

General Church Education



Noah and the Rainbow

Genesis 7:16-24; 8:1-22; 9:1, 8-19

Lesson 8

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

NOAH AND THE RAINBOW

GENESIS 7:16-24; GENESIS 8:1-22; GENESIS 9:1, 8-19

Noah was in the ark for about a year. During that time, he steadfastly obeyed the Lord. The ark, built at the Lord's direction, protected him from the flood. When the flood was over, the Lord told Noah to come out. Noah built an altar to the Lord in thanksgiving for deliverance. The Lord put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His covenant, that He never would destroy the earth again.

The inner meaning of this part of the story tells about the people who survived the flood of falsities and evils that destroyed the spirit and life of the most ancient peoples. After this flood the Lord protected people by giving them the ability to reflect on the Word in a new way. This enabled them to develop a conscience and preserved their spiritual freedom to choose between good and evil.

This story also tells about how the Lord leads each of us to heavenly peace and joy. The rainbow was the sign of the Lord's covenant or agreement with Noah and all people who were to come. Our part of the agreement is to learn from the Word and follow the Lord. The Lord then can fulfill His part of the agreement and lead us to heaven.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can help children who have gone through troubling times. Recovery and healing is often gradual. It may help them to remember that Noah was in the ark for a full year. His patience can be a model for us.
- We can be role models for our children as we remember to thank the Lord for helping us to come to states of peace after temptation.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The person of the Most Ancient Church was led into a perception of goods and truths through revelations. Since they were implanted in the will part of his mind he perceived without any further instruction the details and the finer points which nowadays people must learn before knowing. For a person of the spiritual Church knows nothing unless he acquires it by learning. See *Arcana Coelestia* 895

No one ever enters into a state of freedom until he has been regenerated. Then he knows and perceives for the first time what freedom really is, because at that point he knows what life is, what true delight in life is, and what happiness is. A life of freedom, or freedom itself, means being led exclusively by the Lord. See *Arcana Coelestia* 892

NOAH AND THE RAINBOW

IMPORTANT IDEAS

We need to learn to patiently trust the Lord as Noah did.

Noah gave a prayer of thanks to the Lord for saving him from the flood.

The rainbow was the sign of the covenant between the Lord and all people.

Last time we learned how Noah prepared for the flood. Noah built the ark and took pairs of animals into the ark just as the Lord told him to do. The Lord protected Noah and his family. He closed them into the ark with the animals before He sent the flood waters to cover the earth. It rained for forty days and forty nights without stopping. The waters "lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth." The ark floated safely with Noah, his family and the animals inside. Can you discover how long the ark floated on the waters before the flood started to go down?

Read Genesis 7:16-24.

After 150 days, the Lord sent a wind to dry up the flood. In time, the ark came to rest on the top of Mount Ararat. Because the one window of the ark faced up toward heaven, Noah couldn't see when it was safe to leave the ark. He sent a raven and a dove out of the ark. The dove came back to rest in the ark because the water still covered everything. The raven flew back and forth until the waters were dried up. Noah sent the dove out a second time, and it brought back an olive leaf so Noah knew that the water was almost gone. The third time he sent out the dove, it found dry land and did not return. Then Noah knew that it was safe to leave the ark. He removed the covering of the ark and saw that the ground was dry.



Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, your sons and your sons' wives with you.' "

Read Genesis 8:1-19.

What was the first thing that Noah did after leaving the ark? Listen to the story to see if you are right. Read *Genesis 8:20-22* and *Genesis 9:1*.



Noah thanked the Lord for saving him and his family. He built an altar for a sacrifice to the Lord. The Lord promised never to destroy the earth again. The seasons would come in regular order so that people could count on growing crops. Day and night would always follow in order so that people could have a time for working and a time for resting. The Lord gave a special sign so that people would remember His promise. Listen to the story to find out what this beautiful sign was. Read *Genesis 9:8-19*.

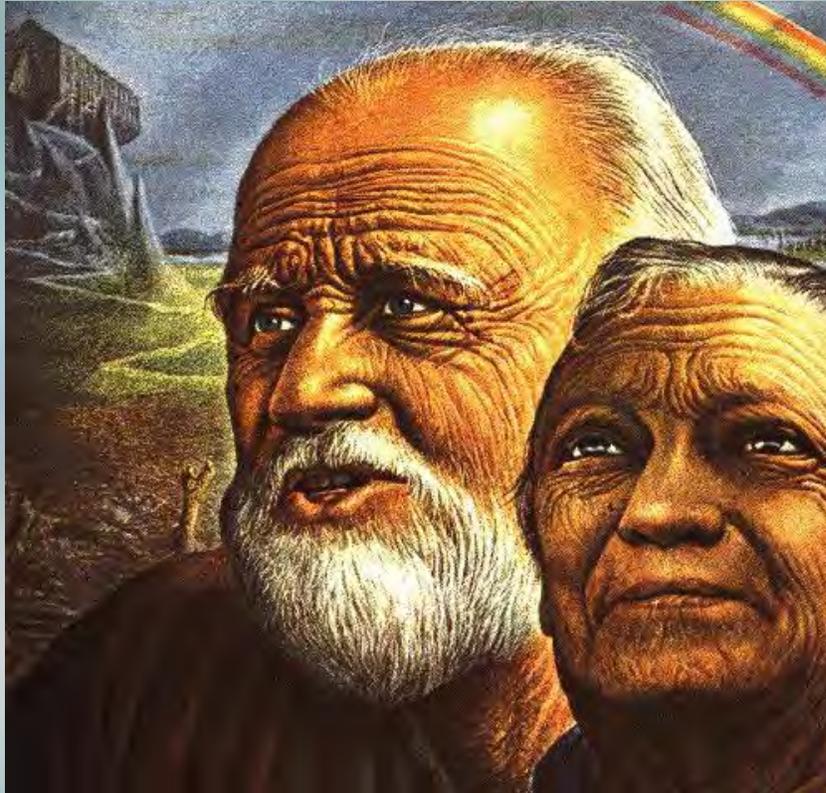
A rainbow is special because it is full of many colors. It stretches like a bridge leading from the earth into the heavens. Its shining colors are like different truths from the Word that show us the way to heaven. This is why the Lord chose the rainbow as a sign of His covenant, or agreement, with Noah. This covenant was not just for Noah and his family, it is for everyone who would live after Noah, and it includes us.

The Lord wants us to live by the beautiful teachings we learn in His Word. When we do this, we are keeping our part of the agreement. Then the Lord can help us and protect us from our bad thoughts and feelings just like He protected Noah from the giants and the flood.



DISCUSSION

- Noah was in the ark for a year. This is a very long time. Noah waited patiently as the Lord took care of him in the ark. He didn't leave the ark until the Lord removed the covering and told him to come out. Noah's patience was part of his obedience to the Lord.
- What are some of the true ideas from the Word that shine like colors of the rainbow that we can use to help us live good lives? (*Possible answers may include: the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Lord loves us, etc.*)
- Everybody has bad thoughts and feelings from time to time. The Lord wants to help us when we have these feelings so that they do not become part of what we love and do.
- What are some examples of bad thoughts and feelings that the Lord can protect us from? (*Possible answers might include: fear, anger, selfishness, the desire to lie or cheat, etc.*)

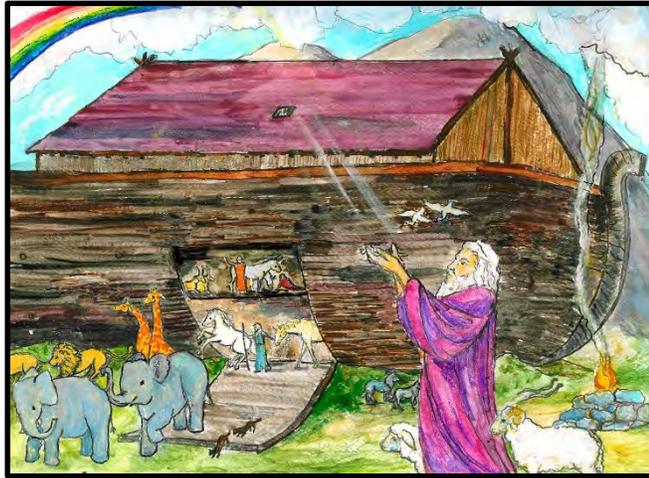


NOAH AND THE RAINBOW | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night,
Shall not cease.
Genesis 8:22



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- Noah and the Rainbow
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-noah-and-the-rainbow/>

Projects

- Noah's Rainbow Project
- Picture to color

Additional Activities

- Experiment making rainbows with a prism and a bright light.
- On a sunny day make a fine spray mist with a hose. Can you see the rainbows in the mist?
- Make a picture of the animals and birds coming out of the ark. Pay special attention to the ark in your drawing. Be sure to include one door, one window on top and make it tall enough to be three stories.

Noah's Rainbow Project

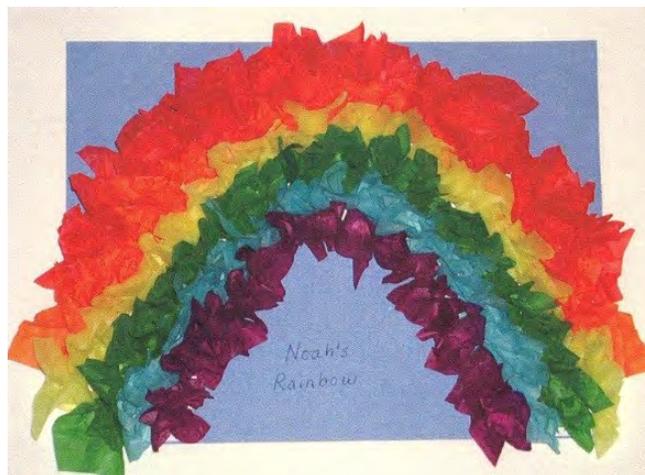
Create a rainbow out of tissue to celebrate the Lord's covenant with Noah.

Supplies needed

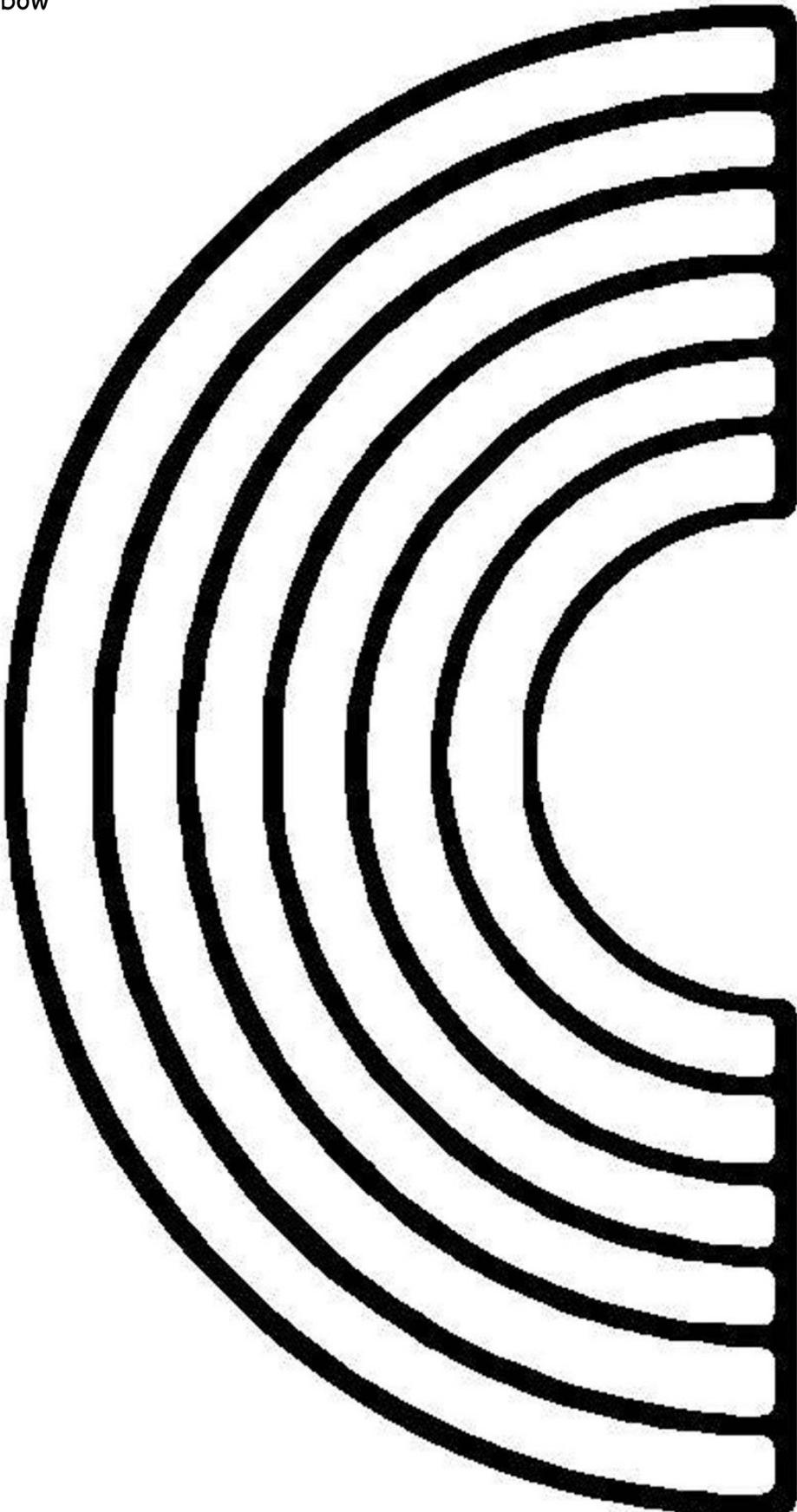
- copy of rainbow page
- 1 piece blue stiff paper (such as construction paper)
- 6 pieces of tissue paper in rainbow colors approx. 15" x 20" (135cm x 150cm)
- scissors
- glue
- paintbrush for gluing

Directions

1. Cut out Noah's Rainbow and glue it to a larger piece of sturdy blue paper.
2. Cut the red tissue into small pieces, approx. 2" x 2½" (5cm x 6.5cm).
3. Using the paintbrush, put glue on the space of the uppermost strip of the rainbow. Crumple up one piece of red tissue paper at a time and poke it on to the wet glue. Continue across the rainbow shape.
4. Cut the orange tissue paper into small pieces. Glue them to the next strip on the rainbow.
5. Continue cutting the tissue paper and gluing all the colors until you have finished the rainbow. Be sure to follow the order of the colors in a real rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple.
6. Add the title "Noah's Rainbow" if you wish.
7. What did the sign of the rainbow mean to Noah and his family?



Noah's Rainbow





Recitation Award | Lessons 7, 8

