

When it rains...

...it pours. We have had weeks upon weeks of rainy weather here in Oregon. The skies are gray. The clouds are thick. We are in the middle of a storm.

I've been thinking about Noah and his family in the Bible as I sit and watch the rain pour down. Noah probably thought the rain was never ending, as well.

Read the story of Noah in Genesis chapters 6 through 8.

God helped Noah create a huge boat to protect him from the storm. During the winter and spring, we have rainboots, raincoats and umbrellas protect us. In the book of Ephesians, the Bible tells us about a special coat of protection.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

We are at war, and the devil is always on the prowl, trying to get us to only see the challenges and difficulties of the rain. God gives us tools to help us protect ourselves.

I have also been thinking that God did not send Noah onto the ark alone. He gave him his family.

Read Proverbs 27:17.

God often sends people to encourage and help us during the challenging parts of life. He surrounds us with people who will help lift us up.

Read Isaiah 4:6.

The rain may seem never ending. The challenges and trials of life may seem like they will just never stop. God has a plan. He gives us protection and help while we are in the middle of the storm. In the end, we must remain faithful and trust that our Heavenly Father has bright and sunny days waiting for us around the corner.

Going deeper:

- Draw an umbrella or rainboots. How can this "armor" protect us while we are in the middle of the storm?
- Make a list of the ways the rain and trials can be both a blessing and a challenge in life.
- Read Isaiah 43:2. Turn this verse into a prayer.
- Think about a friend going through a tough time. What could you do to encourage them today?

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