

Godly Play Script: Noah and the Ark

Noah and the Ark - Genesis 6:5 - 9:17

Watch carefully where I go...

Go get a brown felt underlay or rug.

First, we need a rug.

When God created everything,

sweep your hand across the rug

God said, "It is very good."

Place your hand on the rug as if you were blessing it.

But people began to do bad things. God decided to send a great flood of water to wash everything clean and make it new again.

Move your hand to show the [pretend] water flowing across the rug.

Then God saw a good family. The father was Noah. He and his wife had three sons, and they had wives.

Put Noah two-thirds towards the children, to leave room for the ark between the family and you. Put Namah, Noah's wife, next to Noah. If you want, you can add three sons and their wives between the first two figures and the children. Using names explicitly will distract from the story.

Noah walked with God. He came so close to God, and God came so close to Noah, that Noah knew what God wanted him to do. God wanted Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Noah and all of his family began to build a big boat called an ark.

Move Noah away from the rest of the family as he walks with God.

As they were building the ark, animals began to come from all the four corners of the earth. They came two by two to fill the ark.

Move the animals, two by two onto the ark. You don't have to put all the animals out now; it might be distracting if it takes too long or if the animals keep falling over.

When the ark was finished and all of the animals were on the ark, it began to rain. Water came down from the heavens and up from the earth. It rained and rained.

Show the rain coming down with your hands.

At first it was like any rain, but the rain kept on coming. The puddles ran together...

use your hands to show the puddles forming on the rug

and soon the water covered everything.

Put your hands on each end of the ark and slowly lift it upward, rocking it a bit to show the motion of the water.

When the creatures on the ark looked out into the rain all they could see was water. It rained and rained. It rained for forty days and forty nights.

Finally, raise the ark above everyone, including yourself. Hold the ark to emphasize the experience of submersion. This image recurs in the liturgy of baptism, especially in traditions that submerge the baptized person. Raising something upward is also a gesture of offering we encounter in later lessons about the Holy Communion.

But God did not forget the creatures on the ark. Water forty days and forty nights the rain stopped. Then God sent a great wind to dry up the water, and the water began to go down.

Begin to lower ark slowly as you talk. When it is about a foot from the floor set it down without comment. Turn your attention to the dove.

Noah took the dove. He held it carefully and then sent it forth. It flew and flew. Noah held out his hand and received the dove. There was still nothing but water.

Remove the top from the small dove basket and have the lid ready to place at the far edge of the rug to your right. It will become the nest the dove makes. Hold out your hand to receive the dove, and to let it fly. Fly the dove back and forth as it searches for land.

Noah waited seven more days. He sent the dove forth again. It flew and flew.

This time when it came back it had a fresh olive leaf in its mouth. Now there was something green and growing off the earth again.

Point to the dove's beak and let the children imagine the olive leaf.

Noah waited seven more days. He sent the dove out again. This time it did not come back. It found a home. It made a nest, and stayed there.

Hold out your hand and let the dove fly forth again. "Fly" the dove around and finally allow it to settle in its nest.

The water kept going down, then finally the ark came to rest upon the earth.

Pick up the ark again, gently rocking it. Then slowly settle the ark down the rug.

All the creatures began to come out of the ark. They were so happy to be home again that they could not help it. They had to say their prayers to try to say how happy they were. They made an altar and

gave thanks to God.

Take the creatures out of the ark and put them in the circle. Place some stones (two with a third resting on the other two) in the middle of the circle to show how Noah "built" an altar.

Suddenly, all the creatures saw a great bow in the sky. It was a bow of many colors. You can still see it today when there is rain and the sun is shining. Today we call it a rainbow.

With your hand flat, your palm facing the children, make an arc that begins at one side of the rug and goes up, then down to the other side of the rug. In other words, the arc covers the whole earth.

This rainbow is God's sign to say that God will never send such a flood again.

The creatures then went out into all the four corners of the earth and filled it up again with life.

Move the animal pairs out to the four corners of the rug. Noah and his family remain in the middle. Wait a moment or two before starting to wonder.

Wondering

Now, I wonder what party of the story you like best?

I wonder what part is the most important?

I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you?

I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need?

Without hurrying, replace everything carefully on the tray. Carry the tray back to the shelf. Put away the rug.

Now I wonder what work you would like to get out today?