

God Tells Noah to Build an Ark

Genesis 6:9–9:17

3

Lesson



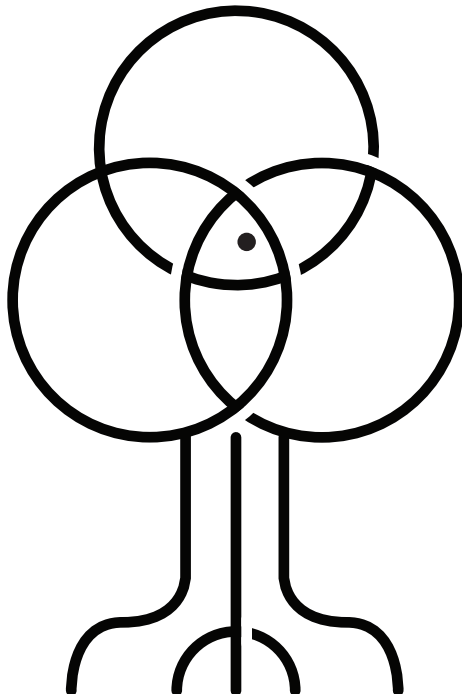
Teacher Background

What Happens: God is sad he ever made the world because there's so much evil. So he decides to destroy most of it with a flood and start over again. He chooses Noah to build an ark and save his family as well as animals and birds. After a long time on the ark, Noah and his family step into a fresh start for the world. God gives us do-overs.

Why It Matters: Kids know that sinking feeling when they've done something wrong. Although this Bible story demonstrates a punishment for sin, it also shows God's mercy and compassion in giving humankind another chance. Help kids see that God gives *them* do-overs.

Think About: Think about a time you got a do-over. What did you do differently?

Pray that your kids will understand God's mercy and experience do-overs.



Point

God gives us do-overs.



Key Verse

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

QUICK TIP

Sometimes kids come into your classroom with a reputation. You may have heard from previous teachers that they're difficult, or experienced that yourself. Give kids a do-over each week. Keep an open mind as you give kids a chance to grow and mature. Pigeon-holing kids into who they have been only prolongs bad behavior.

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER	EASY SUPPLIES
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.	
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Make a mess, then wait in a tarp ark until the storm passes and the mess is gone.	How the flood was a clean start for the world.	Bible Pieces of Paper, 3/Kid Large tarp(s) Spray bottle filled with water
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Get a real-time second chance	That God is faithful to forgive us.	Pieces of Paper, 1/Kid Pencils, 1/Kid
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Unscramble jumbled words.	How God can make things right again.	"God Tells Noah to Build an Ark" Activity Page, 1/Kid
PRAY TOGETHER Get a blessing as teachers shine a rainbow on each child.	The personal connection to getting a do-over.	



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we're going to learn that ➡ **God gives us do-overs.** In today's Bible story, God gave the world a big do-over! Let's start by talking about fun do-overs: things we've done that were so fun, we'd like to do them over again.

ASK: What's something fun you'd like to do over again? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: It's fun to think of doing those things over again! Let's look in the Bible to see how God gave a do-over to the whole world.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Paper
- Large tarp(s)
- Spray bottle filled with water



MAKE A MESS

Distribute sheets of paper, and have kids crumple the papers and toss them on the floor.

Walk around the room, stepping over the papers.

SAY: What a mess! There's sin all over the place. Our true Bible story starts kind of like this. The world God made was a mess—not with trash all over the place, but with *evil* all over the place!

God was sad. He'd made a wonderful world for people to live in, and he made people in his own image! But people sinned so much that the world God had made was full of evil. Listen to how the Bible describes God's feelings.



Read Genesis 6:5-6.

ASK: How does it make you feel to hear that God felt that way about people?

SAY: Thankfully, ➡ **God gives us do-overs.** So he chose a guy who loved him and told that guy the do-over plan.

WEATHER THE STORM



Read Genesis 6:13.

SAY: Then God told this guy, Noah, to build a big boat called an ark. God was getting ready to send a flood to destroy everything he had made, but he wanted to save Noah and his family, plus a pair of every kind of animal and bird. Now *that's* a giant do-over!

➡ **God gives us do-overs**, too. With God's do-over plan, Noah's family and the animals would have a safe place to ride out the flood.

Have kids pretend to be animals, and gather them together. Then cover them with the tarp.

SAY: After Noah finished building the ark and got everyone loaded in, the rain started. Let's imagine what it was like in that boat, listening to the storm.

After kids are hidden under the tarp, quietly pick up all the papers from the floor and throw them in the trash. As you clean, spray the tarp with water. Kids can also bang on the tarp to make thunder sounds.

SAY: It rained for a long time...over a month! For 40 days, the rains poured down. Then the rains stopped.

Stop spraying the tarp, and have the thunder end, too.

COME OUT OF THE ARK

SAY: So was it time to come out of the ark? No! The rain may have stopped, but it had rained so much that the water was higher than the tallest mountain! They couldn't come out because there was no land.

So they waited and waited in the ark. Finally, after over a year on the ark, the land was dry. God told Noah to leave the boat. It was time for a do-over. The earth was just like new and ready for a fresh start for everyone. So come on out!

Let kids come out from under the tarp.

ASK: What was it like waiting and waiting under the tarp?

ASK: What did you think when you came out and saw the clean room?

SAY: When Noah and his family came out, they got a do-over: a clean start.

➡ **God gives us do-overs**, too. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign that he promised never to flood the whole earth again.

And that promise is for us, too! So whenever we see a rainbow, we can remember that's God's promise to us. Whenever God sees a rainbow, *he* remembers his promise to us, too! Plus, God gave us a do-over by sending his Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to clean up our mess of sin!

PRAY: God, thank you that ➡ **you give us do-overs**. We've all messed up; help us do the right thing. In Jesus' name, amen.



CELEBRATE SMALL

Your mixed ages are great for this experience! Older kids can be role models for how to make storm noises and bang on the tarp. And younger kids can help older ones imagine and pretend.





DRAW BLIND

SAY: Today we're talking about second chances because ➡ **God gives us do-overs.** Let's do something to help us think about that a little more.

Give each child a sheet of paper and pencil.

SAY: Now close your eyes. With your eyes closed, try your best to write your own name. If you can't write your name, draw a picture of Noah's big boat. No peeking!

Give kids a minute or two to write their names or draw boats on their papers. Remind them often to keep their eyes closed.

SAY: Now let's all open our eyes and check out our papers.

Give kids a minute to look at their papers.

TRY AGAIN

SAY: It's really hard to write and draw when you can't see what you're doing. Let's try again, but with our eyes open this time.

Give kids each a new sheet of paper and some time to write their names or draw arks.

SAY: Wow, that was so much easier! I'm glad you all had a chance to start over with a new sheet of paper. That reminds me of a Bible verse in 1 John 1:9. It says, "If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."

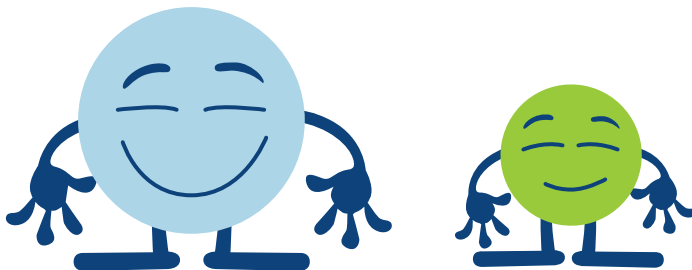
ASK: How is sinning like drawing the picture the first time?
How is it different?

ASK: How is forgiveness like getting a new sheet of paper?
How is it different?

SAY: The Bible verse we read reminds us that ➡ **God gives us do-overs.** When we realize we've sinned, God is always faithful to forgive us and let us start over. It's like God is giving us a clean sheet of paper to try again!

SUPPLIES

- paper
- pencils



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- “God Tells Noah to Build an Ark” Activity Page (1 per child) (page 39)
- “God Tells Noah to Build an Ark” Coloring Page (1 per younger child) (page 40)
- pencils
- crayons

QUICK TIP

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.

SAY: God created the world to be a perfect place! But people made bad choices, and it got all mixed up. The world needed a do-over. Let’s see if you can give these mixed-up words a fresh start by unscrambling them.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Have kids unscramble the words on the activity page, then use the circled letters to solve the riddle.

ASK: How do wrong choices make a mess of our lives?

ASK: How does God help make things right again?

SAY: All the wrong things we do make a mess—like the mixed-up words you started with. But ➡ **God gives us do-overs.** He can make things right again.

ANSWER KEY: WORLD, NATURE, ANIMALS, LIFE, LOVE, PEOPLE;
A MOO-OVER



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- flashlight
- CD or DVD

EASY PREP

- Practice reflecting rainbows from CDs or DVDs to see how this powerful affirmation will work.

SAY: We’re learning that ➡ **God gives us do-overs.** After the flood, Noah and his family had a new start to live God’s way. And God sent a rainbow as a promise that he would never flood the whole earth again.

The rainbow can remind us of the do-over humans got after the flood ended. And God gives each one of us a fresh start. Let me show you what I mean.

Dim the lights as much as possible. Shine a flashlight onto the back of a CD or DVD so that it reflects a rainbow onto a child.

SAY: [Name of child], **God gives you a do-over.**

Continue to shine a rainbow onto kids one at a time, and give them each the same affirmation.

SAY: To make my rainbow, I reflected light off a CD and onto you. When **God gives us do-overs,** it’s a chance to reflect God’s love into the world.

PRAY: God, thank you for giving us do-overs. Help us use our do-overs well and reflect your love to the people around us. In Jesus’ name, amen.



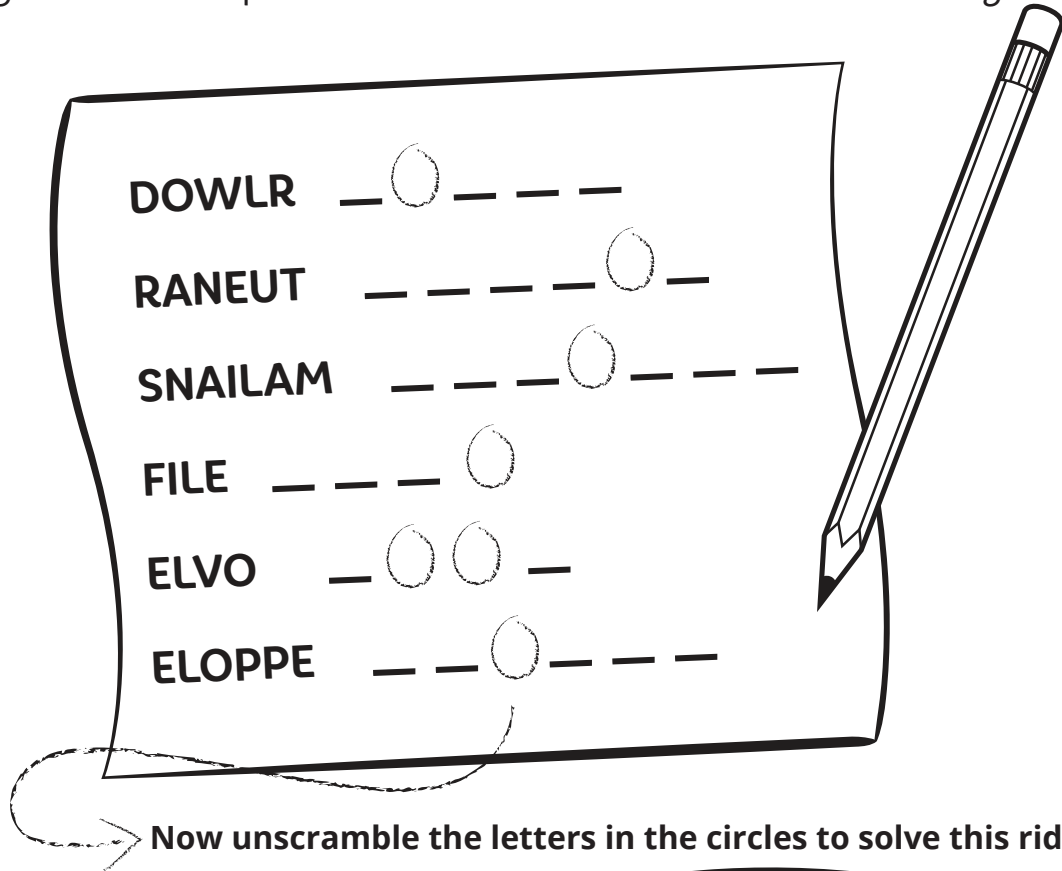
QUICK TIP

Give your preteens a chance to be leaders! Give them the first blessings, then commission them to pass it on to the younger kids.

God Tells Noah to Build an Ark

Activity Page

Everything is all mixed up! Unscramble these words to make them right again.

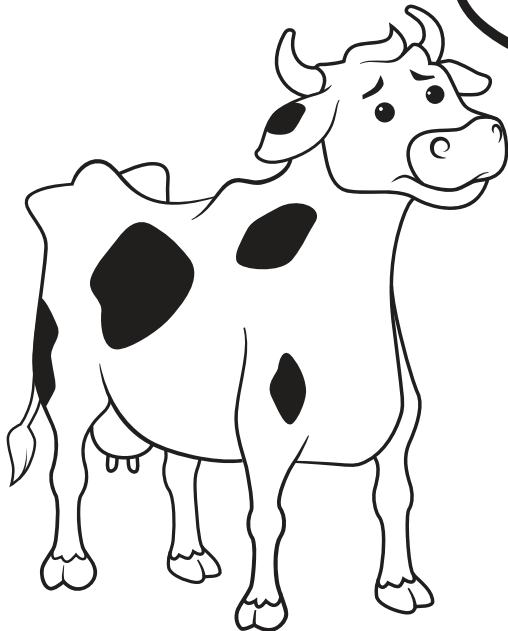


A worksheet with a pencil and a riddle. The worksheet has six rows of words with letters in circles and dashed lines for missing letters:

- DOWLR _ (O) _ _ _
- RANEUT _ _ _ _ (E) _
- SNAILAM _ _ _ (A) _ _ _
- FILE _ _ _ (E) _
- ELVO _ (O) (O) _
- ELOPPE _ _ (O) _ _ _

Now unscramble the letters in the circles to solve this riddle.

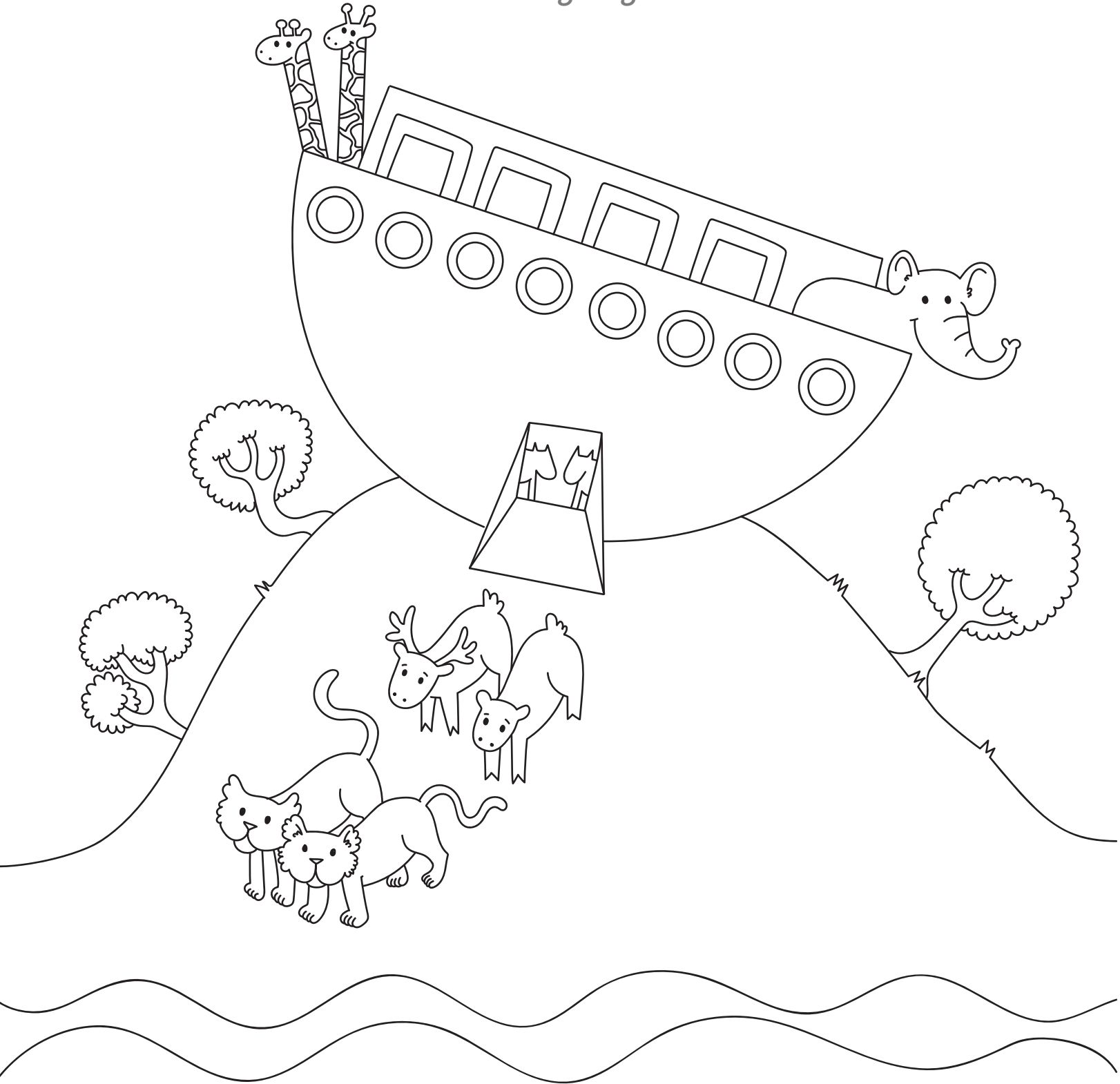
What did the cow ask for when she wanted another chance?



A _ _ _ _ _

God Tells Noah to Build an Ark

Coloring Page



Genesis 6:9–9:17: The world was a mess! People did so many bad things, and God wanted to give the world a new start. So God had Noah build a boat to save some people and animals. Then God flooded the earth. When the flood waters went away, Noah and his family started over again. *God gives us do-overs, too.*