

GENESIS

Lesson 3: THE FLOOD - SAYING 'YES' TO GOD**CONTENT:**

1. To tell the story of Noah, the flood and the covenant made by God with man.
2. To explain that this again is a 'symbol story', it shows that sin leads to the destruction of ourselves and the world. Only saying 'Yes' to God leads to life and blessings.
3. Guide to lead the children to say 'Yes' to God in their everyday life.

REFERENCES: Genesis 6 -9; John 15: 5-6; 10

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1 activity sheet per student - with Bible story on one side and activity on the other.
1 Bible per child, Chalks.
For Prayer time: if possible a dried branch and a fresh one

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)

[Move the teacher's desk to one side, leaving an open space in front of the class. Draw 4 chalk lines across the space shown in the diagram. Write (1), (2), (3), (4) and HOME. Ask for one volunteer from each row {about 4 – 5 children} to take part in the 'Yes – No Dash'.one becomes the 'Granny'. The aim of the game is to reach HOME.

Granny stands on one side of space{2}. The others also stand in space{2} and ask 'Granny, granny! Or {Grandpa, Grandpa}May we come a little further?'

If the answer is 'No' they must quickly move back to (1). If 'yes' they go forward to (3). Anyone caught by Granny in the wrong space is out. Once again they chant the same question and move to (4) or (2) according to the answer – Yes or No. Winner/winners who reach HOME safely are given a clap. Make sure Granny doesn't prolong the game too much. You could be the Granny if you like!]

After the game: Did you enjoy the game? Maybe you can play it with your friends sometimes! Lets think about the game now and see if it tells us anything about the words Yes and No...[Allow the children to give their ideas, then bring out] 'Yes' was a word that helped us to go forward... we hoped that Granny would say that word. 'No' took us further away from our Home.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Let's look at a story in the Bible about saying 'Yes' and 'No'. We'll find out what happens as a result of our Yes/ No.

Read the bible story from the attached paper. Children are also given copies which they follow. Two halves of the class could read one paragraph at a time.

- Do you think this story actually took place as it is written? ... that Noah collected all the animals and a flood destroyed the whole world? *[No. There may have been a big flood in a certain part of the world, but the story is meant to give us a message, not give a real fact. Here again we have the truth, but in story form.]*

- Who said 'Yes' in the story? Why did you say this? Which line shows this? [*Noah said yes – 'He lived in fellowship with God'. He also obeyed God when he told him to build the ark. 'Fellowship' means friendship – He was friends with God.*]
- Who said 'No' to God? Why do you say so? [*All the other people in the world...they lived evil lives. As we learnt last week, sin means turning away from God or saying 'No' to him.*]
- Do you think God purposely destroys people? [*No... but if we turn away from God, we destroy ourselves and also the world.*]

Let me tell you a true incident. A certain builder in Pune had lots of buildings. He had cut down trees and built buildings on the beautiful farm land. Slowly that area changed from green forest to a forest of buildings – hot, noisy, and crowded. There was only one small patch of open space left where all the children from the surrounding flats would come to play. But the builder decided to build there as well. He made a fence and started digging the foundations. He wanted more money. The children of that area decided to do something about it. They made beautiful paintings showing themselves in a park, playing games. Then, they took their paintings to the builder and asked him – 'Uncle, please don't build another building... let us have a park to play in!

Here we have God talking to the builder through children. He could obey – and make himself happier [even if he didn't become richer] and also make the children happy. OR

He could say - 'No' and make everyone unhappy. The builder said 'Yes' and the children had a place to play in.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

[Gather the children together in a small group on the floor]

After talking about Noah, the builder, Ravi and Shiela what do we realise? ... When we obey or say 'YES' to God, he is able to bring blessings on us. But when we say 'NO' and refuse to listen to God's voice, we ourselves and others also suffer. Let's listen to Jesus as he speaks to us.

[Quieten the children and help them to be attentive to God's voice]

Read: John 15 : 5-6; 10

[You could ask a child who will read meaningfully]

Today Jesus is asking you and me to obey him, so that we can be like a branch – green and fresh and growing, giving sweet grapes. He warns us that unless we do, we will dry up like a broken branch and finally we will die. Talk to Jesus in your heart and tell him if you are ready to say YES to him or not....

End by singing:

I'll say 'Yes, yes, yes' {2}

I'll say 'Yes' Lord {2}

I'll say 'Yes, yes, yes!'

Where you lead me I will follow {3}

I'll go with you

Yes, with you....all the way!

IV. ACTIVITY:

Give out activity sheets{one per child} and ask the children to work in groups of 3. They must first shade the correct letters and draw a line connecting them, going from left to right, to get the correct word, i.e. the word that completes the sentences –

1. Chooseand life. { OBEDIENCE }

2. Chooseand death. { DISOBEDIENCE }

They then read and discuss the two stories, and write their answer to the questions in the space given. Teacher could go around and see that they are on the right train of thought.

Noah and the Flood

This is the story of Noah. He had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. Noah had no faults and was the only good man of his time. He lives in fellowship with God, but everyone else was evil in God's sight, and violence had spread everywhere.

God looked at the world and saw that it was evil, for the people were all living evil lives. God said to Noah, 'I have decided to put an end to all mankind. I will destroy them completely, because the world is full of their violent deeds.

Build a boat for yourself out of good timber, make rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. I am going to send a flood on the earth to destroy every living being. Everything on the earth will die, but I will make a covenant with you. Go into the boat with your wife, your sons and their wives. Take into the boat with you a male and female of every kind of animal and of every kind of bird, in order to keep them alive. Take along all kinds of food for you and for them.'

Noah did everything that God Commanded.

Seven days later the flood came. All the outlets of the vast body of water beneath the earth burst open, all the flood gates of the sky were opened, and rain fell on the earth for forty days and nights. The flood continued for forty days, and the water became deep enough for the boat to float, the water became deeper and the boat drifted on the surface. It became so deep that it covered the highest mountains. Everything on earth that breathed died.

The only ones left were Noah and those who were with him in the boat. God had not forgotten Noah and all the animals with him in the boat. He caused a wind to blow and the water started going down. The water kept going down, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains appeared.

Noah opened a window and sent out a raven. It did not come back, but kept flying around until the water was completely gone. Meanwhile, Noah sent out a dove to see if the water had gone down, but since the water still covered all the land, the dove did not find a place to alight. It flew back to the boat. He waited another seven days and sent out the dove again. It returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew that the water had gone down.

God said to Noah, "Go out of the boat with your wife, your sons and their wives. Take all the birds and animals out with you, so that they may reproduce and spread over all the earth". Noah built an altar to the Lord; he took one of each kind of ritually clean animal and bird, a sacrifice on the altar.

God blessed Noah and his sons and said, "I am now making a covenant with you and your descendants, and with all living beings – I promise that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood. As a sign of this everlasting covenant I am putting my bow in the clouds. when the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant.