

GODLY PLAY

EQUITY AUDIT TOOLKIT

THE ARK AND

VOLUME 2

COMPLETE GUIDE TO GODLY PLAY

REVISED AND EXPANDED

The Ark and the Flood Recommendations

Lesson 6, Volume 2, The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Revised and Expanded

The Material

The material for this lesson that is available at Godly Play Resources is handcrafted out of wood. However, this story is beloved by people who make Bible toys, so congregations often have some version of it in their nurseries. If you decide to use one of those sets instead of the set from Godly Play Resources, we suggest you "audit" the set for implicit bias. Some things to consider include:

- 1. Is the set made of plastic? wood? We recommend sourcing a wood set if possible. This will help to reduce the possibility of any bias that plastic, multi-colored toys may have. The beauty of wooden materials is also rooted in the Montessori method.
- 2. What are the skin tones of the people in the set? We recommend brown skin tones.

The Language

When God created everything....

The language in the published lesson is:

When God created everything, God said, "It is good. **But people began to do bad things**. God decided to send a great flood of water to wash everything clean and make it new again. Then God saw **a good family**.

While the lesson does not speak of "bad people," it could be implicit in the way the story is told that the people doing the bad things were bad people. And unfortunately, "bad guys" are everywhere in the media consumed by children (think for example of cartoon villains and the like). The "bad guys" are often dressed in dark, scary clothing, have foreign accents, etc. To avoid adding to the bias against people who look and sound different from us, we suggest avoiding the bad/good language altogether. Instead, we recommend saying:





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When God created everything, God said, "It is good." **But people began to hurt each other and God's creation**. God decided to send a great flood of water to wash everything clean and make it new again. Then God saw **a family who wanted to walk with God.**

The father was Noah. He and his wife Naamah (NAY-ma) had three sons...

The language in the published lesson is:

He and his wife had three sons, and they had wives.

To avoid the suggestion that there is just one type of family, we recommend saying instead:

He and his wife had three sons, and they also had families.

Additional Considerations

They had to say their prayers...

The language near the end of the published lesson is:

All the creatures began to come out of the Ark. They were so happy to be home again that they could not help it. They had to say their prayers to try to say how happy they were. They made an altar and gave thanks to God.

This language does not contain implicit bias, but we recommend changing it to sound less moralistic/churchy. You could simply say,

All the creatures began to come out of the Ark. They were so happy to be home again, so Noah made an altar and gave thanks to God.

