

Sharing our Bible Story for Today

Did you see the sun rise and set this week? What is happening to the days? We are starting a new season called Lent – a time to slow down and think about what it means to follow Jesus and live in God’s way, especially when we face troubles and challenges like Jesus did.

Today’s story is one of the very first stories in the Bible! The Bible is like a library with lots of kinds of books and stories inside. You could find today’s story about God’s promises in a Bible at home, or online, by looking for the first book in the Bible, which is Genesis. I wonder why it is called Genesis? Maybe you want to find out! You will find today’s story in chapter 9 of the book of Genesis, or you can read this version from [The Family Story Bible](#).

*When you see a beautiful rainbow in the sky, what does it remind you of?
When people long ago saw a rainbow, they thought about God, and they remembered the story of the Noah family. The rainbow reminded them of God’s covenant, God’s promise. Here’s a story they told about the rainbow.*

God Sends a Rainbow

Everyone was so glad when the rain stopped and the flood was over. Noah’s grandchildren climbed out of the smelly ark and rolled around on the new grass. It was such fun. “Well,” sighed old Noah. “That was quite an adventure. I’m glad it’s over.”

It wasn’t over. The best part of the adventure was still to come. “I am going to make a covenant with you,” said God. “This covenant will be with you and your children, and your children’s children, and your children’s children’s children. Forever.”

“My covenant is not just with you. It’s with all those animals and birds you had in the ark. In fact, it’s with every living thing. My covenant is with the whole world.” The Noah family must have been looking puzzled. They didn’t really know what a “covenant” was. So God told them.

“This covenant means that I promise not to send any more floods to cover the whole world. Even though people forget my love, I won’t destroy everything the way I did this time.”

“That’s *my* part of the covenant. Here’s *your* part. I am giving everything to you, the people of the world. The birds that fly in the air, the animals that walk on the ground, the fish in the sea, the grass and the flowers and the trees. Everything. It’s yours. Please take good care of it.

“Be good to each other. Take care of each other. I don’t want any more killing. And I have a special surprise to help you remember my covenant. Look!”

Then the whole world seemed to smile a funny, upside-down kind of smile. It seemed as if everything was painted in colour. The Noah family, and all the animals and birds just stopped and looked and said, “Ohhhhhh!”

“Wow!” said one of the Noah children.

It was a rainbow. A glorious rainbow in all the colours of the world.

“This rainbow is the sign of my covenant,” said God. “Years and years from now, when people see my rainbow, they will remember my covenant with all the people of the world and with every living thing.

As long as there is a world,
Summer and winter,
Seed time and harvest,
When it’s cold and when it’s hot,
Day and night,
Whenever the sun shines through the rain,
They will remember my promise.
I will be their God.
Always! Forever!

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Thinking and talking about the Story

Think of a promise you have made – if you were to choose a symbol to represent that promise what would it be?

Covenants are a two way street. Think about our part of the covenant. What does God ask us to promise? Maybe you would like to colour a rainbow and draw one or two things under the rainbow that we can do to keep our part of the covenant with God this week. Or maybe you want to share your imagination through a poem or a song?

Putting the Story into Action

1) Being outside is a great way to remember that we are part of God’s creation. Check out the new resource “*Take a Sacred Pause*” in our Sunday School at Home resources and enjoy a walk outside together.

2) Is there one new thing you would like to try at home or at school this week to take care of God’s creation? Think of another person who would get excited about taking the next step with you to make your idea happen!

3) Watch for sun dogs in the winter sky. A sun dog shows us the rainbow colours in the cold of winter! Would you like to find out more about what makes sun dogs appear in the sky?

4) Do you have a question about the story? Send us an email and we will respond! We love questions – the harder the better!

Did you have fun telling the story in another way – by acting it out or drawing pictures or some other creative idea? We encourage you to share what you are learning with your church family! We miss being together in person!

Carman United Church and St. Andrew's United Church families - to share your responses to this week's story visit Carman United Church Face Book page or email the church office Karen.mcgill@crossroadsunited.com. Visit www.crossroadsunited.com and see Sunday School At Home to view previous lessons and stuff people are sharing.

Immanuel United Church families –If you are willing to have your art shown before or during worship, please ask your grown-ups to take/help you take a picture of your drawings and send the picture(s) to Ha Na to be shared before or during the service on Sunday.

5) Here is another story about the power of promises you might enjoy:
A Promise is a Promise by Robert Munsch and Michael Kusugak

Praying at Home

A Rainbow Grace

Thank you God for food to share,
(name something red)
(name something orange)
(name something yellow)
(name something green)
(name something blue)
(name something purple)
Amen!

Sunday School at Home Resources for the season of Lent and Easter Sunday (2021) prepared collaboratively by Immanuel United Church in Winnipeg and Crossroads United Pastoral Charge (St. Andrew's United Church in Elm Creek and Carman United Church)