



Noah's ark

By Lydia Harrison

Celebrate a new adventure with God by bringing the symbol of the rainbow full circle.

God is sending us on a journey, and will always be with us. You might want to read [Genesis 6:9—8:22](#) together. This is quite a long passage, so you could break it up, act it out together or read it in a family version of the Bible.

Activity time

Try these activities and see if you can start guessing what might happen in our story today. If you can't get exactly these materials, just see what you can find around the house instead!

1 Making an ark



You will need: white paper; felt-tip pens or watercolour paints; water; paintbrushes; glue; brown card; scissors; coloured paper (optional)

At the bottom of your paper, draw water using your watercolour paints or felt-tip pens. Make it as choppy or calm as you like, depending on how you are feeling! If you've used felt-tip pens, you might want to use a wet paint brush to smudge the lines so it looks more like water. Then cut a boat shape out of the brown card, and a long rectangle for the mast. Stick these to the paper. For a mast, either colour this in a colour to represent you or your family, or cut it out of coloured card and stick it on.

Talk about how big the boat was in the story of Noah and the ark. How long do you think they were on the ark? Have you ever sailed in a boat? Do you like going on boats? What's your favourite type of journey? The time spent on the ark can't have been easy for Noah and his family. Although the ark was quite big, they were on it with lots of different animals and for a long period of time! I wonder if the water

was always calm. It has felt like we have been in lockdown for a long time now, but God has been with us throughout. I wonder how that makes you feel.

2 Feeding time!

You will need: paper plates; scissors; magazines or newspapers with pictures of food inside; crayons or felt-tip pens

Cut out pictures of food and stick together a meal on your paper plate. Draw extra food or meals on to your plate as well.

Talk about how there were many people and different types of animals on the ark and they would have needed feeding! I wonder how much food they would have gone through on the ark. What is your favourite food? What could you not go without? Let's think about those who haven't got enough to eat.

3 Rainbow clouds



You will need: white paper; scissors; coloured paper (or coloured pens); glue; pens

Make a cloud shape on the white paper and cut it out. Then make strips of colour to come down from the cloud, placing them in the order of the colours of the rainbow, and stick these to the back of the cloud. Then write a word or phrase that represents what seeing a rainbow means to you – this could be 'hope' or 'promise' or something else.

Talk about any memories anyone has of seeing a rainbow in the sky. What does this mean to you? Christians see the rainbow in the story of Noah's ark as a sign of God's promise never to destroy the world again. The rainbow has also been used by the NHS as a sign of hope and thankfulness during this pandemic. I wonder if you displayed a rainbow in your window. I wonder what we could do now to share God's love with others. Being kind? What does that look like?

4 Marking time

You will need: phones or cameras, or a clock-making kit, for example: [amazon.co.uk/Silent-Movement-Replacement-Repair-Cross-Stitch/dp/B07KBWRYLQ](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Silent-Movement-Replacement-Repair-Cross-Stitch/dp/B07KBWRYLQ)

Take a look through the photos on your phone of time you spent in lockdown, or make a clock together that you can symbolically use to remember this time.

Talk about how a lot of time passed while Noah was on the ark. In a similar way, a lot of time has passed since the start of the pandemic, and we have missed lots of different things. I wonder how you have marked the time. I wonder what memories you will cherish from lockdown.

5 Matching pairs

You will need: a Dominoes set or a pack of cards

Play a game of Dominoes, Go Fish! or Snap! together.

Talk about how the animals had to go in pairs on to the ark, in order that their species could survive. I wonder how easy or difficult it would have been to arrange the animals into pairs, and whether God helped Noah out with this.

Celebration

We've come so far together during these At Home sessions, and we have been on a journey where we have explored our story and God's story, and how they intertwine.

God has taken his people on so many journeys (Noah, Moses and Paul, to mention only a few) and we are on a journey with God too.

We have a place in God's story (individually and as a church community). We are each created by God, and God has a plan for our lives. It might be difficult to see God's plan sometimes. I'm sure that Noah would have really struggled to understand why he was being asked to make a giant boat in the middle of the desert, but he trusted God and did what God asked of him. Sometimes we might feel trapped in a situation, or like we have no hope, but the story of Noah's ark tells us that there is hope: God's rainbow is a promise that God will not do anything to harm us, and it is a sign of hope that he is with us all the time. Next time you see a rainbow in the sky, remember that God loves you!

On 19 July we celebrated 'Freedom Day' in the UK. While it is still the case that we need to be careful, we are now not in lockdown – it's like stepping off the ark! We are journeying onwards with God into a new chapter, after lockdown. What does that look like for you?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being with us no matter what is happening, through the good times and the bad. Thank you for showing us your rainbow, which is a sign of your promise never to destroy the earth again through a flood, and that 'as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease' ([Genesis 8:22](#)). Thank you for your love and care of us. Help us to remember, when we see a rainbow, that you have promised to care for us, and that we must care for others, too. Amen

You could sing '[Rainbow](#)' by Hillsong.

You could finish by saying the [Lord's Prayer](#) and the [Messy Grace](#).

Mealtime

In one of the activities we talked about our favourite foods. Why not make these meals over the next few days and share in each other's joys?