



Family Formation Home Lesson

God's Covenant With Noah

1st Sunday of Lent

Week of February 26, 2012

MEMORIZE:

Grades K-3: "By his stripes we were healed." *Isaiah 53:5*

Grades 4-6: The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary (See inside cover.)

MONTH OUTLINE:

Lesson 1: Saints' Stories

Lesson 2: Ash Wednesday and Lenten Activities

Lesson 3: God's Covenant With Noah

FOCUS:

We can always trust in God's promises.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Bible; tape measure; ground markers; scissors; glue; tape; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Light a candle to remind your family of God's presence with you! Pray, asking for blessing on your lesson time and for faith to better trust in God's promises. Plan a day to do the "How Big Was the Ark?" activity found on Page 6.

HEY DAD:

Choose a version of the story of Noah's life to share with your children. You can use the one from this lesson, the one in Scripture, or a version from another book you may have.



Covenants

(Part 1 of 3)

Beginning with this lesson in *Family Formation*, we are studying the covenants that God made with Noah, Abraham, and Moses. These, however, are only a part of the big plan for God's salvation of mankind. We may tend to view familiar Old Testament stories as unconnected to each other, but in reality, they are intricately related. The Old Testament is the true history of God's preparation of the world for the coming of Christ. God chose to use a series of covenants to accomplish this.

To begin with, we need to define the word *covenant*. You could say that a covenant is an agreement or a contract, but God's covenants with mankind are much more than that. They could better be described as sacred family bonds. In ancient Israel, there was no word for "family" as we define it, yet tribal bonds, kinship obligations, marriage, parenthood, and brotherhood were unbreakable bonds that God Himself had instituted. Family was important. Theologian Dr. Scott Hahn shows that *covenant* was the word to describe those family bonds. When God covenants with humanity through His Old Testament family, He is fathering His people. The word *covenant* is as different from *contract* as *son* is from *slave*. A contract exchanges property. A covenant exchanges persons expressing the idea, "I am yours, and you are mine." God uses the covenant to enter into a relationship with those He created in His own image.

Next Lesson: Part 2 in this series on salvation history

For more information, refer to the audio CD series entitled, "Salvation History" by Dr. Scott Hahn. It is available through Saint Joseph Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 720, West Covina, CA 91793 (www.saintjoe.com/prodinfo.asp?number=5213).



Quiz Answers

Younger Saints

1. true
2. false: The animals came to him.
3. true
4. false: It rained for 40 days.
5. true
6. false: God told Noah exactly how to make the ark.
7. true
8. true
9. false: He built an altar and worshipped God.
10. "By his stripes we were healed." *Isaiah 53:5*

Older Saints

1. Everyone on earth (except Noah and his family) was very wicked.
2. God knows everything and can do anything so nothing can get in the way of Him keeping His promises.
3. Noah and his family were the only people on earth who loved God.
4. Some promises are for a specific person (like God's promise to Abraham for descendants as many as there are stars in the sky). Some promises are for all readers of Scripture. You must let God speak to you about which ones are for you.
5. God told His creatures to go, and they obeyed.
6. *Genesis 6:5–9:17*
7. He built an altar and worshipped God.
8. See below.

Memory: Grades 4–6

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

*(prayed on Sundays in Lent,
and Tuesdays and Fridays all year)*

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

Nihil Obstat: Rev. Michael Byron
Censor Librorum

Imprimatur: † Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis
January 23, 2007

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MISSION:

Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children."^{*} It is our purpose to aid families as they grow in their love and knowledge of the Catholic Faith.

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Scripture quotations are from the Saint Joseph Edition of the New American Bible unless otherwise noted.

^{*}Gravissimum Educationis, 3

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

SUNDAY CONNECTION: *"God said to Noah and to his sons with him:
'See, I am now establishing my covenant with you ...' "* Genesis 9:8-9

We Can Trust God's Promises

"I promise to clean my room as soon as I finish playing with the guys," Brad told his mother after school. What he didn't know then was that the game would take longer than he expected and by the time he got home, he had to eat quickly and spend the rest of the evening studying for his math test.

"I'll meet you tomorrow morning at your locker, Renee. I promise," Lucy told her friend after Mass. What Lucy didn't know then was that she would wake up with the flu and have to miss school that day.

"I know exactly what you want for your birthday," Mom said, "I promise to get it for you." What Mom didn't know was that there wasn't a single one left anywhere. She went to several stores and called many others without success.

"I'll be at your game, I promise," Dad told Luke. "I know how important this one is to your team. I've taken the afternoon off, and I can't wait to see you play!" What Dad didn't know was that his car would break down, causing him to miss the whole game.

What do all of these people have in common? (All of them made promises and really tried to keep them, but something they couldn't control prevented it.)

When people make promises, they can do everything in their power to see that the promise is kept, but something unexpected can still happen that will get in the way of keeping the promise.

When God makes a promise, we NEVER have to worry about the unexpected getting in the way. Nothing is unexpected to God, and nothing is out of His control. He knows everything about everyone. He knows every tiny detail about the past, present, and future. When God makes a promise, we can be absolutely, positively sure that it is true and trustworthy.

God's Covenant With Noah

found in *Genesis 6:5 to 9:17*

As you may have guessed, in this lesson we are going to talk about God's promises. One of the most well-known promises in the Old Testament has to do with the rainbow that we can see after summer rains. Let's read about this promise that God made to Noah, and to all of us.

Parents: You may use any version of this story that you have. You may want to pre-read the one provided in this lesson to make sure it is written at an appropriate level for your children. If your children already know this story backward and forward, you may want to consider using the book *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier (available for sale or at a public library). It shows the story in pictures only; you can let your saints use it to tell you the story.



NOAH AND THE ARK

Adam and Eve chose to harbor wickedness in their hearts, and because of their sin, they could no longer live with God in the innocence God originally intended. But God's plan includes a way for all to be restored to original innocence; and heaven is that place where, like "in the beginning," God's people are able to live in the fullness of God and His holiness. Adam and Eve didn't know how God would accomplish this, but we know now, thanks to God revealing Himself to us, that it is through His Son made flesh, Jesus Christ.

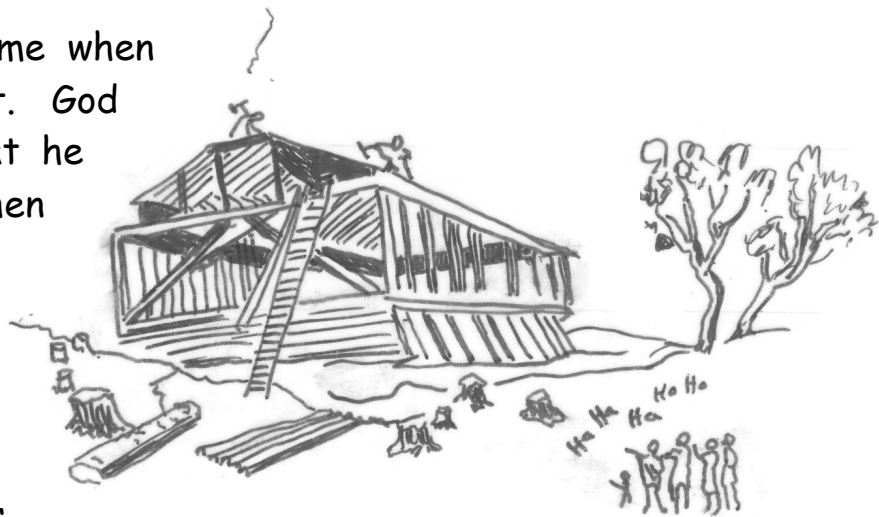


In the time after Adam and Eve's sin (for more than 1,500 years), people became more and more wicked. *"When the LORD saw how great was man's wickedness on earth, and how no desire that his heart conceived was ever anything but evil, he regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was grieved."* Genesis 6:5-6

Imagine what it would be like today if your family was the only family in the whole world that loved God. You would have no Christian friends, no others to worship with, no priests, and no *Family Formation*. That is what it was like at the time of Noah. He and his family were the only ones on earth that God could call good; everyone else was very wicked.

One day, God could tolerate it no longer. He spoke to Noah telling him to make an ark of gopher wood. God told him exactly what size and shape to make it, and God told him to cover it inside and out with a sticky substance called pitch to make it waterproof. Noah and his family spent many years building the ark, all the while being laughed at by others. People thought he was foolish to build such a huge boat so far from water. Of what possible use could it be?

Finally, the day came when they would find out. God had told Noah what he planned to do, so when the time came, Noah's family wasn't surprised to see pairs of animals coming from all directions





and clustering around the ark. Noah and his sons and their wives had been planning for years so when God told them to get on board, they were all ready. God himself shut the door, and soon after that, it started to rain.

*"All the fountains
of the great abyss burst forth,
and the floodgates of the sky
were opened."*

Genesis 7:11



For 40 days and nights, it rained non-stop, until the water on the earth was deep enough to cover even the highest mountains. Can you imagine how quiet it must have been when it was finally over?

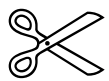
Noah's family lived on the ark for a whole year before God told them that it was time to get out. When the family first saw the earth, they must have been amazed at all of the mud and destruction they saw, yet they were incredibly grateful to God for including them in His plan.

Noah built an altar to the Lord and faithfully offered the sacrifice that God's servants had offered since the time of Adam. Smoke of the offering rose up to the sky, and God spoke to Noah and his sons. He blessed them and told them to be fertile and multiply to repopulate the earth.

Then, God made a promise to all of the people and animals from the ark and to their descendants. He promised that never again would He



destroy the earth and everything on it with a flood. He gave us the rainbow as a sign to remind us that no matter how hard it rains and storms, it will never be like the flood of Noah's time. [See *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* 1150.]

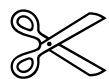


ACTIVITY: How Big Was the Ark?

Parents: This activity requires a trip to an open space such as a park, parking lot, or field, so plan ahead, and do it on a sunny afternoon.

You will need: a Bible, long tape measure, ground markers (anything you can see when you set it on the ground, such as orange cones, stakes, boxes, or people!)

- + Read about the dimensions of the ark in *Genesis 6:14-16*.
- + Measure out the space of the ark, and put down markers at each corner. The ark was 450 feet long by 75 feet wide. It was also 45 feet high! (A cubit is an ancient linear unit, usually from 17 to 21 inches. For purposes of this activity, we figured a cubit at 1.5 feet.)



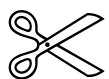
ACTIVITY: God's Promises Are For You!

We read about God's promise to Noah, but did you know that God has made promises to you? The Bible is full of thousands of God's promises!

God's promises are such a treasure to us that it's important to know them. An easy way to do this is to read one each day.

Using the "Treasure Chest of Promises":

1. Assemble the treasure chest on Page 1 as follows:
 - + Color the treasure chest.
 - + Cut along the solid lines.
 - + Fold along all dashed lines.
 - + Glue the two *back tabs* to the inside of the back of the chest. (Note: The back of the chest shows the *Family Formation* logo.)
 - + Glue the two *front tabs* to the inside of the front of the chest. (Note: The front of the chest shows the ark and dove.)
 - + Assemble the lid by gluing the *front lid tabs* to the insides of the *side lid tabs*.
 - + Optional: Adjust as needed, and reinforce the joints with tape.
2. Cut apart the promises on Pages 2-4. There are about two months' worth if you read one per day. You can use all of them, or sort through them to find the ones that seem to best fit your family's needs.
3. Find a time each day to read your promise for the day. Try to choose a consistent time when you are all together (meal time or prayer time).

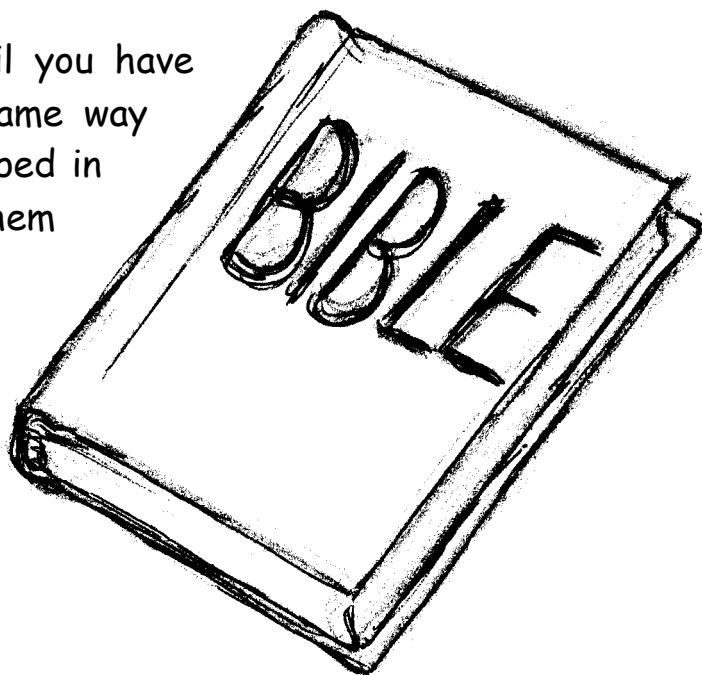


ACTIVITY: Claim a Promise For Yourself

Imagine that someone has given you a present. It is wrapped in beautiful paper, and it has a huge bow on it. But, wait! Instead of opening it, you set it in your closet and forget about it!

You don't really accept a gift until you have opened it and used it. It's the same way with God's promises; they are wrapped in the Bible, waiting for us to open them and make them a part of our lives.

As you read your daily promises and other parts of God's Word, you will want to be listening for promises that seem to be especially for you. For example:



If you are afraid of the dark in your room at night, you may want to read Proverbs 3:24:
"When you lie down, you need not be afraid, when you rest, your sleep will be sweet."

If you wonder if God really hears your prayers, you can turn to 1 John 5:14 and read, *"We have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."*

If you need help to do your best, you can go to Philippians 4:13 and read, *"I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me."*

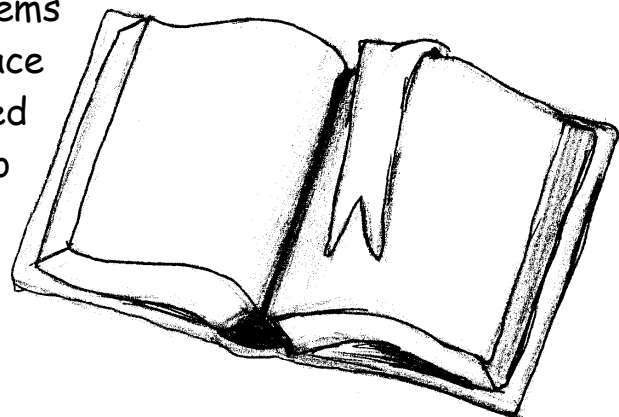
If you're wondering how God will take care of you, turn to Philippians 4:19 and read, *"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* Or turn to Matthew 6:32-33: *"Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."*

If you are trying to make the right decisions, read, *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths."* Proverbs 3:5-6

Are you wondering if God really forgives your sins? Psalm 103:12 says, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far have our sins been removed from us."*

If you have been treated unfairly, the Lord says in Proverbs 19:9, *"The false witness will not go unpunished, and he who utters lies will perish."*

When you find a promise that seems just right for you, write it someplace where you can see it when you need it. Put it by your bed, or tape it to a mirror. If a promise can help you at school, write it in your notebook cover, or tape it to your locker door.



Be sure to open the gifts
that God has for you!

What Did You Learn About God's Covenant With Noah?

for younger saints

1. Rainbows are reminders that there will never be another flood like the one in Noah's time.

true false

2. Noah spent many years traveling around the earth to collect all the animals.

true false

3. God always keeps His promises.

true false

4. While Noah was on the ark, it rained for 40 weeks.

true false

5. The Bible is a good place to find promises from God.

true false

6. Noah learned how to make an ark in an old book he found.

true false

7. God sent the flood because people were very evil.

true false

8. Noah's family was on the ark with him.

true false

9. The first thing Noah did when he got off the ark was build a campfire and cook his lunch.

true false

10. Recite your memory verse.

What Did You Learn About God's Covenant With Noah?

for older saints

1. Why did God send a flood?
2. Explain why only God can **always** keep promises.
3. Why did God save Noah and his family?
4. For whom are God's promises in the Bible written?
5. How do you think the animals knew they should go to the ark?
6. Where in the Bible can you find the story of Noah's Ark?
7. What did Noah do when he first stepped onto dry land?
8. Recite your memory verse.