When your parents ask you to do something, do you do it without asking why? Do you do it because you love them? Noah was asked by God to build a huge boat. He could have said no. What do you think he did?

Noah believed in God at a time when godly men were hard to find. The earth was still young. Only 10 generations had passed since the creation of the world. But people had become so wicked that God decided He should start over. Just one family of righteous people was left on earth. Through that family God would save the human race and all the creatures He had created. That family included Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives.

God told Noah His plan to destroy the earth with a flood. He also told Noah to build a boat. The boat was to carry Noah, his family, and each kind of animal safely through the flood. The boat Noah was to build was no ordinary boat. It was huge! It was as long as one-and-a-half football (soccer) fields! It was taller than a four-story building! God gave Noah instructions to be followed very carefully, and Noah set to work.

Noah’s great-grandfather Enoch had been a righteous man. God took him to heaven so he wouldn’t die.

Enoch had passed on the family heritage of godliness. Methusaleh, in turn, passed it on to his sons and to his grandson Noah.

And then Noah had three sons of his own—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. So one righteous family, a small group of godly people, was still left on the earth. And they helped Noah build the big boat. That big boat would save the human race and all the different creatures God had created. What an awesome responsibility!
Noah and his sons, his uncles, and his grandfather were all human. In the years of working together they probably had some disagreements. But they had an important goal. They had a huge project to finish. They had to work together to follow God’s plan. They had to put aside their differences in order to do God’s will. Before the boat was finished, God took Enoch to live in heaven. And Noah’s other relatives died. Only Noah and his family were left.

You may never be asked to build a huge boat. You will never be asked to help save the world from another flood. But God still wants His people to do what He asks. He still wants His people to work together to fulfill His wishes. He may ask you to do another job that requires just as much teamwork. You may need just as much cooperation as was needed for building the ark.

Doing God’s will is still a part of God’s plan for us. Getting along with others is still a part of God’s plan too. Listening and working for God was important for Noah and his family. And it’s important for us today.

Memory Verse

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God”
(Psalm 143:10, NIV).
If possible, find a quiet outdoor setting and share the Bible story with your family.

Talk about the memory verse and teach it to your family. Ask: How do we know God’s will for our family?

Ask God to help you know His will.

Read and discuss Genesis 6:9–22 during worship. What kind of person was Noah? What were Noah’s sons’ names? What kind of wood was the ark made of? Where was the door?

Ask an adult about a time they felt God was asking them to do something they didn’t quite understand. Or about a time they felt strongly led to do what God wanted them to do.

Thank God for His leading in your family.

The ark had three stories—first floor, second floor, third floor (Genesis 6:16). How do you think Noah’s family got from the ground floor to the third floor? Draw a picture of the inside of the ark.

Act out or describe the different responses people had when Noah asked them for help.

Thank God for people who help you.

The ark had three stories—first floor, second floor, third floor (Genesis 6:16). How do you think Noah’s family got from the ground floor to the third floor? Draw a picture of the inside of the ark.

Act out or describe the different responses people had when Noah asked them for help.

Thank God for people who help you.

Noah was happy when God first promised to save his children in the ark because he was 480 years old and didn’t have children yet!*

THURSDAY

SING During worship with your family, sing “I Want to Be” (Sing for Joy, no. 124) or “Teach Me, Lord” (Sing for Joy, no. 110).

MAKE Ask your family to help you build an ark. Use newspaper, wooden sticks, modeling clay, a box—things you find at home.

DO Imagine that you are in the ark with Noah. Write or draw about your day in the ark.

PRAY Thank God for your family.

FRIDAY

DO With someone in your family, act out building the ark charade-style. Have the others guess what you are doing.

ASK Ask: What do you think God’s will is for our family?

DO Show your model of the ark and share about a day on the ark with Noah.

PRAY Ask God to help you be willing to do what He wants you to do every day.

Noah Builds a Boat

Puzzle

Directions: Each item has a letter and is linked to one or more lines. Write the letter on the lines to find out our prayer to God that is found in this week’s memory verse.