**Community**
We discover God’s purpose for our lives.

**POWER TEXT**
“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth” (Genesis 9:16).

**KEY REFERENCES**
- Genesis 8: 9:1-17
- Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 8, pp. 105-110
- The Bible Story (1994), vol. 1, pp. 120–123 (“Beginning Again”)
- Student story on page 52 of this guide

**OUR BELIEFS**
- No. 6, Creation
- No. 3, God the Father
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

**OBJECTIVES**
The students will:
- **Know** that God still provides new beginnings for His children.
- **Feel** excited about their new life in Christ.
- **Respond** by looking for in others what God sees.

**The Bible Lesson at a Glance**
After the Flood God promised that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood. He told Noah and his family to repopulate the earth, and gave them instructions to help them. “Be ye fruitful, and multiply.” The rainbow became a symbol of God’s covenant with them. Every time they saw a rainbow, they were to remember God’s saving protection and the earth’s new beginning.

**This is a lesson about community.**
God still protects His children. He knows that we all make mistakes, and He willingly offers us a new beginning, just as He wants us to offer new beginnings to one another.

**Teacher Enrichment**
“How great the condescension of God and His compassion for His erring creatures in thus placing the beautiful rainbow in the clouds as a token of His covenant with men! The Lord declares that when He looks upon the bow, He will remember His covenant. This does not imply that He would ever forget; but He speaks to us in our own language, that we may better understand Him. It was God’s purpose that as the children of after generations should ask the meaning of the glorious arch which spans the heavens, their parents should repeat the story of the Flood, and tell them that the Most High had bended the bow and placed it in the clouds as an assurance that the waters should never again overflow the earth. Thus from generation to generation it would testify of divine love to man and would strengthen his confidence in God” (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 106, 107).

**How does God continue to reveal His love and care for me? In what ways has my confidence in God been strengthened? What new beginning have I been offered?**
Welcome
Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly. You may debrief students on the previous lesson to help them see the chronological continuity of the Bible stories from one week to another. Then ask students to share a few things they have learned from the current lesson prior to Sabbath School. Ask: What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week.

Transition into the Readiness activity of your choice.

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Create-a-Rainbow

The simplest way to create a rainbow is to use a prism and shine light through it. However, you can achieve the same results on a sunny day by either of the following two methods.

1. Place a glass of water on a window ledge. Place a sheet of white paper where the refracted light from the glass will hit and you will see a rainbow.
2. Fill a baking tray with water. Place it in the sunlight. Lean a hand mirror against the side of the tray, half in the water. Move the tray so that the light from the mirror shines on the ceiling or on a piece of white paper.

Say: This morning we are going to make a rainbow, without any rain! Instruct the students according to the method you have chosen.

Debriefing

Ask: When do you normally see a rainbow? What does a rainbow remind you of? Say: The first rainbow was given a particular significance by God. God wanted to communicate a specific message of hope and new beginnings. God offers us new beginnings as often as we need them. And in turn, He wants us to be willing to do the same for others. Let’s say together the power text, Genesis 9:16,

“When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth” (Genesis 9:16).

Say:

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

B

Rainbow Colors

Give each student a piece of paper with the colors of the rainbow listed (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet).

Say: When I say “Go,” I want you to circulate around the room and get a signature for each of the colors listed on your paper, from someone who is wearing that color. The same person cannot sign your sheet twice even if they are wearing more than one color.

Debriefing

Ask: Which of the colors listed is your favorite? What are the hardest colors to see in the rainbow? (indigo and violet)

Say: When did the first rainbow appear? What promise did God make when He sent the first rainbow? How is this promise still valid for all of us here, today?

Say: God offers His protection and His plan to all of us who will choose it.
READINESS ACTIVITIES

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship
Allow students to report things that they are pleased or troubled about. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Get contact information from the adult who brought them to church. Early in the following week, send a postcard or e-mail letting the visitors know how much you enjoyed having them in your class and that you would like to see them again.

Suggested Songs
“We Are the Family of God” (He Is Our Song, no. 114)
“Love, Love” (He Is Our Song, no. 132)
“Oh, Fill It Up” (He Is Our Song, no. 135)
“We Are His” (He Is Our Song, no. 140)
“Salt and Light” (Praise Time, no. 43)

Mission
Use Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults (go to www .juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering
Say: We are fortunate that we have Jesus as our friend and know that He will help us in every situation. Others are not so fortunate. One way of helping others is by giving our offerings to support pastors, teachers, medical workers and to build churches where people can come and learn about Jesus.

Prayer
Say: I want you to think of something that you have done that you are not proud of. Write a word on this piece of paper and then fold it up and put it in this envelope. When everyone has placed their paper in the envelope, say: We are going to pray over these things and ask God to help us make a new beginning, a chance to start over again. At the end of the prayer, say: I am going to burn these up/throw them away. That is just what Jesus has done. God’s plan for a new beginning is waiting for you to ask Him for it. He wants to give you a new start.

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Allow students who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could help them.

Rainbow Collage
Say: This month we have been studying about ways that God reveals His plan for our lives as we live together as children of God. Particularly, we have been studying about the form God’s plans took in the lives of Noah and his family. After the Flood He gave Noah a rainbow. This morning we are going to create a rainbow. Put together a colorful collage, using paper of different colors as well as pictures. You may also create symbols to represent plans that God may have for your life. You may represent through symbols a career, or a talent that you have.

Allow students to work for a specific amount of time. Let them know when to complete their projects.

Debriefing
Ask: What did you put in the rainbow? Why?
Say: The first rainbow was given a particular significance by God. God wanted to communicate a specific message to Himself and His children on the earth every time they saw one. It was a message of hope and new beginnings. Let’s say together the power text, Genesis 9:16,

“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth” (Genesis 9:16).

Anytime we need to be cleaned up and to start over, God already has a plan for a new beginning for us. God offers us new beginnings as often as we need them. And in turn He wants us to be willing to do the same for others.

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Allow students who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could help them.
Introducing the Bible Story
Get the students’ attention and ask them to sit very quietly for the next few minutes, not making any noise except to do what you do. First, for 20 or 30 seconds, snap the middle finger and thumb of both hands together. Then switch to patting both legs with the open palms of both hands for 20 or 30 seconds. Then, in addition to the leg patting, stomp your feet for 20 to 30 seconds. Then go back to only patting your legs. Then go back to only snapping your fingers. Keep the students quiet during this activity. Go immediately to Experiencing the Story.

Experiencing the Story
Ask your guest to enter the room as you finish up the finger-snapping rain sounds in Introducing the Story. Ahead of time, ask the guest to tell the story from Genesis 8 through Genesis 9:7. Ask them to then have the students open their Bibles to discover with him what God told him in Genesis 9:8-17.

Say: And that is the story of the first rainbow, and a new beginning for eight human beings and a boat load of animals. Today we are learning that

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

OR

Show slides of the beauties of nature, including as many rainbow pictures as you can. After the slides, ask: Can you imagine what it must have been like for Noah and his family after having been through 40 days of rain and five months all together in a crowded boat full of animals? Let’s review what happened to Noah and his family. Ask the students to open their Bibles to Genesis 8–9:7 and review the events with them, asking them such questions as:

What happened after the rain stopped?
How much longer were they in the ark?
Where did the ark land?
What bird did Noah send out first? What happened?
What bird did he send out next? What happened?
What bird did Noah send out last? What happened?
How did Noah know when to come out of the ark?
What did Noah do first?
What instructions did God give to Noah and his family?

Then have students read aloud Genesis 9:8-17. Ask: What was God reminding them of every time they saw a rainbow? (His promise never again to destroy the earth by flood) What else was God giving the human family? (a new beginning) Say: God is always offering us new beginnings. Through grace He has forgiven our sins, and through grace He works to make us new creatures. We also need to extend grace to those around us and to offer them second chances for new beginnings.

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.
Exploring the Bible
Say: God gave Noah and his family a second chance, a new beginning. Let’s look at some other people in the Bible who also experienced a new beginning. When you read the text try to answer the following questions for each person you read about. You may want to separate into small groups. If so, allow time for the students to report back to the larger group and discuss their findings. At the end of each group report say the power point.

1. What had the person done that required a new beginning?
2. What did their new beginning involve?
3. If you had lived then, how could you have supported them in their new beginning?

A. Judges 13:2-5; 16:4-6, 15-30 (Samson)
B. Genesis 27:1-33, 41; 28:10-22 (Jacob)
C. Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:15-19 (Peter)
D. John 20:24-29 (Thomas)
E. Acts 9:1-19 (Saul)

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Make available a handout with the list of Bible references and questions from this activity if there are students with visual impairments or other special needs in your class who would benefit from having it.

Rainbow Acronym
Say: God has plans to provide everything we need. The rainbow helps us to remember His plan.

On a whiteboard or flipchart, write:

God promises me . . .
R-est
A-ibilities
I-nsight
N-ew
B-e beginnings
O-teness
W-isdom

Divide the class into pairs and ask each pair to come up with examples for the ways God has given them each of these. After a few minutes ask anyone who wishes, to share some of the ways they’ve seen God fulfill His promises to us. Remind the class that God’s plan always holds the best for us.

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

YOU NEED:
- Bibles
- Board
- Markers
Rainbow Promise
Allow students to share their experiences if they encouraged someone during the past week and extended a second chance toward new beginnings.

Say: We are going to make a rainbow. On the rainbow write a promise for someone whom you know is in trouble or in need of encouragement. Tell a partner when and how you plan on sharing this promise with that person. A good promise is John 3:16. Also talk with your partner about other ways you can share with this person throughout this next week that God has already made a plan for their new beginning.

Say: Now share with your partner something for which you would like to have a new beginning. When you have shared, pray for each other.

Debriefing
Say: God offers us all new beginnings. When we accept His offer, He gives us support. In the same way we can support each other. Turn to your partner and talk about ways that you can support and encourage each other as well as those with whom you come in contact.

New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

Prayer and closing comments:
Say: Lord, You know us so well. You know that we make big and little mistakes all the time. We know, however, that because we are so precious to You, You have already made a plan to give us a new beginning whenever we ask You to forgive us and let us start over. We thank You. And we pray that You will grant us the grace to offer a new beginning to those in our lives who make mistakes that hurt us.
Amen.

Reminder to parents:
Say: Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents’ Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.

Coming up next week:
Say: The Red Sea is parted. When we see God work in our lives, we should praise Him.
Think of a time you were sick and couldn’t go outside for several days. What did it feel like to have to stay inside your house all that time? How did you feel when you finally felt well enough to go to school or outside to play? After many months inside the ark Noah and his family were finally able to leave the boat and go outside once again. Imagine their excitement.

I can hardly believe we’re actually going to walk on dry land again.” The eyes of Shem’s wife sparkled as she spoke. “To take a walk in the sunshine for a whole day sounds so wonderful.”

Shem smiled at his wife’s excitement as they began to undo the latches on some of the animal pens. “It seems like forever since I felt earth on my hands and smelled a garden. I really can’t wait to grow something again,” she continued.

“I know what you mean,” Shem answered. “Before the Flood there were times I wished we didn’t have to work so hard to grow our food, but now I’m looking forward to some field work myself.”

I wonder what it will be like now, Shem thought to himself. It had been a terrible shock to look out over the strangely changed landscape a few weeks ago when they had taken the covering off of the ark. The surface of the ground was dry, but signs of the terrible storm were everywhere. Jagged, rocky places stood where once beautiful hills had been. The gems, silver, and gold that had been plentiful on the surface of the earth had disappeared. Now there were huge expanses of water. Uprooted trees and muck littered the ground. It was just plain ugly and discouraging.

There would certainly be hours of backbreaking work just ahead. But Shem also looked forward to their new life. God has been so good to us, Shem thought. I praise Him for bringing us through the Flood together, and now I’m so glad He has told us that it’s time to leave the ark. A tinge of excitement for the new beginnings ahead of them made Shem hurry his steps as they continued setting the impatient animals free.

When the family of Noah left the ark, it was a whole new beginning for them. Besides being the only living human beings, they found that their environment was totally different.

Together the family built an altar, and together they praised God for His loving care. They thanked Him for His grace in bringing them safely to the spot on which they stood, and for the opportunity to have a new start on a newly cleansed earth.

And God had an encouraging surprise for them! He spoke to Noah’s family, saying: “I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” To seal this promise, God gave Noah and his family a reminder of His grace. He said to them, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

To conclude, God repeated His promise once again: “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth” (Genesis 9:11-17).

“I can’t remember when I last saw something so beautiful.” Ham spoke softly, his words voicing the feelings of the quiet little group.

As they stared into the sky, Noah solemnly reminded his family that God could be trusted to keep His promises.

God’s rainbows still shine today. We are reminded of His love and care for us each time we see one. And so is He. And Christians are reminded of God’s gift of new beginnings every time they see the cross, the symbol of God’s love in giving us the ultimate new start.

Would you like a new beginning today? God has promised one. And He has also asked that you offer a new beginning to others, forgiving them and offering them a little taste of the grace He has shown to you. Just ask Him to help you. He has promised.
**KEY REFERENCES**
- Genesis 8:9:1-17
- Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 8, pp. 105-110
- The Bible Story (1994), vol. 1, pp. 120-123 (“Beginning Again”)
- Our Beliefs nos. 6, 3, 11

**POWER TEXT**
“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth” (Genesis 9:16).

**POWER POINT**
New beginnings are part of God’s plan for our lives.

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**Sabbath**
- **Do:** Do the activity on page 33.
- **Learn:** Begin learning the power text.

**Sunday**
- **Read:** Read Genesis 8:1-12 and this week’s story, “Colors of Promise.”
- **Write:** Write the power text, Genesis 9:16, with rainbow-colored pens and carry it in your pocket to repeat often.
- **Review:** Review the power text.
- **Pray:** Praise God for His promises.

**Monday**
- **Read:** Read Genesis 8:13-22.
- **Write:** In your Bible study journal, write about what built the faith of Noah’s family while they were in the ark.
- **Think:** What was the first thing Noah did when he came out of the ark? How do you start each new day?
- **Review:** Review the power text.
- **Pray:** Thank God for offering new beginnings each day.

**Tuesday**
- **Read:** Read Genesis 9:1-7.
- **Think:** Think of the people in your life with whom you need to “begin again.”
- **Talk:** Talk with an adult about relationships they have had that needed new beginnings. How did God help them begin again?
- **Review:** Review the power text.
- **Pray:** Ask God for wisdom and help to offer a new beginning to someone in your life.

**Wednesday**
- **Read:** Read Genesis 9:8-11.
- **Find:** What does the word “covenant” mean?
- **Think:** What promises has God made to you? What is your favorite promise?
- **Review:** Review the power text.
- **Pray:** Ask God for new beginnings in your family.

**Thursday**
- **Read:** Read Genesis 9:12-17.
- **Observe:** How many colors can you see when you place a glass of water on a window ledge where the sun can shine through the glass onto a white sheet of paper?
- **Review:** Review the power text.
- **Pray:** Thank God for the colors of the rainbow that remind us of His promises.

**Friday**
- **Read:** Read Genesis 9:1-17.
- **Ask:** Ask each family member to read or share by memory a Bible promise and then find and show each other something that reminds them of that promise.
- **Sing:** Sing your favorite praise songs together.
- **Say:** Share the power text with your family.
- **Pray:** Thank God that new beginnings are part of His plan for our lives.