

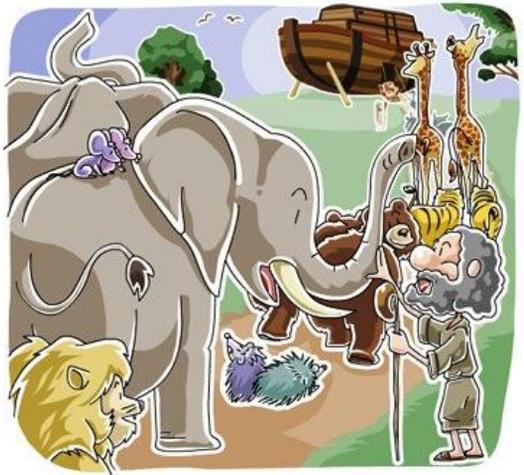
Noah and a Boat full of Animals

Story told at Messy Church on 21st September 2013

God said to Noah 'I want you to build a boat. Noah loved talking with God. He always wanted to do what God said, but he was surprised.

'Build a boat?' Noah asked.

'Yes' said God 'I'm going to send lots of rain. The world will be covered in water. You and your family must get into the boat and be safe.' Noah built a big, big boat from wood. He used a saw and a hammer and nails. He made the boat very long and tall and wide. He built a roof and lots of different rooms – just the way God said.



'Now go into the boat' said God 'and take two of every kind of animal with you.' Noah found two of every creature; big and small ones; stripy and spotted ones; roaring squawking, snorting, mewing and barking ones; softly cheeping, brightly coloured and plain ones. And when everyone was safe inside, God shut the door. Noah and his family were safe.

It rained for weeks and the whole world was full of water, But God made sure that everyone on the boat and all the animals were safe.

One day the rained stopped and it wasn't long before it was safe to get out of the boat onto dry land. All the animals came out – they were pleased to be back on dry land. Two of every creature came out: big and small ones; stripy and spotted ones; roaring squawking, snorting, mewing and barking ones; softly cheeping, brightly coloured and plain ones.

But Noah was worried. Would it rain so hard again? Would there be another big flood? He looked up at the sky. He wondered if it would soon be full of dark clouds bringing rain again. But instead he saw something wonderful! A rainbow arching across the sky!

'I'll never flood the earth like that again' God told Noah 'When you see the rainbow in the sky, remember I always keep my promises'

(This story is from the Bible – the book of Genesis, chapter 6 starting at verse 1.)