

*I promise you this. If you don't change and become like a child, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. But if you are as humble as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

*- Matthew 18:3-4*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last term we worked through the different miracles that Jesus performed in the Bible. Learning that Jesus was very powerful and cared for people. He also loves and cares for us today.

This term we are going to be looking at some of the key characters from the Old Testament. We will be looking at how each of these people followed God and that God kept all of his promises to them.

As we move through the year we are working on covering different parts of the Bible so your children will be familiar with many of the stories. This way as they get older they will have the foundations of their faith as well as being familiar with God's word.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,

Jess

#### Supplies

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- Children's Bible
- Craft supplies in colours of the rainbow
- Toy animals
- Pillows
- Glue
- Scissors
- Small ball

#### Worship

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Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service. Below is a selection of action songs which you might like to try:

- Holy Spirit Build Me Up [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_MYrHdoVZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_MYrHdoVZE)
- Our God is a Great Big God [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-424MpB\\_pd0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-424MpB_pd0)

- Who's the King of the Jungle?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCirKZr8QY>

## Craft

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Today's story is about Noah and God's promise. The craft is building a rainbow to use in the story.

Depending on the resources you have at home you can create a rainbow in many different ways:

You can simply use markers and pencils and draw a rainbow on a big piece of paper.

You can cut up different coloured paper and then have your children glue them in the shape of a rainbow.

You can use different coloured post it notes to create a rainbow.

Gather different objects from your garden in the colours of the rainbow. Sort them by colour and then stick them on paper in the shape of a rainbow.

You can also paint a rainbow.

## Story Time

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Find a special comfy place with your children and their Bible and read the story of Noah together.

Today we are also going to act the story out with the children.

Collect lots of toys animals and have lots of pillows ready to build a boat.

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God was looking at his world and he saw that the people were not being very nice. They were being very bad. They wouldn't listen to God. They would take things that didn't belong to them. They hurt each other.

This made God feel really sad.

*Have your children all make their best sad face.*

But there was one person who was making God happy.

*Have your children all make their best happy face.*

He was living the way God wanted. Do you know who it was? – It was Noah. God asked Noah to make a really, really big boat. Big enough for lots of animals. God also asked Noah to make the boat on the land, not near any water. How strange.

*Build a boat with your children. This could be using pillows or furniture or building blocks your child may have.*

God told Noah to find two of every type of animal and to put them on the boat. *You and your children line up all the animals and then walk them onto your boat.*

Then it began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. That's a really long time to rain.

*Make rain actions and noises with your children.*

It rained so much that the whole earth was covered in water there was no dry land left.

*Pretend to look around the room for dry land*

It took a very long time for the land to dry up again. But when the land was dry God said to Noah "it's time to come out."

Noah and all the animals came out of the boat.

*You, your children and the animals all leave the boat.*

Look up in the sky. There is a big beautiful rainbow. It was a promise from God that he will never cover the whole earth in water again. When we see a rainbow in the sky we can remember that God will always keep this promise.

*Hold the rainbow you made earlier.*

## Prayer

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1: Find a small ball or something that can be gently tossed or rolled between people.

Today we are going to be saying thank you to God for different things.

You start off with the ball and say a simple prayer such as "Thank you God for rainbows." You then roll or toss the ball to your child and they can say thank you to God for something. They then pass the ball onto the next person.

Continue to do this so each child has two or three turns.

You may also like to include some time where you have simple prayers saying sorry to God for when we do things that aren't particularly nice.