

Read Genesis 9.8-17

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

In today's reading from Genesis, God declared his covenant to Noah and his family. A covenant is a two-sided promise. God promised to never destroy the earth again by a flood and in return the people should promise to care for the earth. God instructed them how to live together in harmony as the new people of the covenant, caring for the animals and plants. God's promise included the whole of creation.

Have you ever made a promise? We often promise to do small things – like tidy a room or make a cup of tea for a member of the family. But there are also important promises that have a big impact on our lives. It may be the promise to tell the truth when questioned about a serious incident, or the promise to visit someone who is ill or lonely. When we make a promise we expect to stick to it, but there are times when we break promises. How does it feel if you break a promise? How does it feel when someone breaks a promise that they made to you?



God said that the rainbow would be the sign of the promise that he made with Noah. Signs are often used to show that we have made special promises. When two people get married they give each other a wedding ring as a symbol of the promise that they have made to each other. In the uniformed organisations (like the Brownies or Scouts) there are badges which show that a young person has made a promise to belong to that organisation.

Do you think that the covenant between God and Noah is still important today? How should we respond to the covenant or promise of God? How does it influence our relationships with other people and with the rest of creation?

### Activities

- Make a rainbow bracelet, using different threads in the colours of the rainbow. Before you start, think about what each colour represents for you. Check the length of the threads to make sure that they fit around your wrist, then plait them together to make a rainbow bracelet. You may like to swap with someone else or keep the one you have made as a reminder of your covenant agreement with God.
- Play this game with your family or friends to remind you that all things are part of creation. You will need: a die; six pictures of creation, e.g. a tree, an animal, a flower, a bird, a mountain, a seed; pencil and paper for each person playing the game. Number the pictures from one to six and place them in the centre of a table with the die. Take turns to throw the die and create a picture showing the items of creation. For example, if trees are number three and you throw a three, then draw trees on your picture. If mountains are number six then draw mountains when you throw a six. Colour your pictures if you wish.

**Prayer**

Saving God,  
thank you for the promise to your people so long ago.  
Help us to live in a way that pleases you,  
reflecting your goodness and love for all.  
You created all things and still sustain us in love today.  
Help us to care for our world and the people we meet,  
that all may come to know your love,  
your goodness and your promise. Amen