**Noah’s Bad Day**

**October 19 - 26**

**Supplies Needed:**

Pencils or markers

Index cards

When God interrupted Noah’s life with instructions to build an ark, Noah wasn’t looking for new projects. He was already busy raising a family. He had flocks and herds to tend. He was living his life.

But in a single day, Noah got two challenging pieces of news. First, he was supposed to drop everything and gather materials, round up animals, and hammer together a floating zoo. And second, there was a flood coming. A big flood. Suddenly, what seemed like a strange request made perfect sense. Noah needed to build an ark – and the sooner he got started, the better!

God asks us to do things that don’t make sense, too. At least they don’t make sense at first –

Turn the other cheek when someone hurts us? Forgive our enemies? Give away 10% - a chunk of our income from every paycheck or our allowance?

See what your would all do for the following – wait a second or two before you read the second part.

Would you rather have shampoo or milk…………………………..to put on breakfast cereal

Would you rather have coke or water………………………………..to keep your plants healthy

Would you rather have your head or your feet…………………..stuffed inside a shoe

Would you rather have balls or bats……………………………………to juggle

Would you rather have toilet paper or printer paper…………..to write on

Discuss: How did you make your choices? Why was it hard to make the choice that made sense?

It was hard to pick the item that made sense before you knew how it would be used. That is probably how it was for Noah. It didn’t make sense to the people around him that Noah was building a huge ark. But Noah knew something the others didn’t know – God was sending a flood!

Some things God asks us to do, such as forgiving others, loving people who aren’t nice to us, may not make sense either. Except, we know that God is helping shape us to be like him, to care about what he cares about. God wants us to obey him. Obeying him helps us to treat others the best way possible.

Hand out the index cards pack. Tell them: “Time to build a card tower. I want you to make one this is as high as possible. Pick a spot on the floor to start construction and you have 4 minutes to see what you can do.”

After 4 minutes, let show what they were able to accomplish. Then say, I’m going to give you the same assignment, but this time I’m going to be like God giving instructions to Noah when Noah was to build the ark. I’ll give you detailed instructions. Here you go - This time, you can bend the cards. (show how you can bend the card to make a right angle) This lets you build walls that are more stable. See how high you can go this time. Go!

Next – “Let’s pretend you see a fence surrounding a house. A fence 10 feet high with barbed wire on top. A sign is nailed to the fence: Stay out! Beware of killer dogs. Behind the fence you hear snarling and snapping teeth. Would you obey the sign? Why or why not?”

Pass out pencils or markers. Say, “Obeying signs about killer dogs might save your life! On an index card, draw another sign that might save a life – if people obey it. Your sign can be real, like “Slow down – dangerous curve ahead,” or make something up like “Don’t walk under the sofa – monster dust bunny zone.”

After sharing their signs with the group, say, “Obeying signs can be important. Obeying God is always important, just as Noah found out. As I read this story, listen for 2 things:

In what ways Noah obedient to God?

How was obeying God a good thing for Noah? A challenge?

Read aloud Genesis 6:5 – 7:5 – this is kinda long, so you might want to show how to find it in the Bible, and then tell in your own words. Have everyone share what they thought with each of the above questions.

Noah is not the only one who is supposed to obey God. That’s our job too.

Two by Two:

The animals made onto Noah’s ark in pairs. See who can be the first to fill in the missing part of the matches below. Call out the first portion of each pair and then see who knows the answer first.

Milk and ……………………….cookies

Salt and ………………………..pepper

Shoes and …………………….socks

Sweet and …………………….sour

Apples and ……………………oranges

Peanut butter and ………..jelly

Cats and ………………………dogs

Ham and ………………………cheese

Odds and ………………………ends

Black and ………………………white