



GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT ONE: Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.

Lesson 4:

A Rainbow and a New World

CONTENT:

1. After 40 days in the ark, Noah sent a dove into the sky to find out if the water had gone down, but it returned to him very soon. After 7 more days the dove returned with a leaf.
2. The waters went down slowly and the ark landed on top of a mountain. Then God told Noah to go out with his family and all the animals.
3. Noah was so thankful that God had saved him that he built an altar and offered a sacrifice. God blessed Noah and his family and promised never again to destroy the whole earth with a flood. He put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of this promise.
-  4. God made a clean, new world by washing away all those who did wicked things. When you were baptised the priest poured water on your head to show that God was washing away your sins and making you clean. [CCC 1219,1262] You wore a white garment to show you were now like Jesus, a child of God. [CCC 1242]
-  5. Just like Noah, we must also thank God for saving us and washing us clean of our sins.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home. Learn the Bible verse. Give each person in your family a blank bookmark and ask them to write one thing they want to thank God for. After thanking God, put it in the ark model.

REFERENCES: Genesis 6:5-7:24; CCC 401; 2569; 2818-19. See also 56-58.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; a baby doll and white cloth, basin mug and water; Picture sheets with ark and rainbow, 2 large paper plates (10 inches in diameter), scissors, fevicol, stapler and staples, punch, colouring materials.

I. STARTER:

The last time we saw Noah he was in the ark with his family and all the animals. The water was covering the whole earth and there was nothing alive, except them. It rained for 40 days and then it stopped.

- When it rains and rains and you can't go out to play how do you feel? What do you sing?
[*Rain, rain, go away! Come again another day! Little Johnny wants to play! Rain, rain, go away!*"]

II. DEVELOPMENT: [Rest of Noah's story]

By the time 40 days had passed everyone was getting fed up of being stuck in the ark. Noah said, "Let me check if the water has gone down anywhere." He couldn't see very far, so he sent a dove out into the sky to find out if there was any dry land. But the dove flew around and came back to the ark.

After seven days, Noah tried again. This time the dove came back with a small twig with leaves in its beak. Everyone shouted, "Yaay! The water's going down!" The animals said, 'Woof-woof!' 'Meow-meow!' 'Quack-quack!'

The waters kept on going down and down and at last the ark landed on a mountain top. God told Noah, "It's okay! It's safe for you to get out now!" So Noah opened the big door in the side of the ark and everyone came out... skipping and jumping and galloping and hopping about on the dry land. Everyone was very happy to be alive in the beautiful clean world that God had given them.

Noah was so thankful that he wanted to do something to show God what he felt. So he called his sons and they gathered stones and built an altar. (Who else did that? *Cain and Abel*) Then Noah burned some animals as a 'thank you' prayer to God. As they all watched the smoke to up and up, they saw something wonderful in the sky: a big, beautiful bow of coloured light: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red.

“Wow! What is it?” they asked. God answered them from the sky. “It’s a rainbow! It’s a sign that I will never again destroy the whole world with water. Whenever you see a rainbow, remember my promise!”

Have you ever seen a rainbow in the sky? Whenever you see one remember that God loves you very much and say, ‘Thank you God!’ *[Teach and sing the following song:]*

One-two-three! God loves me! Four-five! Glad to be alive!

Six-seven-eight! God is great! Nine-ten! We’ll sing it again!

[The last time:] There’s no time to sing it again!

[You could make it fun by letting ‘animals’ join in: Assign animal names to groups of children. Instead of singing ‘One-two-three!’ they sing ‘Bow-wow-wow’ or ‘quack-quack-quack’ etc].

Home assignment: Bring scissors, fevicol, and colouring materials.

NEXT CLASS:

- Does anyone have dirty hands? Do you want to make them clean? Then come and wash. *[Allow a couple of children to wash.]*
- Last time we heard how God washed the whole world with water and made it clean and new. Look at this doll! It’s so dirty. Let’s wash it and make it clean. *[First pour water with a mug on the doll’s head and say:]* When you were a baby, your parents brought you to church for your Baptism. Father poured water over your head.
- Why do you think he did this? *[It was to show that God was washing away your sin and making you clean.]* In the old days, people used to go right into the water as if they were taking a bath. *[Demonstrate with the doll.]*
- Then after they came out, they put on clean, white clothes. *[Dry the doll and wrap it in the white cloth]* You also had a clean white dress for your Baptism. This was to show that you had become a child of God, like Jesus. The white cloth is a sign of Jesus. After you were baptised you became a ‘Jesus child’. *[Give out handouts. Read the written matter.]*

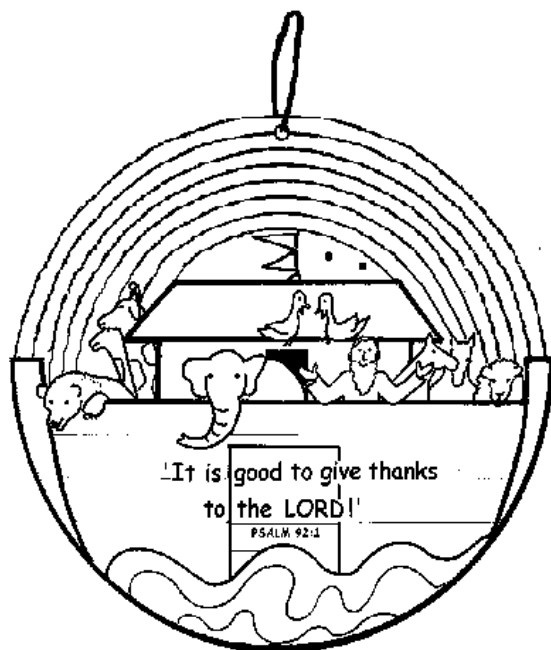
III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Noah said thank you to God for saving them and making a new world. Let’s also thank God for washing us clean and making us ‘Jesus-children’. *[Children close their eyes and pray silently. Then encourage a few children to thank God in their own words.]*

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Children make Noah’s ark models as follows:]

1. Colour the 2 pictures: the rainbow and the ark in the activity sheet.
2. Cut out the 2 pictures.
3. Stick the ark picture on the back of one plate and cut off the top part of the plate.
4. Stick the rainbow picture on the inside of the other plate. Do not cut it.
5. Staple the ark half onto the full plate around the bottom curved edge.
6. Punch a hole in the top of the model. Attach a cord.



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