

God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16

Bible Point: We can count on God's promises

In today's lesson we will learn that we can count on God's promises. To understand how reliable God's promises are, let's imagine two pieces of yarn knotted together so tightly that they won't come apart. Once the yarn is knotted imagine pulling on the knots. Will they come apart?



...No! Just like the knots that won't come apart, God is so faithful to his promises that he'll never break them. When God makes promises, they're even more unbreakable than these knots. Think of a promise God's made to you. For example, God promises to always take care of you, protect you, and provide you with the things you need. *"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made"* (Psalm 145:13)

In Genesis 7, we learn about how God made a promise to Noah.

Genesis 7:1-5

The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

Noah had a huge task to accomplish, but he did it. He knew that obeying God would get him to the place he needed to be. Noah trusted God, and we can count on God's promises, too. When we're faced with hard things in life, we can obey God and press on, knowing he'll take care of us.

Genesis 7:11-12

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Imagine all the noises with the rain and all those animals and people. Noah, his family, and the animals were on the ark for more than a year! God didn't leave them on the boat forever. Just as Noah knew, God hadn't forgotten about them. He sent a great and mighty wind to dry up the earth.

Genesis 8:1-5

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

Imagine being on a big boat and landing on top of a mountain! Noah and his family were probably relieved to know they could get off that boat soon. In Genesis 8:6-12, it says Noah sent a bird out to find dry land, but the bird didn't find land that day. So Noah waited seven more days. After seven days, Noah sent the bird out again, and it came back with an olive leaf. And that's how Noah knew the water had receded from the earth. But he waited seven more days. After seven more days, Noah sent the bird out again, and this time it didn't return. So Noah knew it was time to come out of that ark. I can't even imagine how wonderful it must have felt to get off the ark, to let the animals run off, and to enjoy the fresh air, solid ground, and bright sunshine. Just as God had promised, he watched over Noah and his family as they sailed through that storm and stayed in that ark for more than a year. Noah was so grateful to God that he gave a special gift of thanks to him. God made a promise never to flood the whole earth again. And he put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that promise.

Genesis 9:12-16

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."



We can always be thankful to God because he keeps his promises to us, just as he kept his promises to Noah.

Prayer:

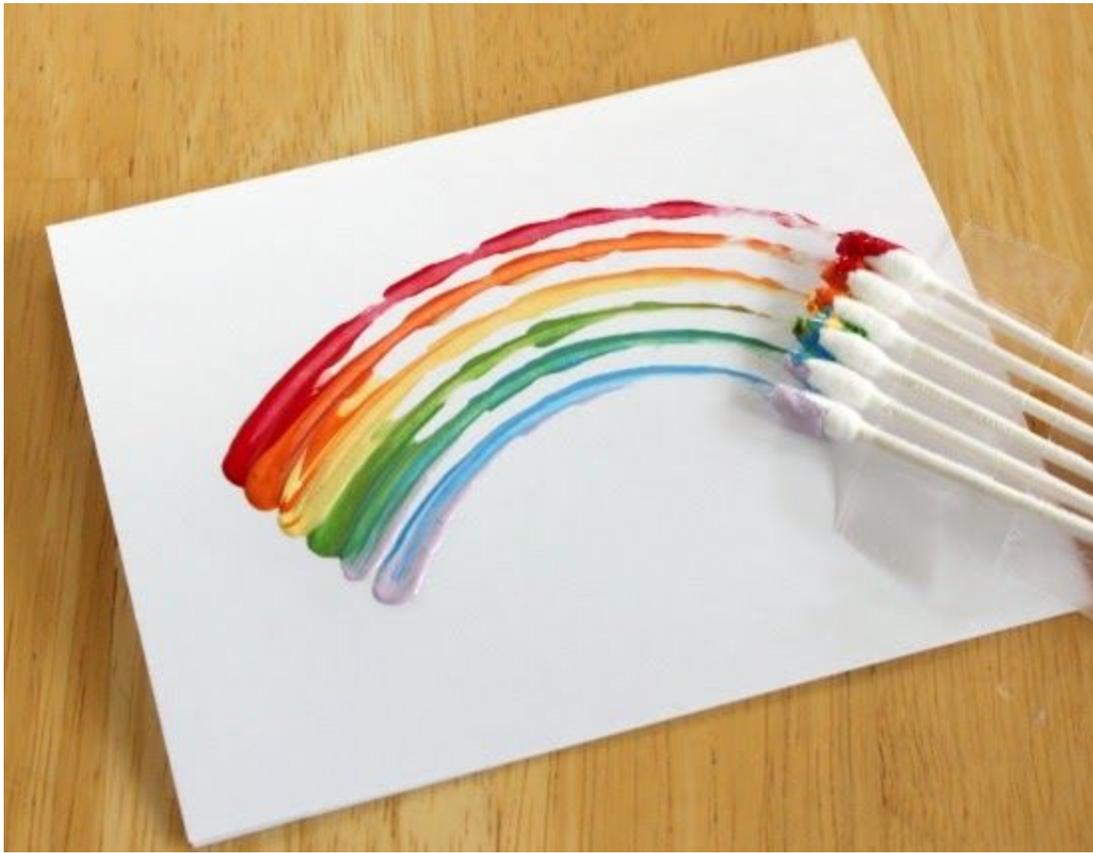
Dear God,

We thank you for loving us

and for keeping all your promises to us.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Paint God's Rainbow:



Supplies:

Q-tips – one per color

Paint – all the colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple)

Tape, plate (for paints), and white paper

Instructions:

Set out your paints in small blobs on your plate. Get 6 Q-tips ready. There are a few ways to use the Q-tips:

All in a line: Line up 6 Q-tips in a row. Add a piece of tape to the tops of all the Q-tips in a line. You can add a second piece of tape to the other end as well, just to keep it secure.

Dip each Q-tip in a color of paint or dab the paint directly onto the end of the Q-tip. You may have to bend/fold each Q-tip toward the color of paint you want so you don't get a red one in the orange. But if you do, it's okay! It kind of gives it a fun blurred look.

With your paper ready, start at one side of the paper and press all the tips of the Q-tips on the paper and slide/paint them across. You may have to do it a couple of times for it to show up well on either side.

One at a time: You can simply use one Q-tip per color and add it to your painting one at a time to paint your rainbow.



Dove Craft:



Supplies:

Print of dove template (see below)

White paper 8 ½"x 11"

Glue stick

Instructions:

Print out the template of the dove. Cut out the two sides of the dove and glue them together with the bible quote showing on the outside of the bird. Make a small ¾" slit in the middle of the dove by gently folding the dove and cutting just at the line. This will be for the wings.

To make the wings: use the 8 ½"x 11" white piece of paper and fold it accordion style by first folding the top edge ¾" down and then flipping the paper over and folding down again. Repeat folding until the whole paper is just ¾" wide. Keep the paper folded and slide it through the slit in the dove's body. Gently open the folded paper to form the wings.

Fly your dove around or hang it up to remind you that God always keeps his promises.

