



# Noah's Ark

(Genesis 6-9)

BIBLE  
BACKGROUND

## About This Story

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The book of Genesis contains stories of our beginnings with God. In this first book of the Bible we learn about God and we learn about ourselves.

In Chapter 6 of Genesis, things are bad . . . very bad. Humans, created good just a few chapters ago, are now wicked and they think only of evil all the time. Things are so bad that God decides to wash the world clean and begin again.

Noah is the exception to the evil that is spreading across the earth. The Bible tells us that Noah walked with God. So, in chapter 7, God lays out the directions for Noah to build the ark that will save enough of God's good creation to have a new start.

The promise God makes in chapter 9 is a promise for all the earth and its creatures—humans and animals. God promises never to flood the earth again, and God places the rainbow in the sky as a reminder of that promise.

## Why This Story Matters

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The point of this story is that God cared so much about the created world that God made a plan to continue life on earth through the survivors on the ark. God loves animals, and God loves the people he created—even when they mess up. God can call a do-over and offer a second chance at things.

God wants us to love and obey. But we don't always do this. Sometimes we are wicked through and through. Yet God loves us even when we are on the wrong track and doing all the wrong things. God has promised to love us always and no matter what, and so . . . we *are* loved! Always. No matter what. God keeps promises. This is what we can remember when we see the rainbow in the sky. The rainbow is a sign of God's goodness and steadfast love.