

Responsibility, EYFS (1) – Teacher guidance

The story of Noah may be familiar to some of your pupils already, but is a good example of taking responsibility for other people, animals and the world around us. This worship includes some suggestions for further ways to explore the story, but please feel free to use your own ideas for drama, songs, artwork or child-led learning.

Gathering

Slide 1

Begin the worship by lighting a candle and following your school's usual gathering routine.

Engaging

Use a mystery bag or feely bag with some wet-weather items in: an umbrella, wellies, raincoat etc. Get the children to work out what's in the bag by asking questions, or feeling the shapes.

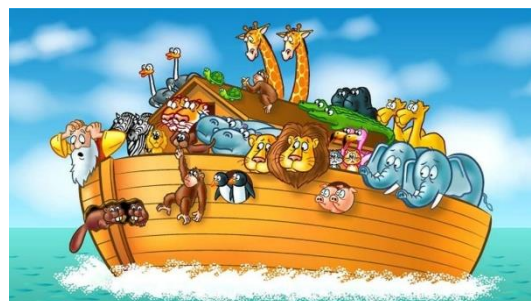
Talk about when you might use these items and introduce the story of Noah, someone who had to get ready for some really heavy rain.

Slide 2

We're going to explore a story from the Bible.

Show the image of Noah and ask if anyone knows who it is and if any of the children can tell you what happens in the story.

Play the God's Story film of [Noah and the Flood](#). (You might decide to start at 0.52 and stop at 3.04 with the rainbow as a sign of God's promise.)



Alternatively, you could use this video from [Saddleback Kids](#) instead, or tell the story using the Lion Storyteller Bible ([A Special Promise](#)), the Desmond Tutu Children of God Storybook Bible, or another children's version of the story.

Who did Noah look after in the story?

His wife, his sons and their wives, and all the animals – and by protecting them, he looked after the wider world too.

What would have happened if he'd said he was too busy, or that he couldn't be bothered, or that it wasn't his problem? They'd all have got extremely wet!!

Thankfully, Noah chose to be responsible and to look after his family and all the animals.

Responding

Do we sometimes say we can't be bothered, or that it's someone else's job? E.g. if the classroom needs tidying up, or if Mummy or another adult needs some help at home?

How can we be helpful and look after other people and the world around us?

Ask pupils to share ideas with a partner, take a few suggestions, then show **Slide 3** and see if they thought of any of these.

Sending

Ask the children to look out for ways that they can be helpful (take responsibility) at school and at home over the next few days.

Finish with a simple prayer, asking God to help us be thoughtful and look after other people. You could use this prayer, or use your own words.

Dear God,
Thank you that Noah looked after his family and the animals in the ark.
Please help us to look after other people and animals too.
Amen.

Follow Up Activities

Here are a few suggestions for other activities around the story of Noah's Ark – you will probably have lots more ideas of your own!

- Pairs work: The animals went in two by two, what else comes in pairs? Can pupils match pairs of socks, shapes, pictures?
- Make: pairs of Play-doh animals to go into the ark.
- An animal hunt: give each child an animal picture and ask them to find its pair, which has been hidden round the room. Or give each child an animal picture and ask them to find their partner.
- Artwork: each paint an animal to add to a class Noah's Ark. Make a collage rainbow, or use coloured handprints or sponge prints.
- Sing: a selection of animal songs, or this version of Old MacDonald's Farm.

*Mister Noah Built an Ark
Splish Splash Splish Splash Splish
And on his ark he had two cows
Splish Splash Splish Splash Splish
With a moo, moo here
And a moo, moo there
Here a moo, there a moo,
everywhere a moo, moo
Mister Noah Built an Ark
Splish Splash Splish Splash Splish*

- Float: plastic boats or corks. Which materials float, which sink? Can they make a plasticene boat that floats? If so, how many counting bears can they fill it with before it sinks?
- Construction: can children build their own ark? What tools and materials would they need? Perhaps you could use large cardboard boxes to build an ark that's big enough to sit in?