

Noah and the Ark – Creation Station

At a Glance

Children will use eraser clay to make animals, an ark, or a rainbow to place on the end of their pencils. Discussion will focus on how God promised never to destroy the earth again.

Outcome Objectives

- 1) Children will recount the story of Noah and the flood and make a variety of erasers to represent different parts of the story.
- 2) Children will explore the meaning of repentance in the context of the story of Noah (and compare it to what they learned in the previous rotation on Jonah)
- 3) Children will learn the meaning of the word “covenant” and look at examples of covenant.

Supplies Needed

Sculpey Eraser Clay

Baking sheet, lined with foil

Timer

Paper easel and markers

Bibles

Music (optional, use while kneading dough)

Copies of Church’s “Behavioral Covenant” (optional)

Lined paper and pencils for journaling (if time permits) and for testing the erasers.

Advance Preparation

Preheat oven to 250 F

Children need clean hands to work the clay so check for dirty hands and wash at the beginning of class.

Opening Activity

Ask children to recall the story of Noah and the Ark. If this is the first week of the rotation, read the following passages in Genesis:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6:11-14 | God’s decision to flood the earth, building the ark |
| 6:18-19 | Instruction to take animals |
| 7:12 | 40 days and nights of rain |
| 8:6-12 | raven and dove sent out |
| 8:15-19 | disembarking from the ark. |
| 9:11-15 | God’s covenant, “bow” in the sky. |

Or have them turn to a section if there is a part of the story they have forgotten

As they tell the story write down nouns. (ark, animals, rain, raven, dove, olive branch, rainbow, etc.) Leave some space after animals and after they’ve finished the story, ask them to name some

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animals. [If they name a sea animal, explain that those weren't on the ark. Ask them to figure out why they weren't.]

Main Lesson

Assign, or allow the children to choose, an object on your list for each child to make. One might make an elephant, another an ark, another a rainbow, etc.

Figure out how much clay you will need for all the projects and divide it up. You will have to make animals that are orange or purple. Show the children how to knead the dough. You need to make the dough soft and pliable. If you would like to put on some music while the children knead the dough that can help them work. While they are kneading, ask them to close their eyes and imagine that they are an animal that is coming onto that ark. How would it feel to be in there? What would you think when the rains came?

Have children make their figure. Place them on the baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes at 250 degrees. Don't bake for more than 10 minutes.

Life Application

While the erasers are baking and cooling, discuss the following:

Repentance

Write the word on the paper easel.

Did you learn that word with the story of Jonah? What does it mean?

[Literally it means to walk in a new direction.] Say: When someone repents, it isn't just saying "sorry about what I did." It is saying "I'm sorry about what I did, and I will never do it again" and then living your life differently.

Who repented in the story of Jonah? [Jonah – at first he didn't want to go to Ninevah. Then after he was swallowed by the whale, he repented and did what God asked. Also, the people of Ninevah repented, and God decided not to destroy their city.]

Who repented in the story of Noah and the flood? [This may be hard for the kids to answer, or they might get it. Prompt with: who said "I'm sorry, and I'll never do it again?" Read Genesis 9:11 or 9:15]

Does it seem strange to think that God repents?

When you repent, does it erase everything bad that happened? [Sometimes yes, sometimes no. It seemed to wipe everything out in the Jonah story. But in this story, the destruction is still there, it isn't undone.]

Say: Repentance does erase something, however. It erases the bad feelings between people, or between a person and God. It gives you a new chance to be friends again.

Covenant

Write the word on the paper easel.

Look up Genesis 9:8-17.

How many times does the word "covenant" appear in these verses? [7 – You might note that 7 is a sacred number in the Bible, the seventh day is the Sabbath, for instance]

As you read the passage, what does the word “covenant” seem to mean? [promise is usually what kids come up with. Contract, deal etc. is probably more accurate.]
Look at some other covenants. You can look at the church’s behavioral covenant.
Or you can look up some passages from scripture.
What makes these things a “covenant?”

Journaling

Think of something you did wrong in the past and write it down.
Erase it with your eraser.
Write a covenant of how you will act in the future.

To take home

No handouts.

Adjustments for age levels and abilities

Assign younger children easier animals (i.e., snakes), or rainbows.
If you have really young children you could use Play Dough or other reuseable dough.
Change the discussion from erasing to smushing and starting over.

If you have extra time...

Use the rest of the clay up on your last day teaching. We do not use this supply in the next six years and it will be no good by the time we use it again.

If time runs short...

Covenant is the new teaching concept and is more important to discuss.
Erasers can be baked and handed out after church.

Be creative

The Sculpey cover art gives some different ideas for making erasers that fit on the end of pencils. Other ideas available online. But for a project such as this, it is really better to let children use their own imagination rather than trying to copy someone else’s design.