WEEK 8

A Rainbow Promise

Big Idea: God is loving. He is always with me.

Memory Verse
***"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5b).**

Word of the Week
"Save" - To save is to rescue or free someone, or something, from danger or hurt.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 7:1-9:17** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 95-106.

Sunday

The Animal Parade

"Come into the ark," God said to His friend Noah (Genesis 7:1). It was time! The ark was big, beautiful, well made, and watertight. It was ready to float.

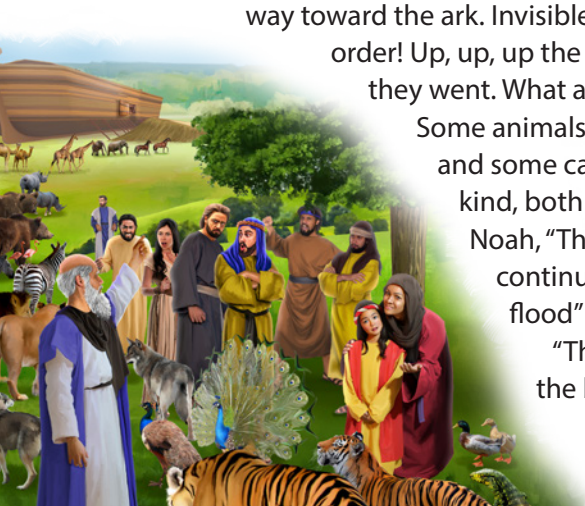
God was ready too. He would wash the earth clean with a flood. With Noah's help He had invited everyone to come into the ark and be saved.

Sadly, the people didn't believe God would send a flood. With loud voices they made fun of Noah and his family, and their big boat sitting on dry land.

Suddenly something quieted the noisy crowd. Their eyes opened wide in surprise. What was happening? Read **Genesis 7:8, 9**.

Tall giraffes, strong tigers, beautiful peacocks, and little ducks came down from the mountains and out of the forests. White birds, black birds, and rainbow-colored birds flew over the trees. Rhinos, fluffy rabbits, and buzzing beetles came too.

Animals waddled, walked, crept, slithered, glided, and hopped their way toward the ark. Invisible angels led them in perfect order! Up, up, up the ramp and in through the door they went. What an amazing animal parade!



Some animals came in twos of the same kind; and some came in seven pairs of the same kind, both males and females. God told Noah, "This will allow all these animals to continue living on the earth after the flood" (Genesis 7:3, ICB).

"There was every creature that had the breath of life" (Genesis 7:15, ICB). The ark had become a great big zoo!

I Wonder

» Imagine you were on the ark. What could you see? hear? feel? smell?

» Which animals would you have liked to feed and care for?

Prayer Idea
Thank God for taking so much care of the animals so we can enjoy them now.

Do
Sing along to "Rise and Shine" (Arky Arky), originally by Heritage Kids. Your family can find lyrics, videos, and audio for this popular song on many online platforms. Alternatively, play a game of charades. Take turns being an animal for the rest of the family to guess.



Monday

Waiting and Trusting

Pigs grunted, parrots whistled, and hyenas squealed. Noah and his family of just eight people must have laughed as they looked around the ark. This was their new home. What a noisy, smelly . . . amazing place!

Outside the ark, the people stared at the boat. They had watched all the animals walk into the ark. They saw the big open door. But they chose not to come into the boat. God longed to save everyone, but He wouldn't force those who didn't want to be saved.

Suddenly the big, heavy door swung s-l-o-w-l-y shut. The Bible says, "Then the Lord closed the door behind them" (Genesis 7:16, ICB).

God closed the door, and only He could open it.

That evening the stars twinkled against the still night sky. When morning came, the sun rose, as usual, in the clear blue sky. For seven days everything in nature stayed exactly the same.

The people outside looked up at the blue sky. *Noah must be wrong*, they thought. *It wasn't going to rain!* They banged loudly on the thick sides of the boat and made fun of Noah and his family.

Inside the ark Noah and his family calmly waited. Why weren't they worried that the rain hadn't come? What had God said to Noah? Read **Genesis 7:4**.

How kind of God to tell Noah exactly what would happen. The family waited patiently, knowing God *always* keeps His word.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time with your child that you needed to trust God's promise "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b).

I Wonder

» Do you find it hard to be patient sometimes? Who can help you?

» Can you think of another promise Jesus has made to us—something that we're waiting for? How can we feel as we wait?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He has told us important things about what will happen in our future.

Do

Every day this week, sing your Scripture Song to your family.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Rainstorm

Thick dark clouds rolled and rumbled across the sky. Thunder crashed and lightning flashed. After seven days of waiting, the storm had come—just as God had promised.

Very soon there was water everywhere! Where had it come from? Read **Genesis 7:11**.

Rain poured *down* from the sky like waterfalls from the clouds. Water that was under the ground gushed *up* through big cracks in the earth.

The floodwater rose higher and higher. "As the water rose, it lifted the boat off the ground" (Genesis 7:18, ICB). The ark started to float.

The ark tossed in the rough water as the strong winds blew. But Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. Even though they were in the biggest, scariest storm the world had ever seen, they knew that God is loving and that He was with them. They believed in the God who promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b).

God had promised to save them, and He would. He sent strong angels to protect them in the ark while the rains came down and the waters came up. When we trust God He will save and protect us too.

I Wonder

» Have you ever seen a big flood or been in a big storm? What did it look like?

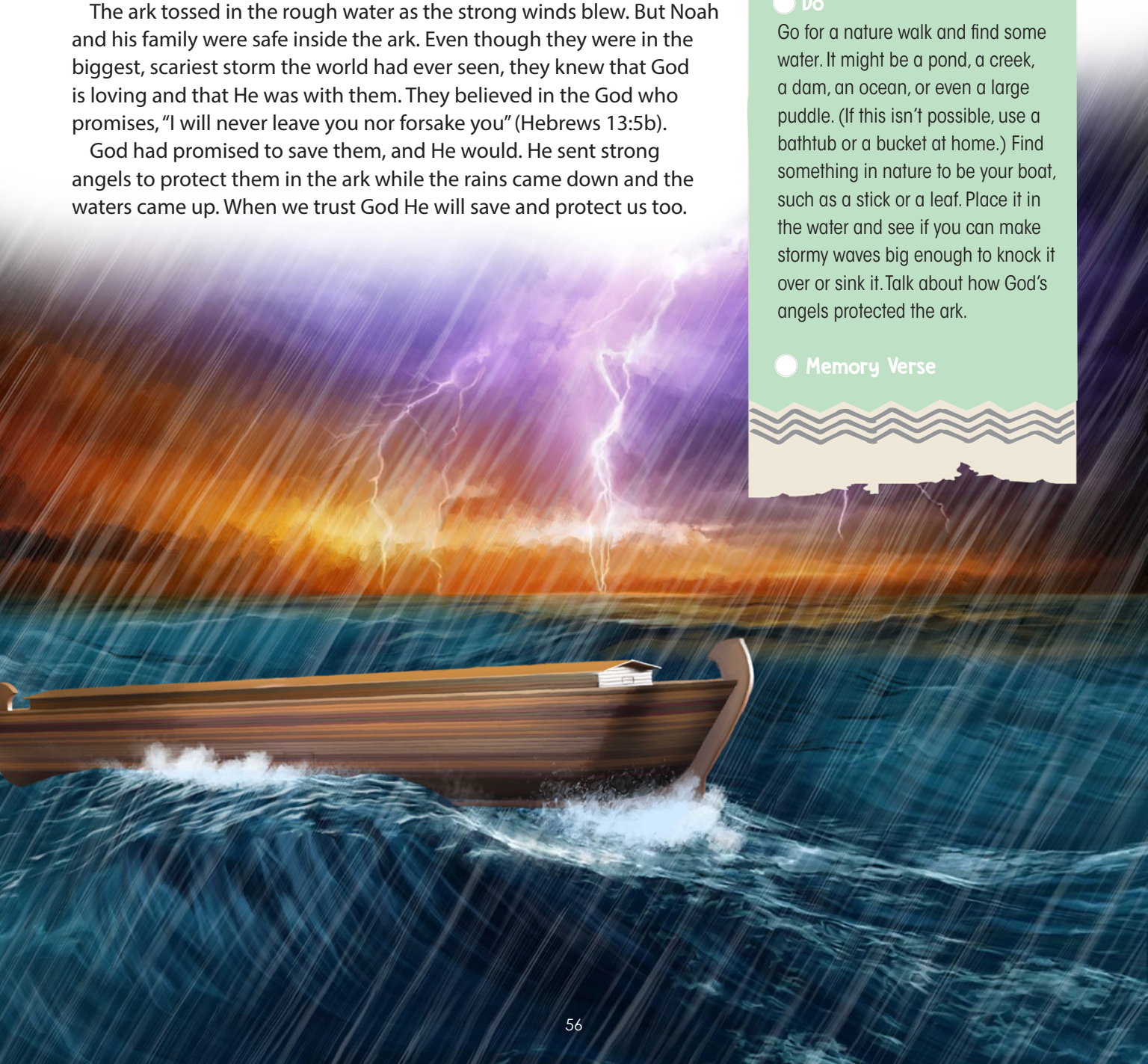
Prayer Idea

Thank God for sending His angels to protect us in the darkness and in scary storms.

Do

Go for a nature walk and find some water. It might be a pond, a creek, a dam, an ocean, or even a large puddle. (If this isn't possible, use a bathtub or a bucket at home.) Find something in nature to be your boat, such as a stick or a leaf. Place it in the water and see if you can make stormy waves big enough to knock it over or sink it. Talk about how God's angels protected the ark.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

More Waiting and Trusting

For 40 long days it rained and rained. Then the wind died down and the rain stopped. All was quiet and still. The ark now rocked gently while monkeys chattered, rabbits snuffled, and lions purred.

Outside the ark, water covered everything! The Bible tells us, "The water rose so much that even the highest mountains under the sky were covered by it" (Genesis 7:19, ICB).

Noah and his family were safe in the floating zoo. But still they must wait and trust the God who had saved them.

After 150 days, with a whoosh and a whirl, "God made a wind blow over the earth. And the water went down" (Genesis 8:1, ICB). Finally the floating boat went *bump*! It had come to a sudden stop. Where had the ark landed? Read **Genesis 8:4**.

No more floating; no more rocking! They were on dry land at last. Noah and his family were so excited! But still the door stayed shut.

One day, after waiting and waiting, Noah opened the window. He gently lifted a raven, and later a dove, into the sky. The birds flew off with a flutter and a flap. *Would they find a new home?* No, they both came back to the ark. There was still too much water around.

After a week Noah sent out the dove again. This time it came back with a treasure: "A fresh olive leaf was in its mouth" (Genesis 8:11, ICB). The waters were going down. Plants were growing again. Their time on the boat was nearly over!

I Wonder

» What might Noah and his family looked forward to most about their new life out of the ark?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to be patient when you need to wait for something.

Do

Lie on a blanket outside and look at the sky with the clouds or stars. Share what you notice. Sing a thankful song to God.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Thanking God

Noah hummed as he fed the animals. Soon they would find new homes and food for themselves. The water around the boat was getting lower and lower. But still Noah and his family waited. God had shut the door to the ark, and now God would be the one to open it.

Creak . . . creak . . . Could it be? After all this time? Yes, it was! God was opening the big ark door! Finally, after a year on the ark, the washed-clean world was ready for them to live in.

God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing" (Genesis 8:16, 17).

Noah and his family smiled excitedly as they stepped off the boat and wiggled their toes in the fresh new grass. They pointed and laughed as they watched the horses prancing, lions wrestling, and foxes chasing each other's fluffy tails.

There was so much to do in this clean earth to make it their home! What did Noah do first? Read **Genesis 8:20**.

Noah collected big, heavy rocks from the ground and stacked them on top of each other to build an altar. He and his family wanted to say a big thank-You to God, so they offered a sacrifice.

Beside the altar, Noah and His family gave thanks to God. God had watched over them and saved them. God promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b). Thank You, God.

I Wonder

» What were Noah and his family thankful for?

» What is something you are thankful to God for?

Prayer Idea

Turn Psalm 106:1, ICB, into your prayer of thanks: "Thank You, Lord, for You are good. Your love continues forever."

Do

Put a small piece of ice on a tray for each person. Tell your child they can have a treat when their ice is completely melted. Even though we have to wait patiently, God always keeps His promises.

Memory Verse





Friday

God's Beautiful Promise

The smoke from the altar rose into the big sky. God was happy to see Noah's thank-You sacrifice. God spoke and said, "I make this agreement with you: I will never again destroy all living things by floodwaters. A flood will never again destroy the earth" (Genesis 9:11, ICB).

Suddenly, as Noah and his family looked up into the sky, a bright, colorful gift from God appeared. What was it? Read **Genesis 9:13**.

Noah and his family looked up to see an arch of colored light in the sky. They could see red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. It was the first rainbow! What a beautiful sight!

God told them that every time they saw a rainbow they could remember that God loves and saves His children. It would also remind them that God would never flood the whole earth ever again.

God is still keeping His promise today. And He always will.

I Wonder

» What is your favorite color in the rainbow?

» What promise did God make when He sent the rainbow?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His beautiful rainbows, and for always keeping His promises.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture or write a list of things you are thankful for this week. Use all the colors of the rainbow to decorate the page.

For You, Parents

"Walk step by step in the path He marks out. Trials will come, but go forward. This will give you an experience that will strengthen your faith in God, and fit you for truest service" (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 273).

Sabbath

God Lights the Way in Myanmar

The sun grew dim behind the trees. "We must hurry; it is getting very dark," said Father.

Win and her family lived in a country called Burma. They had been walking home as carefully and quickly as they could. The path wound its way through a thick forest that led to their home. Normally they walked this narrow, bumpy path in the daytime, when the sun shone brightly and they could see clearly. But today was different. They had begun their trip too late, and now they had no choice but to keep going as best they could.

It wasn't long before Win and her family walked in complete darkness.

Suddenly her brother tripped over a small hole and fell on his knees! "Ouch, that hurt!" he moaned. Win reached out her hand and helped him up. "Are you OK?" she asked kindly. Her brother nodded and dusted himself off.

How would they keep from falling on this dangerous trail?

Then Mother had an idea. "We need to pray," she said. Everyone stopped and huddled together. Father wrapped his arms around the children as Mother said a pleading prayer, "God, give us light to find our way home."

Suddenly a bright light shone on the path ahead. They could suddenly see! The grateful family happily hurried home. The light led them right to the doorstep of their house.

Safe inside their home, Mother lit a candle. In that moment the light outside disappeared. "The light was a gift from God," Mother whispered in amazement. The family knelt down together and thanked God for hearing their prayer and lighting their path.

Win and her family will always remember that day. Whenever Win has a big problem or feels scared, she remembers God's bright light. God promises in the Bible that "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b).

And just as God was with Win in the dark, and Noah on the boat, God will always, always be there with you too.

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I Wonder

- How is the light in the story like the ark in the Noah story?
- What do both stories teach you about God?