

APRIL DEVOTIONAL IDEAS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

“God Sends a Rainbow”

Materials: A brightly-colored rainbow drawn on a poster displayed with a large open Bible, music and the words to the song, “Standing on the Promises”. Enlist an accompanist to play quietly as the seniors arrive, accompany them when they sing and play after the closing, while the group is dispersing.

Ahead of time: Avoid last minute prep. Arrive early enough to prepare the room so that you can best communicate with the group, set up the rainbow poster and Bible and greet seniors as they arrive.

Devotional Time

- Begin with the question: “How many of you have ever seen a rainbow in the sky?” In a sentence or two, tell about a time when and where you saw a rainbow. Then, if you choose to do so, allow one or two seniors to tell about seeing a rainbow. The rainbow is a promise to us from God.
- Lead the group in singing the song, “Standing On The Promises.”
- Open your Bible to The Book of Genesis. This story is in Genesis, the very first book in the Bible. The people on earth had become very wicked, mean, and ungodly. God was disgusted and angry with the people he had made. God regretted and was sorry that He had made every person and every creature on the earth!
- But, Noah was a man who loved God. He was the ONLY righteous man on the earth!
- God said to Noah, “Because the people are so wicked and so bad, I am going to destroy them.”
- God told Noah to build a boat, a huge, humongous boat.
- God told Noah what kind of wood to use to build the boat.
- God told Noah how big to make the boat.
- God told Noah to build the boat three stories high.
- God told Noah to put one large door on the side of the boat.
- God told Noah he was going to flood the whole earth with water.
- God told Noah, “I promise you that you and your family and everything on the boat will be safe, but every other person and creature on the earth is going to die.”
- God told Noah, “On the boat, take two, a male and a female, of every creature on the earth.
- That meant that the largest animals like elephants and giraffes, and moose would be on the boat along with the tiniest creatures small enough to get stepped on!
- God told Noah to put enough food on the boat for his family and enough food for all the animals
- People laughed at Noah, building a huge boat too big to move on dry land. But he built exactly what God told him to build.
- God told Noah, when the boat was finished, that he had seven days to load his family, the animals and the food on the boat. When the family, the animals, the food were loaded.

Then God shut the door of the boat.

- The rains began! It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Water came out of the clouds and out of the ground. Water flooded the whole earth! Only Noah and his family and the animals on the boat survived. Every other person and every living creature died.
- When the rain stopped, Noah and his family had to stay on the boat (the ark) until the ground dried enough. It was a happy day when Noah told everyone to get off the boat!!
- The very first thing that Noah did was to build an altar. He prayed and thanked God that he and his family were safe.
- God told Noah that He would never again flood the whole earth.
- God gave Noah a sign so that everyone could see and remember that God keeps his promises!

What did Noah's people see? A lovely, colorful rainbow in the sky.

Conclusion

- When you see a rainbow in the sky, remember God's promise and thank God that He keeps His promises. Be confident that God **KEEPS** and **WILL KEEP ALL** of His promises.
- Some of God's special promises are the "Rainbow Promise", and 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Do not be afraid..for The Lord your God goes with you, He will never leave you or forsake you."
- Philippians 4:19 - "My God will meet all your needs according to His riches in glory."
- Isaiah 4:10 - "...do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- Isaiah 41:13 - "I am The Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear, I will help you."
- There is a song whose words are: "God made the rainbow, a lovely rainbow, God made the rainbow with the rain. He made the sunshine upon the shadows, God made the rainbow with the rain."
- As our closing thank you to God for his promises, let's sing together the chorus, "God Is So Good".

A Craft Idea

Materials needed: Paper plate (not foam), pencils, sharpened strong crayons with fine points, glue, paper strips, cut to fit the inside bottom of the plates, and printed with the verse, "(God said) I have placed my rainbow in the clouds as a sign of my promise until the end of time." Genesis 9:13

Give each person a plate and ask them to draw and color a rainbow on the top two thirds of the plate. Give assistance when needed. Glue the paper-strip verse across the bottom one third of the plate.

- Reassuring that you can and will stand by your friends.
- A little ditty that we probably learned from childhood is, "Friendship, friendship, just a perfect blendship. When all others have been forgot, ours will NOT!"
- Close with prayer, thanking God for His Word, the Bible, and for friends.
- **Rather than craft time after this devotional, ask the seniors to, now and later today, tell at least three people (or even more than three) that you are glad they are your friend, or that you want to be friends.**

