

Family Faith

Chapter 7

God's Promise to Noah

God saved Noah from sin and the Flood.

Chapter Summary

As we reach the time of Noah in salvation history, we see the tragedy of sin unfolding in humanity. God's goodness and care were nearly forgotten, and among all the people only Noah "walked with God" (see Genesis 6:9). God's plan, however, was for humanity to live in a relationship of love and trust with him. Therefore, God intervened to overcome humanity's sin by washing it away from the earth, preserving a single family who was faithful to him. In rescuing Noah, his family, and the animals, God was giving the world a new beginning.

This story reminds us of God's faithful care, providing for those who trust in him. He rescues the faithful Noah from the flood waters, and, on an even greater level, he rescues humanity from sin. In our own lives, we want to live with a constant awareness of God's saving help. He conquered sin once and for all through the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, our Savior. Though we still fall into sin in our lives, God continues to forgive us and give us a fresh start through the Church and sacraments.

More for Parents

The story of Noah and the ark is one of the most popular Bible stories that children learn. Perhaps it is the animals, the rainbow, or the big ark that makes it so easy to teach it to our children. Even though it is a well-known story, sometimes we can overlook the essential point—God wants to remove sin from our lives. The story of Noah's ark is a demonstration of God's care and healing power. The God who sent the Flood to cleanse the earth of sin all those years ago is the same God who sent the promised Savior, Jesus, to save us once and for all from sin. He washes away all sin by our Baptism and cleanses us anew every time we turn to him with sorrow and confess our sins. As we instruct our children in the practice of the Faith, let the story of Noah be used as an example to us and our children of God's desire to make us pure and holy.

Our Family Prays Together

Dear God, thank you for saving Noah, and thank you for helping us to walk with you. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- **When everyone else forgot about God, who still loved him and walked with him? (Noah.)**
- **What did God ask Noah to build? (An ark.)**
- **Did God keep everyone on the ark safe? (Yes.)**
- **Just like God took care of Noah, will God always take care of us? (Yes.)**
- **God made a promise to Noah. Does God always keep his promises? (Yes.)**
- **Does God have a special plan for each one of us? (Yes.)**
- **If we follow God's plan for us, will we be happy or sad? (Happy.)**
- **Will God always keep his promises? (Yes.)**

Let's Live Our Faith

- Discuss what you can do as a family to "walk with God."
- Discuss how God can use your family to help others, especially the poor and the lonely.

Family Faith Activities

Promises are a sign of trust. God made a promise to Noah that he would never flood the world again. Noah trusted God, and we should, too. We learn to trust one another by keeping our promises.

Choose one of the following to do as a family:

- Have each family member make a promise to someone else in your family. Each week, talk about how everyone keeps his promise.
- Read and discuss the Small Wonders story as a family at www.wordoflifefseries.org/parents.

Small Wonders



There is more trouble when Tell-Tale the Mouse leaves Trifles the Kitten at home alone.

Read the full Small Wonders story at www.wordoflifefseries.org/parents.