friends invited you to the park, but it's a park that you're not allowed to go to?

**Tac the Cat:** Yeah. I'm wondering if it's right to go because I want to go. Or would it be wrong to go since my mom said I'm not allowed to? Hmm ... what do you think, kids?

(Allow the kids to respond to Tac.)

**Leader:** That's a great question, Tac. I'm glad you're thinking about this. God honors us when we do the right thing.

**Tac the Cat:** Oh, really? Wow! Doing the right thing can be hard, but I do want to obey God and my mom because I love them.

**Leader:** That's right, Tac. So, what do you think is the right thing to do today? Go to the park or obey your mom?

**Tac the Cat:** The right thing to do is to not go to the park and to obey my mom.

**Leader:** Yes, Tac! You made a wise decision. I'm proud of you. Instead of going to the park, I bet you can go play outside at your house now since there's no rain.

**Tac the Cat:** Great idea! I just got a new ball that I can't wait to try out. See you all next time!

**Leader:** Bye, Tac!

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: how do we know what is right?"** Allow the kids to respond. **"Why does God want us to do what is right?"** Allow the kids to respond. **"We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God feels and responds when we make right choices?"**

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

**"Today's Wonder Truth is GOD HONORS RIGHT LIVING. The word honor means to give great respect and value to someone. It's very special to God when we live for Him. Today we'll discover that God honors right living!"**

## **Declaring God's Wonder**

### **SLIDE: DECLARATION**

Show the Declaration Video or Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat.)

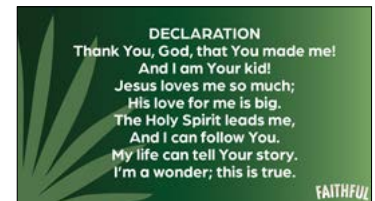
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words, with this prayer as a guide if needed: **"God, thank You for this time to learn about You from Your Word. We pray that Your Spirit will guide our hearts and minds to understand Your great love for us. Help us see that You know what's best for us and You honor right living. In Jesus' name, Amen."**

## Worship

"Today we're learning that God honors right living.

We'll learn in God's big story how God is faithful as He protects and blesses a man and his family who live right!"

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: You Are With Me, House of the Lord**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (*Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

**"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible."**

**VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY**

## GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, toy person figure, toy boat, toy animals, spray water bottle, white paper, coloring utensils (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple), large cardboard box (optional), blue shredded paper (optional), umbrella (optional)

Before beginning God's Big Story, gather the toy person figure, toy boat, spray water bottle (or blue shredded paper for water), and toy animals to show during the story. Use a sheet of paper and coloring utensils to draw a simple rainbow to show at the end of the story. You can make your own pretend boat with a cardboard box.

**"In the beginning, God created everything that exists. He created day and night, water and land, plants and animals. Everything! And God made people in His own image—to reflect what God is like when we love each other and care for His creation. The first people God made were Adam and Eve, and when they disobeyed God, sin entered the world. Sin is the wrong things we do that separate us from God. Sin became part of all people and all things. Creation had gotten a little messed up.**

**Adam and Eve's family grew, and all the people who were born sinned. Many years passed and the earth was filled with people who sinned and sinned. God saw how sinful and mean people had become, and He was very sad and decided to wipe out the people.**

**However, God's love for us is unending, and He remained faithful to humans. God saw one person who was not sinning. He was living right and loved God. His name was Noah. Show toy person figure. Noah was a good man who made right choices and showed through his actions that he trusted God. God was happy with Noah because he was living right! God was going to save Noah and his family.**

**God told Noah to build a giant boat called an ark. Show toy boat. God gave Noah specific instructions for building the ark and told him He was going to make it rain for 40 days and 40 nights. God also told Noah to gather every kind of animal onto the ark—one male and one female of some kinds and seven pairs of others. Show toy animals. If the boat is big enough, put all the animals on the boat (or let the kids help put the animals on the boat). Noah was faithful to God and did "everything the LORD commanded him to do" (Genesis 7:5).**

**Then it started raining. Hard! Spray water (or sprinkle shredded paper) on and around the toy boat. You can also hold up the umbrella and let a kid spray water toward you. The skies began to pour like giant waterfalls. It got very dangerous outside. On that day, Noah, his wife, and his sons' families boarded the ark. All the animals and birds got in their places. Then, like a parent tucking in their kids for bed, "the Lord shut [Noah] in" the ark to keep him safe (Genesis 7:16).**

**And it kept on raining. The waters reached higher than any mountain top, and everything that wasn't in the ark was destroyed. The waters flooded the earth for 150 days while Noah and his family (and all of the animals) were on the ark. But God remembered Noah's family and the animals on the ark. After many days of being on the ark, God "sent a wind to sweep over the earth. And the waters began to go down" (Genesis 8:1).**

**The ark eventually came to rest on dry land, and Noah, his family, and all the animals came out of the ark. Take the toy person figure (and animals) off the boat. Noah built an altar, which is a stack of stones, and worshiped God.**

**God was pleased to see Noah worshiping Him and blessed Noah and his sons and told them to have lots of kids and fill the earth. God gave them the job of taking care of the earth and all the animals.**

**Then God made an unbreakable promise—a covenant—with them that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood, and He put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His promise.**

**Show drawing of a rainbow** (or invite a kid to hold it up, pretending it's in the sky above the toy person and the boat).

**Noah showed his right living when He obeyed and trusted God by building the ark, believed God would take care of them in the flood, and worshiped Him once they rested on dry land. And God honored Noah and his family by saving them and blessing them. God honors right living.**

### **Make It Inclusive!**

For kids who need tactile stimulation for learning and focusing, you can get an extra set of the boat and person figure, as well as a bin with blue shredded paper, and let them use the objects to act out the story individually as you tell it.

**Leader Tip:** The Ark Encounter is a life-size replica of Noah's ark from Scripture. Check out the website, [arkencounter.com](http://arkencounter.com), to see photos and videos of this amazing structure that you can share with the kids.



## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HONORS RIGHT LIVING**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The Bible tells us "[Noah] walked faithfully with God" (Genesis 6:9), and we know God honored his right living. Yet even Noah sinned, which means he did wrong things. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned, and He was completely righteous. Jesus took on the punishment of our sin, dying on the cross, and then rising from the grave so our sins can be forgiven! Now, through Jesus, we too can be considered righteous!"

## Prayer and Blessing

In closing, pray aloud with them, thanking God for forgiving us when we are wrong and for helping us do what is right. Use your own words, with this prayer as a guide if needed.

**God, thank You for showing us when we are wrong and for forgiving us. We are grateful that when we follow You, You give us Your Holy Spirit to help us do what is right. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words, with this blessing as a guide if needed.

**Blessing:** May you be strengthened by the Holy Spirit each day to make right choices. May you remember that God honors right living. May you remain faithful to God because His love for you never fails.



