

## Session 5

God's special promise

Children realize that God keeps His promises

**Scripture:** Genesis 7–9

**Supplies:**

- Felt or magnetic pictures from the previous week
- New pictures (altar, crow and dove, cloud)
- Pool noodles in different colours (pieces of material, ribbons or rope can also be used)
- Plastic or real microphone
- Green twig with leaves
- Coloured paper cut into strips
- Stapler
- Blue organza material



**Welcome**

Paint 4 different stones with different colours. Let the children walk over them.



**Worship**

**Settle down ritual:** Like the previous sessions



**Word**

5 promises of God:

1. God loves you unconditionally
2. God has forgiven all your sins
3. God has a good plan for your life
4. God gives you strength
5. Don't be scared, God is always with you

*Be very dramatic and take the microphone (or another leader can disguise themselves to be a reporter):*

“Good day, everyone! I heard something terrible happened here last week. I heard about a whole family of people with a bunch of animals that got into a big boat and there wasn't even a sea nearby! What do you know about this?” *(Hold the microphone in front of the children's faces so that they can name something that happened last week.)*

Give them a chance to remind each other of last week's story and where it stopped.

“Wait, wait, I see something is happening here under this material. Let's see what happened next...”

*(Story teller continues)*

Start your board with Noah and his family peeking out behind the ark. You can 1. Use blue organza material to portray the rain, or 2. ask some children to stand on either side of the board and shake blue material in front of it to portray the wild water.

Genesis 7 *(Tell with expression)*: Noah, his family and all the animals and birds went into the ark and Noah locked the door. It started to rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Tremendously heavy rains came down on the earth day and night. As the water became more and more, the ark slowly but surely started to rise up until it finally floated. The water levels rose every day. The ark began to sail on the water. Soon there was so much water on the earth that the highest mountaintops were covered. The water went higher than 7m above the highest peaks. Everything on earth was destroyed. Everything that was breathing, was destroyed. Everything and everyone was wiped off the face of the earth by the water. Only Noah and those with him on the ark survived.

For 150 days the water mass spilled over the whole earth. God thought of Noah and his family on the ark, and the animals with them, and then the water levels started to go down. *(Let the blue material down and put the picture of the cloud on the board.)* All the underground fountains stopped flowing and all the dark clouds began to disappear. The water went down until you could see the mountaintops again. Another 40 days later Noah opened a window and let a crow fly. *(Give a picture of the crow to one of the children to fly around the room.)* It flew all over the water and it couldn't find a place to perch. A week later Noah sent out the dove *(give a picture of the dove to one of the children and let them fly it around the room)*, and by the evening the dove came back with a small twig from an olive tree in its beak. *(Take the little twig with fresh leaves and show it to the children)* Noah waited another week and sent the dove out again. It didn't come back and Noah knew that the water had gone down so much that you could get back to dry land. Noah opened the ark's door and saw that the land was dry. God told Noah: "You can come out of the ark. You and your wife, your sons and their wives. *(Take Noah and his family out from behind the ark and put them next to the ark. Bring all the animals out. Take a few pictures of animals from behind and put them next to the ark.)*

Noah built an altar to God. *(Put the altar on.)* He took some of the pure animals and birds as offerings to God. When God smelled the lovely scent, He said: "I will never curse the earth because of people again, since mankind is bad from a young age. I will never do something this terrible again. Never again will I destroy mankind like this again. As long as the earth exists, the time for planting, harvesting, cold and warmth, summer and winter, day and night won't stop existing." God then told Noah and his sons: "I will make an arrangement with you and your children and all the animals on the ark. Never again will a flood kill all people and animals. I will give you a sign of this arrangement: Look, high in the clouds, I will put a rainbow. It is a sign of my arrangement between the earth and me. Every time it rains and you see the rainbow in the clouds, I will think of the arrangement between me and you and all living creatures, that they will never be destroyed by a mass of water again." And that is God's promise.

God gave Noah and his family an order to populate the earth from the start again.

Children reflect on the story:

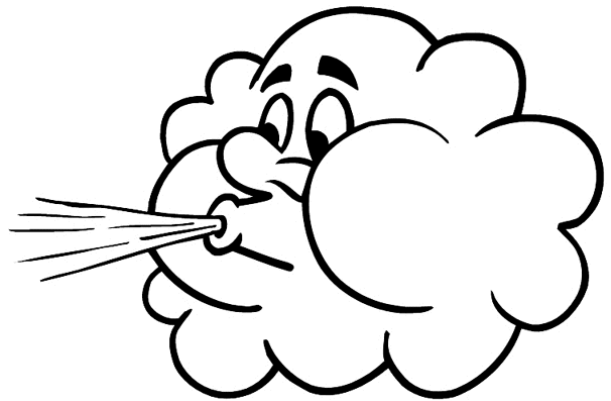
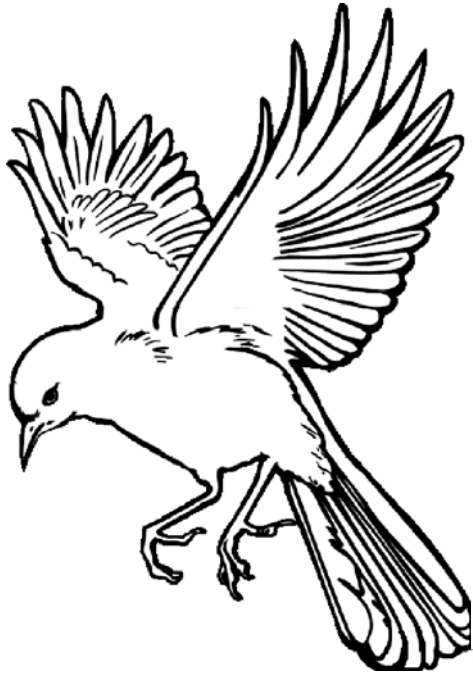
1. I wonder when last you saw a rainbow.
2. I wonder how Noah and his family felt when they walked out of the ark.
3. I wonder what Noah said to God while he brought the offering.
4. I wonder what the promise of the rainbow means to you.



### Working and Playing

- Help the children make a rainbow from paper. Older children can write some of God's promises on the rainbow before they colour it.
- Paint rainbow colours in a cake pan that is covered with tin foil. Spray shaving cream on top. Let the children draw pictures in the shaving cream with their fingers. The rainbow colors will shine through.

**Closing prayer to end the session**



God's Promises

