

The Flood and the Ark

Genesis 6:5–9:17

With the People of God, we move from the story of creation to the re-creation of the world. God promises to Noah, to God's family, and to us that God will never again destroy the world with a flood. In the Godly Play presentation for the flood, children watch as the rains fall and the waters rise, while God keeps Noah and his family safe in the ark.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustrations on the back page and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's Godly Play presentation. Invite your child to respond to the drawings. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about his or

her own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen* in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes *very* young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's presentation offered below. Whether you read the lesson or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today's lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the presentation can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

The Presentation

When God created everything, God said, "It is very good."

But people began to do bad things.

God decided to send a great flood of water to wash everything clean and make it new again.

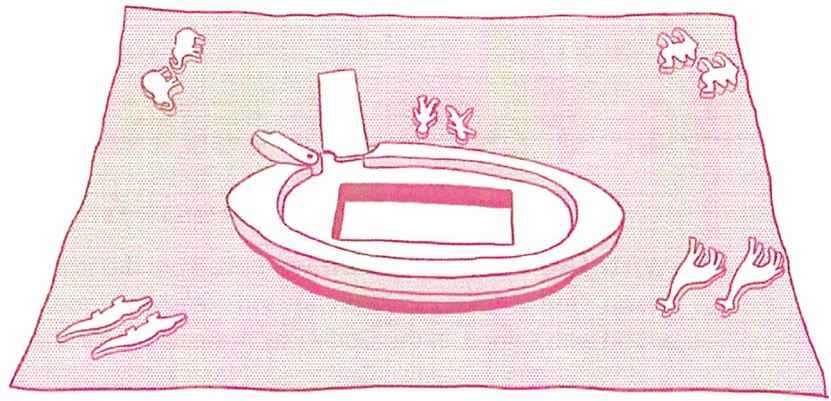
Then God saw a good family. The father was Noah. Noah came so close to God, and God came so close to Noah, that Noah knew what God wanted him to do. God wanted Noah to build a big boat called an ark.

As Noah and his family built the ark, animals came from all four corners of the earth. They came two by two to fill the ark.

Then it began to rain. Water came down from the heavens and up from the earth. It rained and rained...and soon the water covered everything.

Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of this story you like best?
- **I wonder** what part is the most important?
- **I wonder** where you are in the story? What part of the story is about you?

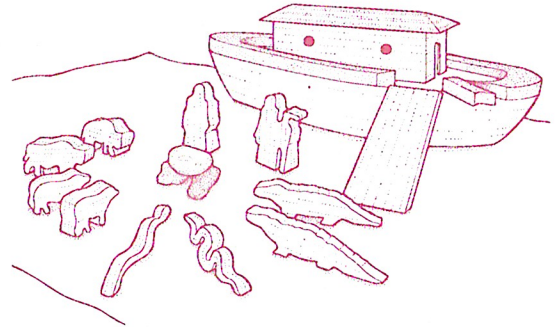


But God did not forget the creatures on the ark. After forty days and forty nights the rain stopped. God sent a great wind to dry up the water.

Finally the ark came to rest upon the earth. The creatures began to come out of the ark. Noah and his family were so happy to be home again that they made an altar and gave thanks to God.

Suddenly, they saw a great bow in the sky, a bow of many colors. You can still see it today when there is rain and the sun is shining. We call it a rainbow. This rainbow was God's sign to say that God will never send such a flood again.

The creatures then went out into all the four corners of the earth and filled it up again with life.



Godly Play Why Godly Play? (Part 3)

In every Parent Page, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. In the previous two Parent Pages we listed several of the many reasons why we believe in and use Godly Play in our church. Here are a few more:

- Godly Play teaches reliance upon a gracious God who is real and accessible in all the mystery of life, both sad and joyful—rather than dependence upon the transient “magic” that comes from the latest movie, toy or video game.
- Godly Play teaches children to respect the things and people they work with, and to enjoy each with care and patience.
- Godly Play teaches the classic rhythm for living modeled in the Bible: the alternation of action and reflection, engagement and prayer.
- Godly Play teaches kindness and mutuality through its rituals and by the way it organizes physical space, objects and the community of children. A Godly Play community embodies the biblical ethic of how people are to live together.