

Family Devotion - Week Three

The Dove

Read Genesis 8:1-19

*****For preschoolers, read "Noah's Ark" in the Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz. For this week read pages 26-32.***

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something to happen? Maybe you have waited for your birthday to arrive so you can have a party with friends, waited for a teacher to grade your test to see how you did, waited for your family vacation to the beach, waited in line at a restaurant in order to be seated, or waited for Christmas to arrive so you can get all the presents you asked for. We can wait for a lot of things and sometimes it seems to take forever.

Noah had to wait. It rained for forty days and nights. But did you know that Noah had to wait a long time to be able to get off the ark? The whole earth had flooded and the waters kept rising. There was a lot of water, and it took a long time for the water to go down so that Noah and his family could see dry land.

Want to know how long they were actually on the ark? A year! Noah and his family were finally able to come out of the ark a little over a year after they entered it. Now that's a long time on a boat! I can only imagine how stir crazy they might have gone while they waited.

One of the things Noah did to see if there was dry land anywhere was he sent out a raven and a dove. First he sent out a raven, but it just flew around in the sky until the waters receded. Then he sent out a dove three times. The first time it came back because there was nowhere for it to rest. The second time it came back with an olive branch in its mouth which told Noah that there was dry land. The third time it did not come back so Noah then knew for sure there was dry land.

Finally, it was time for them to get off the ark and I am sure they were dancing with joy! I bet even the animals did a little happy dance! The wait was over, and Noah and his family could live on dry land again.

The next time you have to wait for something, remember how Noah and his family waited for the rain to end and the floods to go down. Practice patience, and know that God is with you while you wait.

Holy God, it's hard to wait. Help me to be patient and remember You are with me through the waiting. Amen.

Family Game - Week Three

Hunt for Dry Land

Supplies Needed: Dry Land Hunt List, plastic bag

This is a scavenger hunt-type game. You will go on a search for signs of dry land outside in your yard.

Using the dry land hunt list, search your yard for the items listed. When you find one, place it in the plastic bag if you can or snap a picture of it. Bring these items back inside and show them to your family. Talk about how Noah might have felt as he searched for dry land and waited.

Hunt for Dry Land

Noah sent a dove to search for dry land.
you are going to go on a hunt for signs of dry
land, too!

Search your yard for the following items.
Collect the items you can in a bag or snap a
picture of them:

Leaves

Stick

Rocks

Animal tracks

Grass

Butterfly

Four-Leaf Clover

Roly-Poly

Worm

Ant

feather

birdseed

Rabbit

Flowers

Pinecone

Ladybug

Spiderweb

acorn

Family Craft - Week Three

Stick Painting

***Supplies Needed:** small stick, acrylic paint, paintbrush*

The second time Noah sent out the dove, it came back with an olive branch. To remember this part of Noah's story, you will be decorating your own stick.

Go outside in your yard and find a small stick. Set up a painting station inside your home (use newspaper or butcher paper to keep your table from getting paint on it). Then paint your stick with any design you like. After you finish, allow it to dry. When it's dry, place it in your room to remind you of Noah and how he used the dove to help him find dry land.

Family Snack - Week Three

Blue Sky Jello

Large box blue Jello

8 oz Cool Whip

Make the Jello in a pan or bowl according to the directions on the box. Refrigerate until fully set. Then take a fork and scrape the Jello into clumps. Spoon Jello into a clear cup, alternating between Jello and Cool Whip.