

Unit 2: Promise Builder

Faith Focus: God keeps God's promises.

The LORD carried out just what he had promised. (Genesis 21:1)

SESSION 6

GROW IN FAITH

God's Promise to Noah—Genesis 6:13–9:17

Many of this unit's Bible stories will be familiar. After Noah builds the ark as God instructed, he and his family and all the animals embark on the boat to wait out the flood. Finally, after a long time, the rains stop. Noah sends out two birds. These birds are sent to help Noah know if the land is safe and dry. However, the birds are not ultimately what determines when Noah will leave the ark. Just as God told Noah to build the ark and to load the ark, God remains with Noah and tells him when to get off the ark. Throughout this familiar Bible story, Noah continues to trust God and follow God's instructions. The covenant God makes with Noah—and with us—promises God's faithfulness. God's promise extends to us. In return, God requires our trust and faithfulness.

- Discuss who children trust.
- Explore what it means to make a promise.
- Help children gain a deeper understanding of God's love through understanding God's promise.

SUPPLIES

crayons

colored pencils

scissors

tissue paper in multiple colors

feathers

glue

sticky notes

plastic tub or kiddie pool

water

aluminum foil

tape

newspaper

floor covering (optional)

TV and DVD player or streaming device

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Dove and Rainbow (Art)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 3–6
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

Will It Float?
(Science)

God Says to Noah
(Game)

I Spy a Rainbow
(Game)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the rainbow sticker on the Session 6 space.

SAY: Today we will hear a story about a man named Noah and God.

ASK: Have you ever heard Noah's story before?

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons, colored pencils, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19). Photocopy "A Promise Sign" (Leader Guide—p. 46) for each child.

- Show children the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God keeps God's promises."

ASK: What are promises? Have you ever made a promise? Has someone ever made a promise to you?

SAY: God promised a man named Noah that God would care for the world. God sent a rainbow as a sign of the promise.

- Give children time to color the picture and then use scissors to cut the puzzle pieces out. Help the children put the puzzle back together again.

Dove and Rainbow

Supplies: Activity Sheets, glue, various colors of tissue paper, feathers

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Dove and Rainbow" (Session 6 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Give each child an activity sheet and show the children how to glue colored tissue paper on the matching colors on the rainbow. Let the children glue feathers on the dove.

SAY: God is a creative and loving God. God made the whole world and promised to care for the world. God put a rainbow in the sky to show Noah that God would keep God's promises.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Noah from Genesis 6:13–9:17 in your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How did Noah know what God wanted him to do? What emotions do you think Noah was feeling when he was building the ark?

SAY: Noah believed that God would keep God’s promises.

ASK: Have you seen a rainbow? How do you feel when you see a rainbow?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 6 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

SAY: What do you think it felt like to receive a promise from God?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) and Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) if you haven’t already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Our story today shows that God keeps God’s promises, and that we, like Noah, can count on God. When we trust in God, we can build a beautiful relationship with God because we know God will come through for us.

ASK: When do you trust God? What does it feel like in your heart to trust God?

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note. Invite each child to write their name on the sticky note and place it on the poster near the rainbow. As the children place their sticky notes, invite them to say, “God keeps God’s promises.”

FUN WITH FAITH

Will It Float?

Supplies: plastic tub or kiddie pool, water, aluminum foil, tape, newspaper, floor covering (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Fill a plastic tub or kiddie pool with water. If you do this activity inside, you may want to place a tarp or towels under and around the tub or pool.

SAY: When God came to Noah and told him to build a boat, Noah had never built a boat before! But Noah trusted God and knew God would keep him and his family safe. So Noah followed God's directions and built a boat.

ASK: What makes a boat float? What kinds of boats float?

- Allow children to pick their materials, either aluminum foil or newspaper. Give them time and space to craft a small boat from their materials.
- Invite the children to test whether their boat floats by putting it in the tub or pool.
- As the children test their creations, make observations about how the materials, the size, and the shape of the boat contribute to its success or lack of success floating.

ASK: How did it feel to try to build a boat with these materials?

God Says to Noah

SAY: In the Bible there are a lot of stories about people doing their best to follow God. They weren't always successful and it wasn't always easy to do what God told them to do. But they tried again and again, and God gave them multiple chances.

ASK: Have you ever tried to follow God? What happened? What did you learn about God?

- Invite children to line up side by side facing you.
- Tell them you will play a game like "Simon Says" but instead it will be "God Says to Noah." Lead the children through simple following activities, making sure to say "God says to Noah" when you want them to do the action and then "Noah says" when you don't want them to follow.

ASK: What was it like trying to follow the directions? Was it easy or challenging?

I Spy a Rainbow

SAY: When God made a promise to Noah and creation, God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder. Whenever we see rainbows, they are reminders to us of how God loves us and cares for us.

ASK: Do you ever see rainbows? When? Where?

- Divide the children into pairs or small groups.
- Invite the children to explore your space and see if there are any rainbows to be found. If there are not very many rainbows, challenge them to find all the colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) in your space.

ASK: How did you feel when you were looking for a rainbow? How many did your group find? Where did you find them?

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) for each child.

SAY: We can have faith in God because we know God keeps God's promises. The stories in the Bible tell us about how God kept God's promises to the people who came before us. God gave us a rainbow as a sign that God would take care of creation.

- Gather the children into a circle around you. Invite the children to pray.

PRAY: Repeat after me and do the actions as I do them:

Loving God, thank you for giving us the rainbow (*sweep your arms over your head from your left to your right in a rainbow shape*)

As a sign that you keep your promises (*cross arms over your chest*).

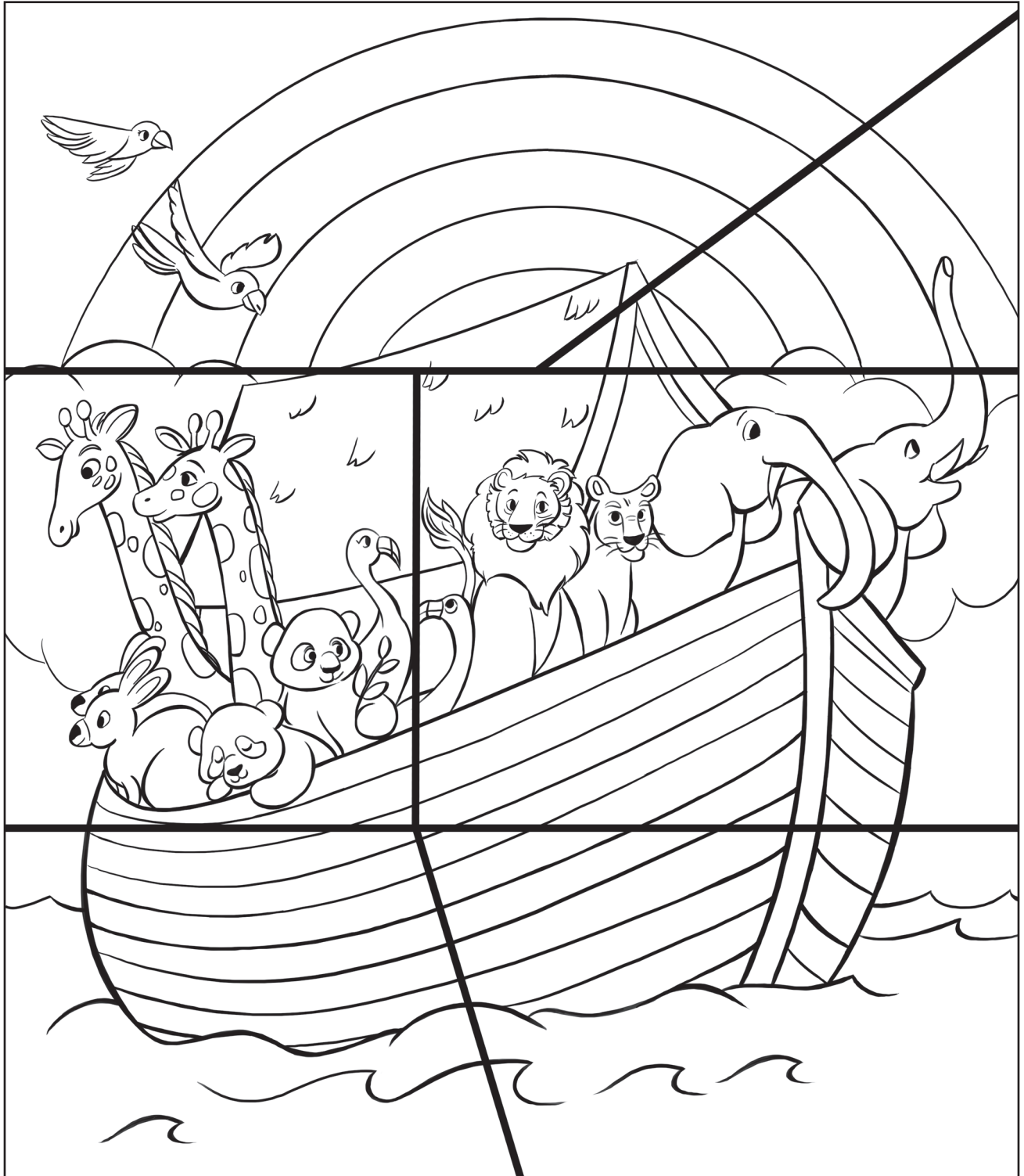
Help us keep our promises to follow you (*put hands together in prayer*)

And care for our world (*open both arms up over your head and bring down to your sides*). Amen.

- Send the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 6 A Promise Sign

Color the scene from the story of Noah. Use scissors to cut out the pieces. Put the puzzle back together again.



Art: Tatevik Avakyan/Illustration Online LLC