

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 2

God's Covenant with Noah



God's Covenant with Noah

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To learn God's covenant with Noah and all of creation after the flood and to continue to build on the reality that God has kept and will keep every promise He has ever made.

Key Verses

Genesis 9:8-17—Main Teaching Passage

Genesis 6-9 (Context)

2 Peter 3:6-7

Matthew 24:37-39

Memory Verse - Genesis 9:13

"I have put My rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of the covenant between Me and all the earth. "

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Genesis 3:15

Take the matza bread and the regular loaf of bread and show them to the class. Have the students describe the feel and texture of the different breads. Explain to the students that the difference between the two breads is yeast. That a tiny little bit of yeast mixed with flour will work its way through the whole batch and cause the bread to rise. The same way, the sin that started out with Adam and Eve quickly infected the whole world.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In the beginning, everything was very good, but after sin came into the world, things went from bad to worse, to much, much worse. Things got so bad that God decided to destroy every living thing with the exception of one man and his family. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. God told Noah about His plan to destroy the world, and gave Noah instructions to build a big boat called an ark so that Noah, his family, and two of every animal, male and female, could be saved. Noah obeyed.

When the ark was finished, God brought two of every kind of animal onto the ark, then Noah and his family went in. God shut the door. The rain came. For 40 days and 40 nights it rained. Water covered the face of the whole earth. Even the mountains were covered! But Noah and his family remained safe in the ark, where they remained for about a year. At God's command, once the waters had come down, Noah, his family, and all the animals left the ark, and Noah built an altar and worshipped the LORD.

After the flood, God promised that He would never again destroy the earth by water. He blessed Noah and his family and instructed them to multiply and spread out all over the earth. Then God gave Noah a sign of His promise never to destroy the earth with water. God put the rainbow in the clouds to be a reminder of God's covenant (special promise) between Him and all the earth.

LOOK

The interpretation and exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

Last week we saw God respond to Adam and Eve's failure with a promise of a coming Rescuer (Genesis 3:15). Hundreds of years went by and that Rescuer never came. People grew more and more wicked as the years went on. Sin and Satan appeared to be winning. Things got so bad that God finally decided to destroy everyone. Had God forgotten His promise? Maybe He had made a promise He couldn't keep?

Not at all! God's promises can never be broken. There was one man (out of the millions on the planet) who walked with God and did what was right. Have you ever felt like you were the only one doing what was right? Noah found grace in God's sight and God established His covenant (special promise) with him

The interpretation and exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

(6:18). God's promise to send a Rescuer was preserved as Noah and his family were rescued from the flood

After a year of living in the ark with all the animals (and bugs!) and being rescued from the flood, it was like a fresh start for humanity as Noah and his family left the ark. The world's population went from millions and millions of people to just 8. It must have been a strange thing to walk out into this new world. The animals scattered. There were no cities. No crowds. Just whoever and whatever came off the ark.

To that quiet world, as Noah made an altar and worshipped the LORD, God made another promise. Never again would he destroy the world with a flood. The sign of this promise would be the rainbow. That beautiful display of colors after a storm was put there by God to remind us of His promise—a promise He has kept ever since, and is still keeping today.

But the Rescuer still had not come. Sin could only be punished in a flood, not washed away. Sin was still at work in Noah's heart and his descendants. But God's promise remained. God would soon choose a man through whom the Promised Rescuer would come. We'll learn more about that next week. For today, let's take heart in knowing that God has kept this promise not to flood the world. Every rainbow we see should lead our hearts to worship Him. He is the one who keeps every promise.

TOOK

As a class, memorize Genesis 9:13.

Pray: Praise God for rescuing us from destruction, like He rescued Noah and his family. Thank Him for the gift of the rainbow to remind us that God keeps His promises.

Family Question: What did God promise Noah after the flood?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Genesis 9:1-17 by David Guzik

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH AND CREATION

A. God's covenant and instructions to Noah.

1. ([Genesis 9:1-4](#)) Instructions for living in a new world.

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move *on* the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood.”

a. **Be fruitful and multiply:** The world Noah entered from the ark was significantly different from the world he knew before. God gave Noah the same kind of mandate He gave Adam in the beginning of creation ([Genesis 1:28](#)) since Noah essentially began all over again.

b. **Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you:** Even as Adam received instructions for eating ([Genesis 1:29](#), [2:15-17](#)), so did Noah. Yet now, Noah received specific permission to eat animals, permission Adam was not given (as far as we know).

i. Perhaps this was because the earth was less productive agriculturally after the flood, because of the ecological changes mentioned in [Genesis 9:1-3](#) and [8:22](#). Therefore God gave man permission to eat meat.

c. **The fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth:** If man now could and would eat animals, then God would help the animals. For their protection, God put in them a fear of mankind.

i. Again, presumably before the flood, man had a different relationship with the animals. God did not put this fear in animals because man did not look to them as food.

ii. “Did the horse know his own strength, and the weakness of the miserable wretch who unmercifully rides, drives, whips, goads, and oppresses him, would he not with one stroke of his hoof destroy his tyrant possessor? But while God hides these things from him he impresses his mind with the fear of his owner, so that... he is trained up for, and employed in, the most useful and important purposes.” (Clarke)

d. **But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood:** God also commanded Noah that if animals were killed and eaten, there must be a proper respect for the **blood**, which represents the life principle in the animal ([Leviticus 17:11](#), [17:14](#) and [Deuteronomy 12:23](#)).

i. The importance of the idea of **blood** in the Bible is shown by how often the word is used. It is used 424 times in 357 separate verses (in the New King James Version).

ii. The respect for blood isn't based on mysticism or superstition, but simply because **blood** represents the **life** of the being, whether animal or human. When **blood** is poured out, **life** is poured out.

Blood was the sign of mercy for Israel at the first Passover ([Exodus 12:13](#)).

Blood sealed God's covenant with Israel ([Exodus 24:8](#)).

Blood sanctified the altar ([Exodus 29:12](#)).

Blood set aside the priests ([Exodus 29:20](#)).

Blood made atonement for God's people ([Exodus 30:10](#)).

Blood sealed the new covenant ([Matthew 26:28](#)).

Blood justifies us ([Romans 5:9](#)).

Blood brings redemption ([Ephesians 1:7](#)).

Blood brings peace with God ([Colossians 1:20](#)).

Blood cleanses us ([Hebrews 9:14](#) and [1 John 1:7](#)).

Blood gives entrance to God's holy place ([Hebrews 10:19](#)).

Blood sanctifies us ([Hebrews 13:12](#)).

Blood enables us to overcome Satan ([Revelation 12:11](#)).

2. ([Genesis 9:5-7](#)) God gives to man the right and responsibility of capital punishment.

"Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

**"Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed;
For in the image of God
He made man.
And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Bring forth abundantly in the earth
And multiply in it."**

a. **Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning:** According to God's command, when a man's blood is shed there must be an accounting for it because **in the image of God He made man**. Because man is made in the image of God, his life is inherently precious and cannot be taken without giving account to God.

i. **By man his blood shall be shed** means because life is valuable; when murder is committed the death penalty is in order.

ii. In its original languages, the Bible makes a distinction between *killing* and *murder*. Not all killing is murder because there are cases where there is just cause for killing (self-defense, capital punishment with due process of law, killing in a just war). There are other instances where killing is accidental. This is killing, but not *murder*.

iii. The Bible also consistently teaches that the punishment of the guilty is the role of human government ([Romans 13:1-4](#)) to restrain man's depravity. It also teaches that the guilt of unpunished murder defiles a land ([Numbers 35:31-34](#)). As Luther said, "God establishes government and gives it the sword to hold wantonness in check, lest violence and other sins proceed without limit" (cited in Boice).

b. **From the hand of every beast I will require it:** To see the strength of God's command, He even requires a reckoning for the life of man from **every beast**. God does not condone the unlawful killing of any kind.

c. **Be fruitful and multiply:** This point was repeated because it needed emphasis. The earth badly needed repopulating.

3. ([Genesis 9:8-11](#)) God makes a covenant with man and with all of creation.

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that *is* with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

a. **I establish My covenant:** This covenant was made with mankind (**you and your descendants after you**), and even with the animals (**every living creature that is with you**). God promised He would never again destroy all with a flood or cover the earth with a flood. This was a repetition and clarification of the promise God made in [Genesis 8:21-22](#).

i. “It cheered my heart, when thinking this matter over, to remember that although I depend upon covenant faithfulness, I am not alone in that dependence, for every living thing upon the face of the earth lives by virtue of the immutable covenant of God. Covenant engagements preserve the world from flood; were it not for that covenant, the tops of the mountains might be covered to-morrow.” (Spurgeon)

b. **Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth:** God did not believe He did something wrong or too harsh in the flood. He made the promise because He did things in the post-flood world to guarantee that the exact evil conditions of the pre-flood world would never be precisely duplicated. These things included the imprisonment of the angels who sinned with human women ([Jude 6](#)) and shortening the lifespan of man.

i. However, when things again become *similar* to the days of Noah ([Matthew 24:37](#)), God will destroy the earth — but by fire, not by flood ([2 Peter 3:1-7](#)).

4. ([Genesis 9:12-17](#)) The sign of God’s covenant.

And God said: “**This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.**” And God said to Noah, “**This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.**”

a. **This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature... the covenant between me and the earth:** This impressive covenant was made not only between God and humanity, but God made the promise to all creation, including the animals and the **earth** itself.

b. **I set My rainbow in the cloud:** Because the blanket of water vapors was released in the flood and the water cycle of the earth changed after the flood, this may be the first occurrence of a **rainbow**. God used the rainbow as a sign to Noah and all generations that He would be faithful to His covenant.

c. **It shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth:** Every time we see a rainbow, we should remember the faithfulness of God and every one of His promises. He even says His covenant of peace with us is just as sure as His covenant with Noah and all generations.

i. *For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has mercy on you* ([Isaiah 54:9-10](#)).

d. **I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant:** The other mentions of a **rainbow** in the Bible are set in the context of God’s enthroned glory ([Ezekiel 1:28](#); [Revelation 4:3](#)). If God set a rainbow around his throne, it is impressive that He set so close to Himself a reminder of His promise to man.

i. God does not only look at the rainbow on earth and remember the covenant; He also looks at the rainbow

that surrounds His throne. God is committed to remaining faithful to His covenant.

ii. On the same principle, the believer *glories* in the sovereignty of God, because he knows God's sovereignty is *on his side*. It means no good purpose of God relating to the believer will ever be left undone.