

A Flood Covers the Earth

Bible Point

God always loves us...and gives us do-overs.

Purpose

Have you ever needed a fresh start? Perhaps you said something you regret. Or you typed an exasperated message to a family member, thought better, then deleted your words and tried again. If only we could fix every mistake we make. We long for do-overs.

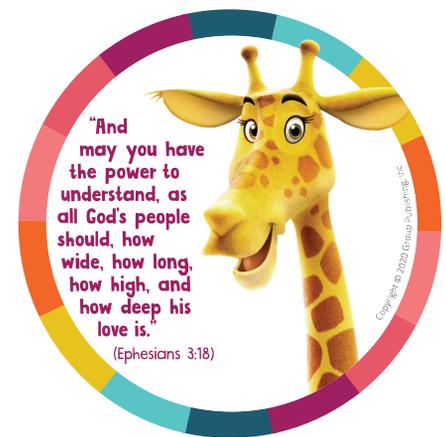
When sin entered God’s perfect world, there was no turning back. The Bible says that the earth was filled with corruption and violence—two ingredients that ruined God’s perfect creation. Something had to be done. On one hand, God sent a devastating flood that deleted life, except for Noah and his boat mates. On the other hand, he blessed Noah with a do-over and made a loving commitment to never again destroy the earth with a flood.

Kids may read Noah’s story and be intrigued by the boat building, 600-year-old Noah, or the amount of

time spent living on the boat. What a story! But this text also raises some tricky questions: “How could all those animals fit in one boat?” or “If God loves people so much, why didn’t he save more of them?” It’s hard to wrap our minds around God’s love *and* his justice. As you teach this fascinating but difficult story, remember: Jesus is with you. Jesus changes everything. Let his presence and the power of the Holy Spirit guide your time together.

Prayer

God, you are great, powerful, and just. And you are loving, merciful, and trustworthy. I trust this lesson to you. Love your children through me today. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Prep

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Friendship Finale	Apply-It Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lego Boats</i>: Legos <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Paper Rainbows</i>: art supplies such as construction paper, stickers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> countdown video* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Savanna Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Ephesians 3:18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> “A Flood Covers the Earth” Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> Savanna Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Take-It-Home Flyers* (Unit 1, Week 4) (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Genesis 6:9, 11-13; 7:11-12; 8:1-5) <input type="checkbox"/> piece of paper and marker <input type="checkbox"/> small mirrors (1 per Crew) <input type="checkbox"/> dry-erase markers (1 per Crew) <input type="checkbox"/> wet wipes (1 per Crew) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Explore More</i>: Bibles, construction paper in various colors, crayons, glue sticks <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i>: slips of paper, pen, container, timer (<i>optional</i>)

* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



Lego Boats

Supplies

- Legos

Build a boat out of Legos.

? Tell about a time you were on a boat.

God always loves us, and God told Noah how to build a big boat. He'd need it because God would send a huge flood to get rid of sin in the world.

Paper Rainbows

Supplies

- construction paper, stickers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks

? When have you seen a rainbow?

Rainbows remind us of fresh starts and God's promises. **God always loves us!**

Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



countdown video (1 minute)

Help kids transition, clean up the activities, and sit with Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a small group of kids with one Crew Guide.

Sing & Play

Hey, friends! It's time to get moving. Let's sing a song!



"Let's Get a Little Crazy" music video

Bible Point

Think about a time life felt a little out of control. Maybe you moved to a new town, had *two* big tests on the same day, or did something you later regretted. Let's make waves with our arms to represent times life felt crazy.

- Have everyone move arms like ocean waves.
- **Even when life is flooded with change, worry, or bad choices, God always loves us. That's our Bible Point, so every time you hear someone say, "God always loves us," you'll shout, "Wow, God!" like this!**
- Open hands on either side of your face and say, "Wow, God!"
- Repeat several times.

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "Wow, God!"

God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) We can trust him no matter what. Let's sing a song about that.



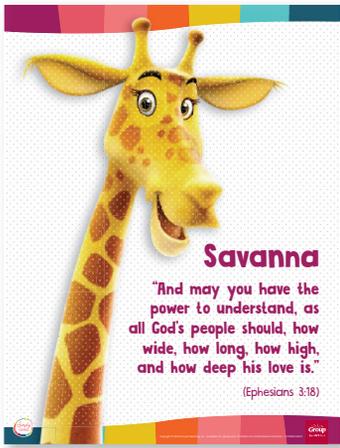
"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) music video



Wow, God!

Supplies

- Bible
- media player
- *Buddy Video* DVD
 - Savanna Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 4)
- *Music Video* DVD
 - "Let's Get a Little Crazy" music video
 - "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) music video
 - "One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)" music video
- Savanna Bible Memory Buddy poster



Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

Savanna the giraffe is our Bible Memory Buddy. Giraffes are fascinating! It's time for today's This-or-That Challenge. You'll hear two fun facts about giraffes. Then you'll vote on which one you think is true—this fact or that!

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- ❓ **How do giraffes defend themselves from predators like lions or crocodiles? Do they head-butt or karate kick?**
- Have everyone spread out and then swing their heads from side to side to vote for *this* (head-butt), or karate kick the air to vote for *that* (karate kick).
- Make a drumroll sound by patting your thighs or the floor.
- Dramatically give the answer: **It's a karate kick!**
- **Let's watch the Bible Memory Buddy video to find out more!**



Savanna Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 4)



Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! The word *Bible* means "book," and this is God's special book. Our Bible Memory Verse comes from Ephesians 3:18. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

"And may you have the power (*make muscles with arms*)
to understand, (*point to head*)
as all God's people should, (*sweep hands in front of you*)
how wide, (*spread arms wide*)
how long, (*move arm in front like tracing a long line*)
how high, (*stretch up with hand above head*)
and how deep (*crouch down*)
(God's) love is." (*hug yourself*)
(Ephesians 3:18)

God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) **God's love goes on and on and on! Let's sing about that.**



"One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)" music video

Bible Discovery

Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time getting to know each other in smaller groups called **Connect Crews**.

- Divide kids into Connect Crews, with one adult helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
 - Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Crews.
 - Have kids give their Crew Guides and each other double high-fives.
 - Have kids take turns saying their names and answering this question. Crew Guides go first.
- ❓ **Tell about a time you were sick. How did you get better?**

Experience the Bible Story

God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) **He wants to be close to us. But our sin is like a sickness; it gets in the way and separates us from God.**

- Have kids all hold out their right hands like one side of a balance.
- **On one hand, God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*)
- Have kids all hold out their left hands, too, like the other side of a balance.
- **But on the other hand, God doesn't love sin.**

Today we'll explore a story in the Bible. Instead of just listening to the story, you'll actually help me tell it and play an important part!

Choose someone to be Noah. Quickly draw seven stick figures on a piece of paper and give it to Noah. **Noah, here's your family. You'll need to keep them with you. Let's read what the Bible says about Noah.**



Read aloud Genesis 6:9.

Wow! What a compliment! Pat Noah on the back. **Noah wasn't perfect, but he walked closely with God.**

God has nice things to say about us, too, because God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) **And Noah loved God. Noah was righteous.** That means he tried to do what was right. Everyone else in the world? Not so much. Let's see what was written about them.



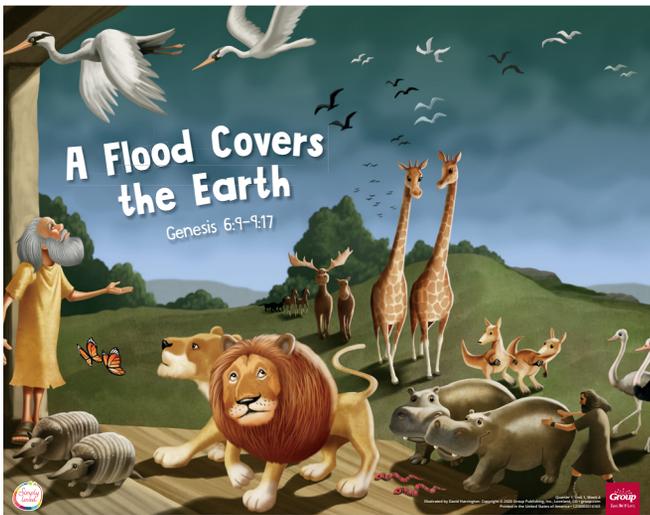
Read aloud Genesis 6:11-13.

People were corrupt. That means they had gone bad. **Sin had made them sick and rotten. Show me the face you'd make if you bit into a rotten apple.** Pause. **Yuck! What once was good had become quite bad.**

Supplies

- Bible
- piece of paper and marker
- "A Flood Covers the Earth" Bible Story poster
- small mirrors (1 per Crew)
- dry-erase markers (1 per Crew)
- wet wipes (1 per Crew)

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!



Sin is like a rotten sickness with no cure. We can't make ourselves good again. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death..." And that's what happened in Noah's story. God told Noah he was going to send a flood that'd make all living things die. Hold out your right hand. **On one hand, sin leads to death.** Hold out your left hand. **But on the other hand, God's love lives forever. God always loves us, (Wow, God!) and he showed his love to Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal.**

Show the Bible Story poster. **God told Noah to build a boat. Some Bible translations call it an ark. Go ahead, Noah, and act out what I say. First, chop down some trees. Pause. Now saw them into boards. Pause. Now hammer the boards together.**

Pause. **Good. Keep going.**

Motion to the rest of the kids. **Speaking of animals...that's you! While Noah keeps working on the boat, find a partner nearby and decide together what kind of animal you'll both be. We need two of every kind of animal...or at least a few different kinds. You have 10 seconds to decide...go!** Count down from 10 seconds.

Great. We have our animals two by two, and it looks like our boat is ready. It's over there! Designate one area of your room as the "boat." **Noah, take your family and board the boat.** Pause while Noah walks over to the boat area. **Okay, animals. Two by two, you'll move and make your animal noises as you join Noah and his family in the boat.**

Gather everyone to sit down in the "boat" area. **This place smells like a zoo. Whew! Let's read what happened next.**

 Read aloud Genesis 7:11-12.

The floodwaters got really deep. You couldn't even see the mountains anymore. Because of sin, all living things died. The people and animals on the boat were the only survivors. Have kids turn to the person beside them, give a comforting pat on the back, and say, "We're okay." **Let's find out what happened after the flooding stopped.**

 Read aloud Genesis 8:1-5.

God remembered Noah. But he, his family, and the animals had to stay on the boat for a while. Maybe it was like being on a really long road trip, or in this case, a boat trip. Hmm...what can we do to pass the time? I know! Let's play "I Spy." I spy with my little eye something... Choose and say the color of something in your room. Invite kids to guess until they're correct.

Let's see if the floodwaters have gone down. Choose a child to be a raven, and have the child pretend to fly out of the boat and come back. **Nope. Still flooded. Let's keep playing.** Play another round of "I Spy."

Let's check on the flood again. Let's send a dove this time. Choose a child to be a dove, and have that child coo and pretend to fly out of the boat and come back.

Nope. Still flooded. Play another round of “I Spy.”

Okay, time to send out a dove again. Choose a child to be a dove, and have that child coo and pretend to fly out of the boat, find and pick up something green, then come back to the boat. **The dove brought us a green leaf! It’s almost time to leave the boat.**

Get this: The Bible says Noah was 600 years old when the flood started, and he and his family were on the boat for about a year. So before we get off this boat, let’s help Noah celebrate his 601st birthday and sing “Happy Birthday” to Noah. Sing “Happy Birthday” together. **Okay. Let’s send out one more dove.** Choose a child to be a dove, and have that child coo and pretend to fly out of the boat and then find a seat outside the boat.

Hooray! The dove found a place to land. Finally, let’s get out of this boat and back to our seats. Have everyone move back to their Connect Crews.

Hold out your right hand. **On one hand, God gave the world a fresh start.** Hold out your left hand, too. **But on the other hand, like a yucky flu bug, sin sickness has a pesky way of coming back. God knew that’d happen. So God made a promise to Noah to never destroy everything with a flood again. And a rainbow reminded God’s people of his love for them. We still see that sign in the sky today.**

The Heart of the Matter

Let’s talk about this question in our Connect Crews.

? Think back to that time you were sick. What were your symptoms?

Tell a story from your own life. Perhaps you had a cold and your symptoms included feeling really tired and having a runny nose. Then give time for Connect Crews to talk. As they talk, give each Connect Crew a small mirror, a dry-erase marker, and a wet wipe.

Sin is like a sickness. And we see symptoms of sin in our lives every day. Because of our sin sickness, we may choose to tell a lie instead of telling the truth. Use a dry-erase marker to make a dot on a mirror. **And because of our sin sickness, we say mean things to friends or family members.** Make another dot on the mirror.

In your Connect Crews, let everyone have a turn making a dot on the mirror. Those dots represent the symptoms of our sin sickness that show up in our lives every day. Pause.

? Now pass around the mirror and look at yourself. What do you see?

It looks like you’re sick with a yucky rash. We can’t get rid of sin on our own. We need Jesus. God loves us so much, he sent Jesus. Hold out your right hand. **On one hand, sin leads to death.** Hold out your left hand, too, then extend both arms out to make the shape of a cross with your body. **On the other hand, Jesus paid the price for our sins when he died on the cross. And Jesus beat death when he came back to life. He gives us new life and a fresh start every time our sin sickness gets the best of us. Jesus washes away our sin.** Have Connect Crews use wet wipes to erase the dots. **Now pass around the mirror and look at yourself again. God always loves us, (Wow, God!) and this is how he sees you—clean, forgiven, and simply loved!**



Now’s a great time for Apply-It Options! Choose one—or both—of the following reinforcement activities to support today’s Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.

Apply-It Options

Choose one—or both—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

Explore More

Supplies

- Bibles, construction paper in various colors, crayons, glue sticks



Distribute Bibles, and help kids find and read Genesis 9:12-15 together.

Rainbows remind us of God's loving promise. Let's make a rainbow out of a mess! Torn paper pieces look like a mess—but they can be made new.

Create a mosaic rainbow. Draw several curved lines with crayons, then tear up pieces of paper and glue them to the lines.

? When have you had to start fresh in your life? How did God help you?

God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) He'll help us through every new beginning in our lives.



Game

Supplies

- slips of paper, pen, container, timer (*optional*)

Write the same animal name on two different slips of paper. Make enough animal "pairs" so each child has a slip of paper. Choose animals that make a recognizable sound.

- Mix up the paper slips and place them in a container.
- Have everyone choose a paper slip and then spread out around the room.
- Give everyone 30 seconds to try to find their matching animal friend by making their chosen animal's sound.
- Celebrate when all pairs find one another.
- Collect paper slips and play again. Give less time each round.
- If you have a smaller class, have kids close their eyes as they move and link arms with their match.

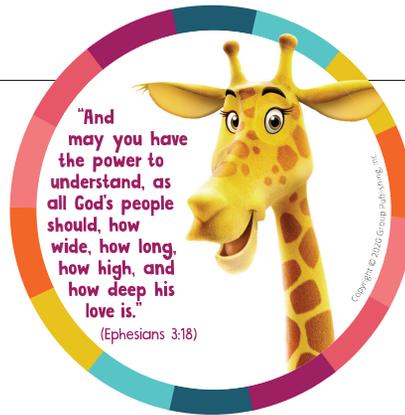
We found our animal partners by listening for the sounds they make. And Noah listened for God's instructions so he'd know how to prepare for the flood.

- ?** How do you think Noah knew what God's voice sounded like?
- ?** How do we know what God's asking us to do today?

God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) Sometimes it's hard to figure out what God wants us to do. But the closer friends we become with God, the more we'll hear and understand his voice.



Friendship Finale



Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.

Savanna, our Bible Memory Buddy friend, is a good reminder that God always loves us. (Wow, God!) God loves us and gives us do-overs.

- Have kids hold their hands together like a boat and picture a time sin made a mess in their lives. Maybe they told a lie and got caught or talked back to a family member and got in trouble.
- Ask a willing child to help you demonstrate the following actions.
- As kids hold out their hands like a boat, Crew Guides place a Bible Memory Buddy sticker in each child's hands and say, "[Child's name], **God always loves you.**"
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when each child has received a sticker to wear or keep.

Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!

Sin is like a nasty virus or sickness. We can't heal ourselves, but Jesus can!

I'd like to read you something about our friend Jesus. As you listen, think of the place you're sent to when you get in trouble. Maybe it's your room or a certain chair. Wherever it is, close your eyes and imagine you're sitting in that spot. Pause. It's not a super fun spot, is it? Now, keep your eyes closed and listen to me read about our friend Jesus.

- Read the first section of the Unit 1, Week 4 Take-It-Home Flyer.
- **Now I'll give you one of these flyers to help you talk about Jesus' love in your Connect Crews and at home, too.**
- Distribute Take-It-Home Flyers to Crew Guides, and have them share about their own friendship with Jesus as they answer the "Talk Starter" question and then invite kids to share.
- Kids share prayer requests—things they'd like to tell Jesus—in their Connect Crews.
- Connect Crews pray together.
- Crew Guides distribute Take-It-Home Flyers and follow the directions to help kids fold the paper to "fly" home.



Supplies

- Savanna Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)
- Take-It-Home Flyers (Unit 1, Week 4) (1 per child)

