

## Fun with Noah's Ark

Many of you will have a Noah's Ark set somewhere or other. It may be under a bed, in the loft or in a box in the garage. It may still be in a toy box in the living room if you have a younger brother or sister. Why not dig it out and use it to learn to tell the story to someone else? It's a really good learning activity to learn a story so that you can tell it in your own words.

If you have not got a Noah's Ark set or you have got bits missing, that doesn't matter – you could just use something like a casserole bowl for the ark and make some figures out of Play Doh. You could even draw some figures and cut them out.



You can watch someone tell the story in a style which is called 'Godly Play' here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqIMiemPBL4>



On the next page, there is a version of the Noah's Ark story which compares how everyone on the Ark felt to how we might have been feeling in lockdown.

## Noah and the Ark

Noah and his family were in lockdown – and we all know what that feels like, don't we?!

They had self-isolated to be safe from a world-wide flood, and now they'd been shut up together for longer than anyone really wanted to be. Noah and his family were grateful that they were all safe, but they were desperate to get out of the ark and get on with their normal lives...whatever the new normal was going to be. It had been a challenging time and they had to have patience with each other stuck as they were inside one ship ...with all those animals! And all that noise....! And all those SMELLS! They also had to have patience with God. They knew that God would bring this to an end but when....?!

After forty days of lockdown, Noah opened a window in the ark and sent out a raven, but it kept flying back and forth as the flood hadn't yet gone down and it could find nowhere to land. This was a disappointment, but Noah was just going to have to wait a little longer. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to land either and so it returned to the ark. They were all disappointed, but they knew they just had to continue being patient. So, Noah waited another seven days and sent out the dove again and when it returned the dove had a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak! This was great news as it meant the flood was going down and there were trees out there.

But Noah and his family still had to be patient, they needed to be sure that this wasn't just a blip, a one off... So Noah waited another seven days and then sent out the dove again. This time it did not return, and Noah was sure that it was safe.

Then God said to Noah 'Come out of the ark, all of you: you, your wife and your sons' wives'. Their patience had been rewarded. It had been a long wait; it had taken courage and resilience, but they were all safe and well. As they looked back it had all seemed worth it – and they knew that one day, it would be a distant memory. The first thing Noah did was to give thanks to God and then God set a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of his promise, that never again would a flood destroy the earth.

## Activity Ideas

If you can have a paddling pool, you could tell the story of Noah's Ark with real water from a hose pipe or watering can!



If you can find a tray of some sort, you could make your own model of the story to play with like these.



If you have got some paints, you could try painting a set of Noah's Ark pebbles like these.

If you have a younger brother or sister, you could play 'Kim's Game' with these. That's where they cover their eyes and you take one away, then they have to try to remember which one is missing.



Why not try making a Noah's Ark out of Lego or Duplo. If you have a device to do it on, you could try making a stop-motion animation like the one here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol2Ci3SeEgs>

