

The Building Blocks Learning Program

Preschool Sample Lesson & Parent Sheet

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Lesson 1

Noah - A Builder With Faith

Genesis 6:9-7:10

Objectives

To help children understand that...

2s & 3s - God told Noah to build a great big boat (or ark). Noah obeyed God because he had faith in God. He believed God without needing to see proof that a flood was coming.

4s & up - God told Noah to build an ark. Noah obeyed God and worked for many years on the boat. Noah obeyed God even though everyone around him didn't listen to God. Noah had faith in God and did just what God told him to believing that a flood was on its way.

The Bible Story

Many years after Adam and Eve there was a man named Noah. Noah was a good man and he pleased God. There were also lots of other people on the earth at that time. None of them pleased God. They ignored God. They did all the things that God said not to do. They were too busy living their lives and doing bad things. They made God very sad. God was so sad that He wished He had never made people!

God had a plan. He would destroy everything on the earth. All the people, and all the animals—everything but Noah and his family and the animals on the ark. Noah often walked with God. Perhaps it was on one of these walks that God told Noah to build a great big boat. God told Noah exactly how it should look and what it should be made of. Noah listened carefully to God's instructions. Noah built the boat just like God told him to!

Day and night for more than 100 years Noah worked on the boat. Surely all of Noah's neighbors laughed at him.

"What will you do with a great big boat like that?" a neighbor might have chuckled as he passed Noah hard at work on the ark.

"There's no sign of rain! Silly Noah, why do you waste your time on such a huge boat?" another neighbor might have shouted.

The laughs of Noah's neighbors didn't keep Noah from working on the big boat. The fact that there was no sign of rain or a flood didn't stop Noah from working on the big boat. Noah believed God. He knew if God said to build a great big boat he should build it so he kept right on working!

Finally the day came when Noah finished the gigantic boat. Noah went about gathering pairs of animals just like God had told him to. Inside the boat there was a place for them all. He also gathered lots of food for he and his family and for all the animals. He did everything just like God told him to.

So when Noah and his family finally entered the great big boat he was 600 years old. He shut the door and waited. And waited. And waited. For days Noah and his family waited inside the big boat along with a big boatful of

animals. Can you imagine what his neighbors were saying about him now?

"That silly Noah! Can you believe he is sitting in that big boat he built along with all those animals?"

"Wow! How long will crazy Noah sit in the ark waiting for it to rain?"

But Noah trusted God. He believed that God would send rain just like He said He would. Noah kept waiting inside the big boat.

And then on the seventh day it started raining, and raining and raining! It rained harder than it ever had before. So hard that all the people and all the animals outside the boat were destroyed. Noah and his family and all the animals were all safe and snug in the great big boat Noah built! How glad Noah was that he had faith in God and did just what He said to do!

Bible Story Time

1. Story Telling Tools

What you will need:

1. Tools - these can be real or plastic
2. A tool box or bag
3. A Bible and a children's Bible



Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Read in your Bible and a children's Bible about how Noah built the ark just like God told him to.
2. Place the tools in the tool box or bag

At Story Time...

1. Gather the children together and begin by letting them know that today we are going to be talking about a man in the Bible who God asked to build a great big boat. This is probably a man they have all heard of before. His name was Noah.
2. Describe how when Noah was living people were doing many bad things. They didn't listen to how God wanted them to live. That's why God asked Noah to build a great big boat. Noah was the one man who pleased God and he wanted to protect Noah and his family from the big rain and flood that would be coming.
3. Every day Noah would work on the boat. He would cut boards. Remove a saw from the tool box and pretend to saw with it. As you are sawing have the children pretend to do this as well. Then take out a hammer and pretend to hammer as the kids use their own imaginary hammers. Continue demonstrating how to use the tools as the kids act it out along with you. Help the children to grasp that Noah worked on the boat for a long time. And all this time there was no sign of a flood coming that would be destructive like God said it would be. Still Noah continued to work on the boat! That's because he believed that what God was telling him was true.

4. Go on to describe how after the boat was all finished and the animals were all loaded up it still didn't look like it would rain. Noah still believed God and just kept on waiting! He continued to believe that what God said He would do was true. When someone believes something but there is nothing that they can see to show them it is true, we say that person has faith. Noah had a lot of faith!

5. Finally, it did start to rain. It rained and rained and rained. It did flood everything just like God said it would. And all the people who didn't believe God were destroyed just like God said they would be—everyone but Noah, his family and all the animals he had in the ark!

6. Help the children to see that God probably isn't going to ask them to build a great big boat. He has asked them to obey their parents though—even when it doesn't make sense. What are some other things God has asked us to do in the Bible? If we believe what God says we will obey those things just like Noah obeyed God and built the ark!

Alternative: If you don't have tools to share with the children that you feel are appropriate, pictures of tools will work too. Check catalogs, magazines or the newspaper for pictures. Simple drawings will also work!

2. Faith = Obey Chat

What you will need:

1. Your Bible and a children's Bible

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Read about how Noah demonstrated his faith in God by obeying God and building the ark.

At Story Time...

1. Ask the children if they do what their parents tell them to. Do they put their toys away when asked or stop fighting with a brother or sister when they are supposed to? Allow the children to share and come up with additional examples of how they might do what their parents tell them to.
2. Help the children to see that when we do what our parents ask us to do we are obeying. Sometimes we don't understand why they want us to do something but if we trust them we will do it anyway. When we do what our parents ask us to do we demonstrate that we believe that they know what is best for us. Obeying shows that we have faith or trust our parents.
3. Describe how we can obey God too. When we obey God we are showing that we have faith in Him. Sometimes the things that God asks us to do don't make sense either. We may not understand why we must do it but obeying shows our faith in Him.
4. Show the children a Bible. Explain how we can know what God wants us to do by reading the Bible. One of the things the Bible tells us to do is to obey our parents. When we obey our parents we are not only showing our faith in our parents but our faith in God!
5. Relate how there was a man in the Bible who God asked to do something that didn't make much sense at all. God asked Noah to build a great big boat because He was going to send a flood that would destroy

everything and everybody on the earth! It took Noah a long time to build the boat but he did just what God asked Him to.

6. Go on to describe how Noah's obedience saved the animals and his family. Consider together what might have happened if Noah had decided not to obey and what this might have shown about his faith.

7. Help the children to see how obedience will demonstrate how much faith they have in God too. Remind them that God loves them and is always wanting us to do things that are good for us just like God knew that a great big boat was just what Noah and his family needed to stay safe during the flood.

Alternatives: Make the conversation more fun by sitting outside on a blanket under a great big umbrella. A large beach umbrella is ideal. Or if you must remain inside, use masking tape to mark off a great big boat on the floor.

3. A Great Big Ark

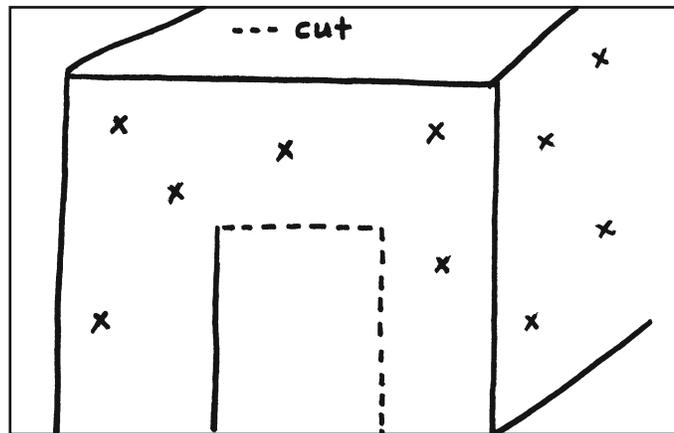
What you will need:

1. A large appliance box - a refrigerator box on its side works best
2. Clothespins without the hinge
3. Utility knife
4. Your Bible and a children's Bible

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Read in your Bible and a children's Bible about how Noah built the ark because he trusted God.
2. Cut away a small door in the refrigerator box with the utility knife as shown.
3. Cut small "x's" randomly in the refrigerator box that the kids will use later to poke the clothespin nails through. Be sure that there are enough holes so that each child can place at least one clothespin into the pretend ark.



At Story Time...

1. Describe how God asked Noah to build a great big boat. God told Noah that He was very sad because all the people around Noah would not listen to God. That's why Noah would need the big boat. A flood would be coming. There would be so much water that all the people and things around Noah would be destroyed.
2. Invite the children to help you build your pretend boat. Give each child a clothespin nail to place in the side of the box ark where the "x's" have been placed.

3. Help the children to realize that Noah worked on the boat for a long time without ever seeing any sign of a flood coming. After he finished the boat he gathered up animals the way God told him to. He loaded up the animals and his family and lots of food.
4. Have the children pretend to be Noah and his family and various animals and all get inside the box ark where the door has been cut away.
5. Describe how they all sat in the boat and it still didn't rain! Still Noah had faith in God. He knew what God said would really happen. Days went by and Noah was still waiting in his boat! Then on the seventh day it started to rain!
6. It rained and rained and rained for 40 days and nights but Noah, his family and all the animals were safe and sound in the big boat that God told him to build. The big boat that took so long to build! Noah had faith in God. He believed what God said was true even though he couldn't see any rain. And because he believed God he obeyed and built the ark that kept him and his family safe!
7. Help the children to see that they too need to obey God even when it doesn't make sense. Describe how we can know what God wants us to do by reading God's Word, the Bible. Touch on just a few of the areas in which God would want them to obey, such as obeying their parents, loving others or not lying. Noah didn't obey God because he was afraid of God—he obeyed God because he knew that God loved him and would only do things that would be for his best. God asks us to do certain things to because He loves us just like He loved Noah and wants good things for us too!

Alternatives: You may wish to act out this story more than once, allowing children to play different parts.

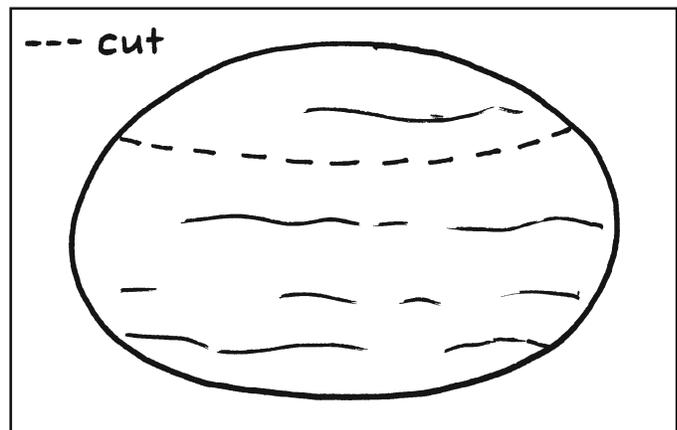
Instead of the clothespin nails, cut boards out of construction paper and let the children take turns taping them to the box boat.

If you don't have a refrigerator box, draw a great big ark onto butcher paper and let the children color or add the construction paper boards to it instead.

4. A Watermelon Ark

What you will need:

1. A watermelon
2. A knife
3. Carrots - 5
4. A permanent marker
5. Plastic animals
6. Spoons
7. A large bowl
8. A tarp or vinyl tablecloth (optional)
9. Smocks (optional)
10. Spray bottle filled with water
11. A Bible and a children's Bible



Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Read in your Bible and a children's Bible about how Noah built the ark just like God told him to because he believed that God would send a flood to destroy all the people and things around him.

At Story Time...

1. Have the children sit around the watermelon that has been placed on a table or on a tarp.
2. Describe how God asked Noah to build the ark and why. As you explaining this have the children sit back away from the watermelon as you cut the top off as shown.
3. As you are describing how long and hard Noah worked on the ark let the children help you work on your watermelon ark. Have them take turns scraping out the watermelon and placing it in the large bowl. This may take a little time and be a bit messy, but will show more clearly how hard Noah had to work. If you wish, smocks can be placed on the children if you are concerned about their clothing.
4. Once the watermelon is all cleaned out pass out the plastic animals to the children. Let them take turns placing them inside the watermelon ark.
5. Draw faces on the carrots with a permanent marker showing who got into the boat with Noah - his wife, and three sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth). Place the carrots into the watermelon.
6. Relate how Noah, his family and all the animals sat in the boat waiting and waiting for it to start raining. They waited one day, two days, three days, four days, five days, six days but on the seventh day it finally started to rain!
7. Let the children take turns squirting the watermelon ark with the spray bottle. It is best if everyone is sitting back from the watermelon at this point. Share how it rained and rained for 40 days and nights just like God said it would. While all the people outside the ark were destroyed and all the things outside the ark were destroyed, Noah and his family were safe inside the ark!
8. Help the children to see that because Noah had faith in what God said, he obeyed God. He did what God said even though there was no sign that it would rain—even after he was waiting in the boat. If we have faith in God and believe what He says is true, we will obey Him too!
9. Later enjoy the watermelon for a snack with the kids, reminding them of all the food Noah must have had to bring on the ark for his family and all the animals. If you plan to eat the watermelon, you may want to have the kids wash their hands before they begin to "build the ark."

5. A Simulated Storm

Note: This method of sharing the story is best for children 3 and up. Be sure to quickly gather up any popped balloons to keep them from being a possible choking hazard.

What you will need:

1. Small light blue balloons
2. A large sheet or large bucket
3. Your Bible and a children's Bible

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Read in your Bible and a children's Bible about how Noah built the big boat because he believed that God really would send the flood to destroy the people who ignored God.
2. Blow up the balloons and place them in the large sheet with the four corners gathered together and loosely knotted or in a large bucket.

At Story Time...

1. Gather the children together and share why and how Noah built the big boat.
2. At the right moment, when you describe how it finally began to rain, let the balloons go so that they shower down onto the children. To do this you will likely need another adult. The kids will be quite excited so let them enjoy the "rain" for a bit.
3. Continue to share how it rained and rained just like God told Noah it would. It rained for 40 days and nights and destroyed everything but Noah, his family and the animals on the big boat. How happy Noah must have been that he did listen to God, believed God and obeyed Him by building the ark. Noah lived by faith. Even though he couldn't see the rain coming he believed that God would send it. When we obey God even when we don't understand why we must obey Him we too have faith in God!
4. Help the children to come up with examples of ways they might obey God and show their faith in Him just like Noah did. For example, a child might not hit his brother when he breaks one of his toys because his mother told him not to hit. The Bible tells us to obey our parents, and not hitting like your mother told you to is obeying God. How we obey God shows how much faith we have.

Alternative: Another fun "surprise rain" can be created out of cut up light blue tissue paper. This can be a bit more difficult to clean up, but will provide lots of fun!

6. Rain Stick Story Telling

What you will need:

1. A rain stick (if you don't have one see the simple way to create one below)
2. Your Bible and a children's Bible

Directions:

Beforehand...

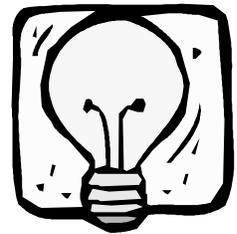
1. Read about how God told Noah a big rain was coming in your Bible and a children's Bible.

At Story Time...

1. Gather the children and have them sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs.
2. Describe how God told Noah that he had a plan. His plan was to send lots and lots of rain to destroy all the people that didn't obey Him. As you describe the rain that God said He would send, pass around the rain stick and allow each of the children to make the rain sound.
3. When all the children have had a chance to try the rain stick, continue sharing how God also told Noah to build a big boat to prepare for the rain He would send. Every day Noah worked on the boat but there was no rain in sight. Still Noah kept working on the boat because he believed God.
4. Describe how when the boat was all finished he loaded up lots of animals and lots of food and then he and his family got on the boat and shut the door. They waited and waited for rain but there was no rain! They waited and waited some more and then finally on the seventh day God sent the rain. It rained and rained for 40 days just like God said it would.
5. Pass the rain stick around the circle again letting each child make the rain sound again. Describe how through the rain Noah, his family and all the animals were safe in the ark. Everything that was outside the ark was destroyed! Everything happened just like God said it would. Noah showed that he believed God by building the ark that kept him safe. When we obey God we also show that we believe Him. We call that "living by faith!"
6. Discuss with the children other ways they might be able to show that they believe God by obeying Him.

Alternative: To create your own rain stick you will need the following items: a sturdy cardboard mailing tube with plastic end caps, nails, hammer and a combination of small things like seeds, pebbles, dried beans or unpopped popcorn. Following the seam in the tube, hammer nails about 1/8" apart along the entire seam. Place the end cap on one end and then place the seeds and other things inside the tube. Seal the other end of the tube. If you wish, complete the rain stick by decorating it with wrapping paper or contact paper.

Let the children experiment with the rain stick after you tell the story as a Learning Activity.



Learning Activities

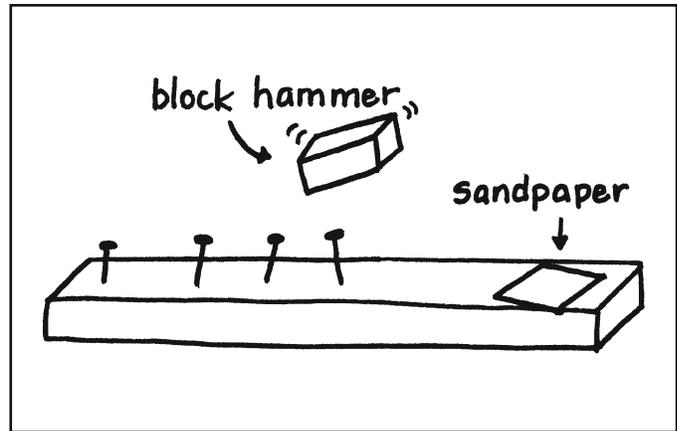
1. Creative Construction

- What you will need:
1. A 2" x 4" that is several feet long
 2. Blocks of wood
 3. Nails
 4. Sandpaper in various grades

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Hammer several nails into one end of the 2" x 4". They should be hammered only part way in and spread far enough apart that the kids won't hammer each other while working.



At Activity Time...

1. Allow the children to hammer the nails into the board using the blocks of wood for hammers.
2. Let the children experiment with the sand paper at the other end of the board.
3. Talk about how Noah obeyed God and worked on the ark even when there was no rain. Why was Noah willing to work on a boat for so long and so hard? Would they have worked like Noah did? Consider also what faith is and how it relates to Noah.

2. Rain Making

What you will need:

1. A plastic tub or water table
2. Sponges
3. Medicine droppers
4. Funnels
5. Colanders
6. Cups

Directions:

1. Allow the children to explore all the different ways to make rain using the things that you have provided.
2. Talk about how God told Noah to build a big boat to prepare for the big rain that He was going to send. Noah believed that God really would send a big rain, and built the big boat just like God told him to. By obeying God Noah showed that he had faith in God. After the boat was built it rained just like God said it would and the big boat kept Noah and his family safe along with all the animals!

Alternative: Fill a tub with cedar wood shavings and let the children experience dumping and pouring them. Talk about all the wood that Noah must have used to build such a big boat.

3. Home Center

What you will need:

1. Your regular Home Center Items
2. Rain boots
3. Rain coats

4. Umbrellas
5. Rain hats

Directions:

1. Allow the children to incorporate the things associated with rain in their play.
2. Talk about what it must have been like to be in the ark with all those animals watching all that rain fall!

4. Noah's Workshop

What you will need:

1. Styrofoam - scraps from packing materials and/or some purchased at a craft store
2. Golf tee's for nails
3. Plastic knives for saws
4. Wooden blocks for hammers

Directions:

1. Allow the children to use the things you have provided to pretend they are working in Noah's workshop on the ark.
2. Talk about how long it would take to build a boat big enough for so many animals and Noah's family too! If you didn't really believe it was going to rain like God said you wouldn't keep on working on something so hard! How good Noah must have felt when the boat was completed and he was safe inside!

5. Animal Pairing

What you will need:

1. Lots of plastic animals
2. Cards with animals on them
3. Other pictures of animals

Directions:

1. Allow the children to work together to pair the animals. For example, the cows can be paired in one pile. It doesn't matter if they are a plastic cow or a picture of a cow.
2. Talk about how God not only told Noah to build a great big boat but to gather lots of pairs of animals too! Consider what might have happened if Noah had not done what God asked him to do. How might this have affected them? Perhaps they wouldn't have a cat or dog or some other pet today!

6. Playdough Ark Building

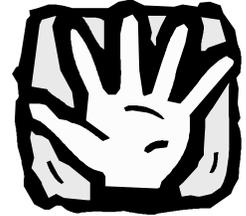
What you will need:

1. Playdough
2. Playdough tools
3. Animal cookie cutters

4. People cookie cutters
5. Books with pictures of arks

Directions:

1. Allow the children to create arks out of the playdough as they refer to the pictures.
2. Once the arks are completed, let the children create pairs of animals to put into the ark as well as Noah and his family. Don't forget to make some food too!
3. Talk about all the ways Noah obeyed God and showed his faith in God. Consider with the children ways that they can obey God just like Noah. Be sure to give the children simple ideas that they can really relate to.



Creative Hands

1. Mini Wood Collages

What you will need:

1. Interesting small wood shapes - these can be purchased at your craft store
2. Toothpicks, popsicle sticks and wooden spoons
3. Posterboard
4. Scissors
5. Glue

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Cut the posterboard into pieces that are about 9" x 12" to make them easier to work with. You will need one for each child.

At Project Time...

1. Allow the children to glue the various wood things to the posterboard.
2. Talk about how Noah used wood to build the ark. He made it just like God told him to. It took Noah a long time to build the ark but Noah didn't give up. He obeyed God and because he did we was kept safe when the big rains came!

Alternative: Cut the posterboard into simple ark shapes for the children to glue the wood things to.

2. Build A Boat Action Picture

What you will need:

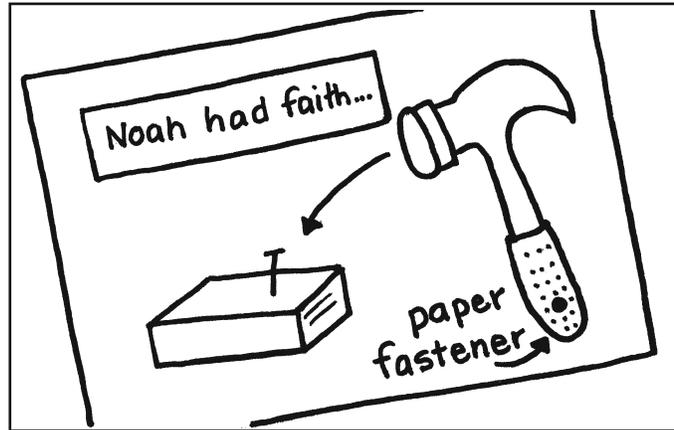
1. The Build A Boat Pattern
2. Copy machine
3. 8 ½" x 11" white paper or card stock
4. Construction paper - 12" x 18"

5. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
6. Paper fasteners
7. Scissors
8. Glue or glue sticks

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Copy the Build a Boat Pattern onto white paper or card stock.



At Project Time...

1. Let the children color the pattern.
2. Help them cut the pattern out.
3. Let the children glue the wood to the construction paper.
4. Fasten the hammer to the construction paper using a paper fastener so that when the hammer is moved it appears to strike the nail on the wood as shown.
5. Glue the words to the picture.
6. Talk about how Noah kept on building the ark even when he didn't see any rain coming. He kept building because he trusted God enough to obey Him. Doing what God says even when it doesn't seem to make sense is living by faith.

3. The Ark Picture

What you will need:

1. The Ark Picture Pattern
2. Copy machine
3. 8½" x 11" white paper
4. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
5. Rice
6. Glue

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Copy the ark onto white paper.

At Project Time...

1. Allow the children to color their picture.
2. Working with each child, help them to make dots with glue all over their picture.
3. Allow the children to place the rice in the glue for rain.

4. Talk about how long Noah had to work on the boat and wait in the boat before it started to rain. Would they have had enough faith to keep working on the boat like Noah did? What would it be like to be safe in a boat when it was raining so hard?

Alternative: If you prefer, instead of using crayons, markers or colored pencils to create this picture use water colors. Talk about how the water colors remind you of all the rain that came once Noah was safe inside the big boat!

4. Tool Collage

What you will need:

1. The Tools Pattern
2. Copy machine
3. 8 ½" x 11" white paper
4. Construction paper - 9" x 12"
5. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
6. Scissors
7. Glue or glue sticks

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Copy the tools onto white paper.

At Project Time...

1. Allow the children to color the tools.
2. Help the children cut out the tools.
3. Glue the tools and words to the construction paper.
4. Talk about how Noah demonstrated his trust and faith in God. Consider ways the children can also show their faith and trust in God.

Alternative: Cut out pictures of tools from magazines, advertisements or newspaper that the children can add to their collages either in addition to or instead of the ones in the pattern.

5. Quick Spray Rain

What you will need:

1. Powder tempera paint - blue
2. Water
3. Spray bottle
4. A large cardboard box
5. Construction paper
6. A black marker
7. Smocks

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Place one tablespoon of the powder tempera paint into the spray bottle.
2. Add one cup of water to the spray bottle.

At Project Time...

1. Help the children put on smocks.
2. Place a piece of construction paper into the cardboard box and then let one child at a time spray the paper to create a rain picture. Each time before using the paint shake the spray bottle.
3. Talk about how Noah built the ark because he believed that God would send a destructive rain. He wanted to be safe inside when that happened! Consider together what it means to live by faith.
4. After the pictures dry, write on each one, "Noah lived by faith" with a black marker.

Alternative: To make a glossy rain add about 1 tablespoon of glue to the paint mixture.

Cut out simple ark shapes from sturdy cardboard that can be laid over the white construction paper while inside the box. Then spray. When the cardboard is removed it will leave behind the outline of an ark.

6. Inside The Ark Picture

Note: This is very easy and ideal for twos even though older children will still enjoy it.

What you will need:

1. The Inside the Ark Pattern
2. Copy machine
3. 8 ½" x 11" white or tan paper
4. Scissors
5. Animal stickers

Directions:

Beforehand...

1. Copy the ark onto white or tan paper.
2. Cut the arks out.

At Project Time...

1. Give each child an ark and several pairs of animal stickers.
2. Let the children place the animal stickers in the ark.
3. Talk about how Noah obeyed God and built the ark. He obeyed God because he had faith in God. When we obey we show that we too have faith in Him.

Alternatives: If you wish, allow the children to color the ark before placing the animal stickers on it.

The ark can also be glued to a piece of blue construction paper. Consider adding cotton ball clouds and coloring rain on the construction paper with a white crayon.

Movement Ideas

1. Place a few ping pong balls on a parachute and bounce them up and down, pretending to make it rain.
2. Let the children work together using tape measures to measure different things in your room. Chat about all the measuring Noah must have done to build the ark.
3. Let the children pretend to be pairs of different kinds of animals that were on the ark.
4. Let the children pretend to make a rainstorm. Have them begin by gently tapping their fingers on the floor. Have them tap louder and louder. Then instruct the children to use their whole hands. Then add their feet, starting softly and getting louder and louder. End by having them place their hands in their laps and quieting their feet. The rain storm is over!
5. Outline a large ark shape on the floor out of masking tape. Have the children walk on the outline of the ark while pretending to be busy building the ark. When the ark is finally done, have them jump inside it, safe from the coming rains.
6. Using the same ark shape as suggested in Idea #5, have the children pretend to help Noah load up the ark by taking turns tossing small stuffed animals into it. Chat about what hard work it must have been to load up that many animals into a boat!

Extended Activities

1. Noah And The Ark Puzzles

Put together a puzzle of Noah & the Ark with your child. As you are putting the puzzle together talk about all the ways that Noah demonstrated his faith by obeying God as he built and loaded up the ark.

2. A Gingerbread Noah & the Ark

Using a mix or gingerbread dough from scratch create an ark by rolling out the dough and cutting out a simple ark shape. Use the remaining dough to cut out Noah, his family and some animals. How elaborately or simply you do this will depend on the desires of your child.

Bake the gingerbread pieces you cut out. Frost them when they are cool if you wish.

Talk about how Noah obeyed God because he trusted God. When we obey God we show that we trust Him and have faith in Him.

