

FUN

MONTH



REDISCOVERING
SUNDAY SCHOOL STORIES

STUDY GUIDE

**THE STORY OF NOAH'S ARK
IS ABOUT MORE THAN
A FLOATING ZOO.**

**THE STORY OF JONAH
IS ABOUT MORE THAN
A BIG FISH.**

**THE STORY OF DAVID AND GOLIATH
IS ABOUT MORE THAN
STONES AND GIANTS.**

The stories we learned as kids have valuable and practical lessons for us today. Scripture speaks to us in different ways at different times of our life. As kids, we loved the slingshot and animals and imagining a fish swallowing a man.

Join us for Fun Month as we reexamine these timeless tales and rediscover the profound messages about what it means to be human, what it means to be flawed, and what it means to be in a relationship with God.

TELL ME THE OLD, OLD STORY,
OF UNSEEN THINGS ABOVE.

TELL ME THE STORY SIMPLY,
AS TO A LITTLE CHILD.

TELL ME THE STORY OFTEN,
FOR I FORGET SO SOON.

TELL ME THE SAME OLD STORY,
THAT I MAY TAKE IT IN.
THE WONDERFUL REDEMPTION,
GOD'S REMEDY FOR SIN.

*Adapted from the hymn
'Tell Me the Old, Old Story'*



THE RAINBOW AT THE END OF THE STORM

Let's Play

It's Fun Month! So we'll start with a fun group game to play with your House Church, family, or friends.

Two by Two

Write down the first word that comes to your mind when you hear the word.

1. Boat:
2. Rain:
3. Rainbow:
4. Noah:
5. Penguin:
6. Dove:
7. Elephant:
8. Lion:
9. Monkey:
10. Mouse:

Go around and share your answers with the group. Figure out the most common answer for each word. If you have the most common answer, you get one point. Most points at the end wins!

The Story

Watch the story of Noah's Ark
Or read Genesis 8:9-17.



After hearing this familiar Sunday School Bible story, what is one new or surprising insight from the story that you haven't noticed before?



The dimensions of Noah's Ark, as described in the Bible, were approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

"When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."
- Genesis 9:16

Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.
- Genesis 6:22



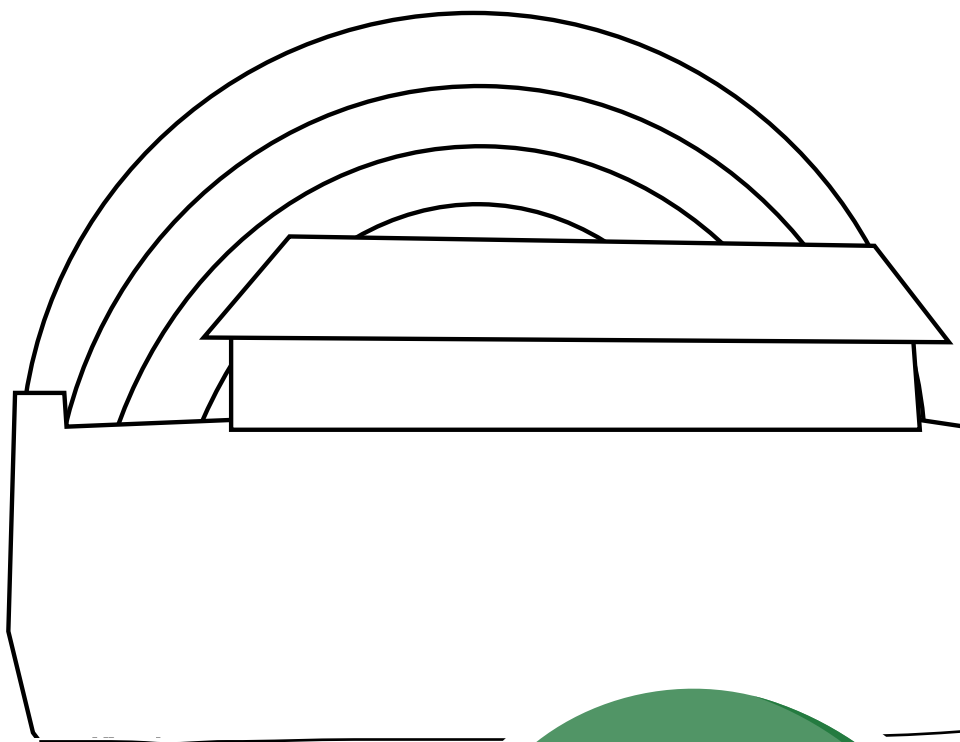
There are ten generations between Adam and Noah.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think a loving God would respond to evil and corruption in the world by flooding the earth?
2. Noah built a boat on dry land. Even though Noah couldn't see the immediate need for a boat, God was preparing him for the future. What is God doing in you and in your life right now to prepare you for the future?
3. Noah likely appeared foolish to other people while building this giant boat. How does obeying God and following Jesus set us apart or make us seem foolish to others? What are some things we do as Christians that others may not understand?
4. Noah and his family were in the ark waiting for over a year. God did not tell Noah the whole plan. He told him what he needed to know as they went along. Have you ever felt like Noah, waiting to see how God's plan was going to unfold? How do you feel in these situations?
5. There were likely days when Noah wondered if this whole plan was going to work out at all. Have you ever doubted if God would come through for you? How can we maintain hope when we don't know the whole plan?
6. Noah built an altar as a reminder of God's faithfulness. God placed a rainbow in the sky as a reminder that no storm will flood the earth again. What objects or symbols remind you of God's faithfulness?

Prayer Requests

Share your "Ark" circumstance (opposite page) with the group and commit to praying for one another this week.



On the Ark, write an area of your life or a circumstance where you are struggling to understand and see God's whole plan.

"When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."
- Genesis 9:16

THE RAINBOW
IS A REMINDER
THAT GOD WILL
KEEP HIS PROMISES.

Jonah and the Fish

FAITHFUL OR FISHY?

Let's Play

It's Fun Month! So we'll start with a fun group game to play with your House Church, family, or friends.

Categories

Go around the circle naming words that fit within each category. For example, if the category is music genres: country, worship, pop, indie, rock, etc. No repeats allowed! Continue to take turns naming answers within the category until someone is unable to come up with a new answer. See how many times you can make it around the circle.

1. Types of fish
2. Water activities
3. Things people fear
4. Names in the Bible
5. Places people don't want to go



The Story

Watch the story of Jonah and the Fish
Or read Jonah 1.

After hearing this familiar Sunday School Bible story, what is one new or surprising insight from the story that you haven't noticed before?



Jesus compared himself to Jonah:
"For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights."

- Matthew 12:40



Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you." This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh.

- Jonah 3:1-3 NLT



The Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish.

- Jonah 1:17-2:1 NLT



Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. It was a scary place known for evil, violence, and depravity.

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time when God wanted you to do something difficult or inconvenient? How did you respond?
2. God wanted Jonah to tell the Ninevites about God, but Jonah was afraid. What fears or apprehensions keep you from sharing your faith with others?
3. Has God ever prompted you to share your faith with someone? How did you feel? What did you do?
4. Jonah literally ran from God – going west when God told him to go east. How do we run away from God today? Why do people run from God?
5. God protected Jonah, even though he disobeyed Him. What does this teach us about God?
6. How have you experienced God protecting or blessing you even when you disobey or mess up?
7. Jonah wanted God to punish the Ninevites for their evil ways. He got angry when God forgave them and showed them grace instead. Have you ever felt like Jonah when someone received forgiveness and grace?

Prayer Requests

Share with the group the name of the person you want to share your faith with (opposite page). Commit to praying for all these people this week.



On the Nineveh side, write down the name of someone God is prompting you to share your faith with.

On the Tarshish side, write down the fears that are keeping you from having a conversation or making an invitation.

Next Steps:

What will you do this week to share your faith with this person?



SLAYING GIANTS AND DEFYING ODDS

Let's Play

It's Fun Month! So we'll start with a fun group game to play with your House Church, family, or friends.

Point the Finger

Count to three and have everyone simultaneously point to the person they would choose to answer each prompt. Person with the most people pointing at them gets one point. Most points at the end of the list wins!

1. Point to the person most likely to bring the best snack.
2. Point to the person most likely to show up late.
3. Point to the person who would throw the best party.
4. Point to the person most likely to go viral for a video on social media.
5. Point to the person most likely to win an episode of Jeopardy.
6. Point to the person most likely to get a speeding ticket.
7. Point to the person who would make the best president.
8. Point to the person who would be the most entertaining at karaoke.
9. Point to the person who would have the best comedy routine.
10. Point to the person most likely to become famous.
11. Point to the person who would win a 100-meter race.
12. Point to the person who you think got the most calls this week.
13. Point to the person most likely to have squirrel conversations.
14. Point to the person most likely to have a perfectly organized house.
15. Point to the person that is the easiest to make laugh.

The Story

Watch the story of David and Goliath
Or read the story in 1 Samuel 17.



After hearing this familiar Sunday School Bible story, what is one new or surprising insight from the story that you haven't noticed before?

★ The stones that David used in his slingshot were likely not small pebbles, but rather fist-sized projectiles known as "stones of the shepherd." These stones were a staple of ancient Israelite weaponry and were capable of inflicting serious damage when hurled with precision.

★ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

- 1 Samuel 17:45

★ "The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

- 1 Samuel 17:37

★ Goliath's height is described as "six cubits and a span," which is estimated to be around 9 feet 9 inches tall.

Discussion Questions

1. Looking back over your life, what's the biggest challenge you've had to face? What would you change about how you handled that situation?
2. Describe a time you witnessed someone be truly courageous.
3. Describe a time when you felt like David. How did you handle being an underdog or facing unlikely odds?
4. People doubted David because he was young and lacked any battle experience, but David didn't doubt himself (1 Sam. 17:33). Have you ever been doubted because of who you are or a lack of experience or expertise? Are you doubting your capabilities with a challenge you're currently facing?
5. David gained courage by remembering how God has protected him in the past (1 Sam. 17:34-37). How can we grow in courage?
6. David rejected ill-fitting armor and chose to be true to himself (1 Sam. 17:38-40). Have you ever felt pressured to be someone you're not? Why are we tempted to do this? How can we stay true to ourselves?

Prayer Requests

Share your challenge (on the opposite page) with the group and commit to praying for one another this week.



1. What is a Goliath challenge you are facing right now?

2. Write on the “stones” the things God has given you that could help you overcome this challenge. Think of any talents, skills, experiences, resources, or people.

Next Steps:

What will you do this week to work on overcoming this Goliath challenge?

Jesus
Loves
You



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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
The office is closed on Fridays