

Faithfulness

[Noah Built an Ark]



THE BIG IDEA

Being faithful means keeping your promises or doing what you say you will, even when you think it's not a good idea any more or you are afraid of looking silly. God keeps His promises to us and so we should be faithful in following Him.



MEMORY VERSE

See resource FOS4 Ideas for Learning Memory Verses.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



KEY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:24

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.



READ

Genesis 7 & 8



DISCUSSION

▶ What does the word faithful mean?

Lead the discussion around to the most basic point. When you say you will do something, you will do it no matter what.

In the Bible when we think of people being faithful it means that when they decided to follow God. They did it even when it might have been dangerous or looked a bit silly.

Resources

▶ Praise Songs



See Resource FOS5

Love, Joy, Peace, by Shelley Spiers

Other

Mr Noah Built an Arc

▶ Games



See Resource FOS1

Do This Do That

Simon Says

What's the time Mr Wolf?

Port/Starboard

▶ Crafts



See Resource FOS2

Floating Boats

▶ Programme Card

Edible Rafts

https://bit.ly/Jnr_raft





The Talk

▶ **God told Noah to build an ark.**

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we read a story about a man called Noah. Noah was a good man who followed God, but most of the other people around did not. He and his family were faithful to God.

Now, where Noah lived it was quite warm and there probably wasn't a lot of rain, not like here in Northern Ireland! So it came as a surprise to Noah when God spoke to him and told him there would be a flood. There had never been a massive flood before and it would have been easy for Noah to ignore God and say it was impossible.

However, Noah believed God and God told him to build a huge boat. This boat was called an ark. Now Noah must have looked very silly to build this huge boat when he was miles away from any water for it to float on. It would be even more silly than putting your stocking out in July or wearing your shorts and flip-flops in December. It just did not make any sense. No doubt the people who knew Noah thought he was mad for building this boat.

Noah was faithful to God, and so he did just as God asked him. He believed God was right and there was a reason for this, he trusted that God didn't want to make him look silly and that this ark would protect Noah and his family when the flood arrived.

Noah spent a lot of time building his boat and eventually he finished it. The flood was coming and God sent Noah some of every kind of animal so that they would be protected too. God sent a pair of each animal and seven pairs of other kinds of animals.

▶ Ask the children – does anyone have any pets? Do the animals ever get a bit smelly? Do they ever have to pick up a dog poo or change dirty water for a fish?

Now imagine being on a small boat with all of these animals. It must have been really smelly, Noah and his family must have had a lot of cleaning up to do!

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Now it may not have been exactly 40 days and 40 nights, but when the Bible says this it means the amount of time someone could survive without eating food. So it was a really long time. When it stopped raining there was a huge flood, the water did not disappear right away!

40 days after the rain stopped, Noah sent out a dove to see if it could find any dry land but the dove came back because it couldn't find any dry land. After another 7 days he sent the dove out again and this time it came back with a leaf, so he knew the tops of trees were above water. He sent the dove out again after 7 more days but the dove didn't come back! This meant it has found dry land and was able to make a nest somewhere.

The flood was gone and Noah, his family and all of the animals were safe! God kept His promise to protect Noah from this terrible flood and because Noah believed Him, even when he might have thought it was silly, he was saved.

Sometimes there are people out there who think it is silly to follow Jesus today.

When we are faithful to Jesus, He will be faithful to us. Noah did not care if he looked silly and he was saved. Jesus can save all of us. He offers us eternal life with Him in Heaven if we follow Him. So, if you decide to follow Jesus, remember that those who are faithful to God will be rewarded, just like Noah was. ▶