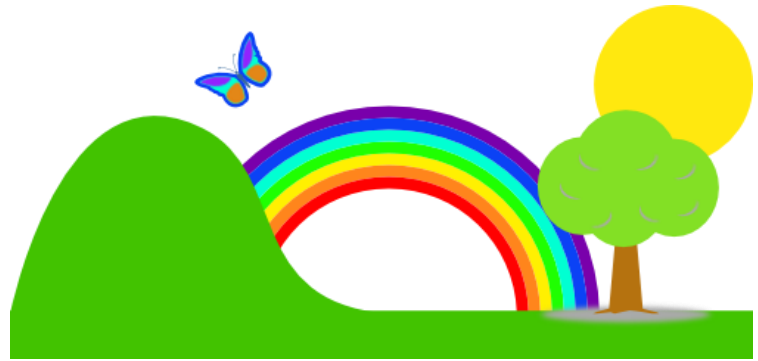


Noah: A Rainbow of Promises



Genesis ch 9 v 8 -17

God said to Noah and his sons, ⁹ "I am now making my covenant with you and with your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all living beings—all birds and all animals—everything that came out of the boat with you. ¹¹ With these words I make my covenant with you: I promise that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth. ¹² As a sign of this everlasting covenant which I am making with you and with all living beings, ¹³ I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world. ¹⁴ Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, ¹⁵ I will remember my promise to you and to all the animals that a flood will never again destroy all living beings. ¹⁶ When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on earth. ¹⁷ That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings."

A few weeks ago we looked at how important promises are. A promise is a promise and it's important to keep your promises--even if it's just a promise to yourself.

We looked at the story of Simeon and Anna in the Temple, and how God kept His promise to them and to all His people. God had promised to send a Messiah or Saviour to the world, and Simeon and Anna saw this promise kept as they greeted Jesus in the Temple.

Today we have read about another promise God made many years before to a man named Noah. You all know about Noah's ark. God was going to send a flood because the people had begun to make lots of bad choices. Noah was a man who

made good choices so God told him to build an ark so that his family and two of each animal safe could be kept safe. Noah obeyed and when the flood filled the earth it destroyed everything and everyone except Noah's family and two of every kind of bird and animal.

After the flood waters went down, God made a promise to Noah. (Covenant is another word for promise). He promised Noah that He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. Then He put a rainbow in the sky and said to Noah, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the promise between Me and all life on the earth." God said the rainbow would remind us of the promise that He made.

The next time you see a rainbow, remember the promise God made to Noah, and remember that just as God has kept that promise, He keeps all of His promises to you, too.

Dear God, we're thankful that You keep Your promises. Help us to keep our promises, too. In Jesus' name. Amen.

This is a little rainbow science experiment I tried.

1. You need some Skittles.
2. Put them around the edge of the plate, alternating colours.
3. Pour some warm water in the centre of the plate.
4. As the water spreads to the edge of the plate watch the rainbow appear.

