

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "God's Promises"

Recommended for: All

**LESSON AIM:** To teach how God always keeps His word to us. The Lord cares about each individual and promises us many benefits as His children.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises; in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature . . . "* 2 Peter 1:4a (NAS)  
Underlined portion is for the younger children.

**SUPPLIES:** Paper plates, scissors, 3 x 5 index cards, small squares of colored tissue paper, paper, glue, hole punch, yarn, butcher paper, balloons, playdough, masking tape.



### **OPENING:**

Younger Children: Print the names (or pictures for children who do not read) of animals on 3 x 5 index cards. Have one child stand and act out the animal on his/her card. The children can guess the animal. The first child to guess correctly can then stand and act out what is on his/her card. Remember to allow adequate time (approximately 10-20 minutes), depending on your schedule.

Older Children: Have a Bible drill with the promise references. Ask the kids questions about the promises they looked up.

John 1:12- I am a child of God.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20- I have been bought with a price, I belong to God.

Ephesians 1:5- I have been adopted as God's child.

Philippians 1:6- I am sure that the good work that God has started in me will be finished.

Romans 8:35f.- I cannot be separated from the love of God.

Philippians 4:13- I am able to do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

How do these promises pertain to you?

What is God saying to you personally?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Review beforehand Genesis 6:5-8, 12-22, and chapter 7, 8, 9:1-17.

Younger Children:

1. Provide models of Noah's ark and the animals to reinforce the story of the ark and the rainbow. Pictures of Noah and the ark and lots of colorful pictures of different kinds of animals can also be used. (Your local toy store and Bible book store are good resources to find visuals for this story. Or, make a one-sided cardboard ark and have the children make the animals from Playdough.)
2. Display the colors of the rainbow in the room in creative ways.
3. Make colorful rainbows out of butcher paper for the walls (or paint the colors on white butcher paper).

**OPTIONAL:** Inflate balloons with helium for added color and atmosphere. Place a surprise inside each balloon before inflating them, such as small, lightweight plastic animals, candy, gummy bears, etc. (Remember to tell the children there's a surprise inside their balloon.)

**NOTE:** Popping balloons can be noisy and scary to 3 and 4-year-olds. Decide what your children can handle. If you choose this activity, decide beforehand when and where the balloons will be popped. For safety reasons be sure that all balloon pieces are picked up immediately!

Older Children:

Have the kids tape off the size of the ark in your church parking lot (450 feet). Let the children see how big the ark really was. Have a discussion about the story of Noah in the "ark" you've made. (You may get straw bails or something optional for the kids to sit on.)

If your parking lot is too small to fit the ark in it, take the children outside to see for their self that the ark was bigger than the whole parking lot and maybe even bigger than the whole church property.

The Story of Noah's Ark:

The Lord was very disgusted when he looked upon the earth and saw the sin and chaos. He was sorry that He had made man on the earth and he was grieved in his heart. So the Lord said "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

However, Noah had grace in the eyes of the Lord. He walked with the Lord and obeyed him. The Lord commanded Noah to build a large boat out of gopher wood and cover it with pitch. He also instructed Noah

to take his wife, three sons, their wives, and seven of every clean animal male and female and two of every kind of unclean animals male and female (Gen 6:5-8). Noah built the ark as God had commanded. The Lord said to Noah “For after seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights and I will destroy from the face of the earth every living thing I have made.” (Gen 7:4)

Noah and his family built the ark and gathered every animal as God had instructed and boarded the ark. It rained and stormed for forty days and forty nights. After the rains had stopped the waters receded continually from the earth. After forty days Noah sent out a raven that flew to and fro until the waters had dried. He also sent out for himself a dove. When the dove came back, he knew it was not time to go because she had no where to rest her feet. After seven more days he sent her out again and she returned with a freshly picked olive leaf in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

Then God spoke to Noah saying “Go out of the ark, you and you wife, and your sons, and your sons wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you.”

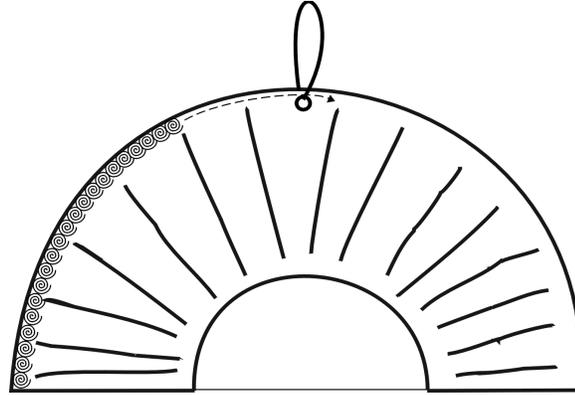
Noah took the clean animals and sacrificed them unto the Lord. The Lord then promised Noah “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake.”

**SNACK:** Serve animal crackers or animal cookies with rainbow punch. For rainbow punch you can either make 2-3 different colors of drinks to choose from or have a light colored punch with a different flavor of ice cubes. (Yellow Kool-Aid™ to drink with grape Kool-Aid™ ice cubes.)

**ACTIVITY:** Have the students make rainbows to hang in their rooms at home. Provide a paper plate, small squares of tissue paper in rainbows, glue, hole punch, piece of yarn.



Have the students cut the paper plate in half, and then cut the center away from the half. It should look like a rainbow. Apply glue to each section of the arch. Scrunch up a piece of the colored tissue paper and place on the previously glued arch. Arrange a row of like colors along the rim of the rainbow. Apply another row of tissue paper in another color underneath the first row. It should take about five or six rows to fully cover the paper rainbow. Punch a hole at the top of rainbow to string the yarn through to hang the rainbow. (Example on next page.)



**CONCLUSION:** Have each child think of a promise from God's Word that was discussed in the lesson. Have each child pray and give thanks that God will be faithful to fulfill His promise.