

Worse and Worse on Noah's Ark

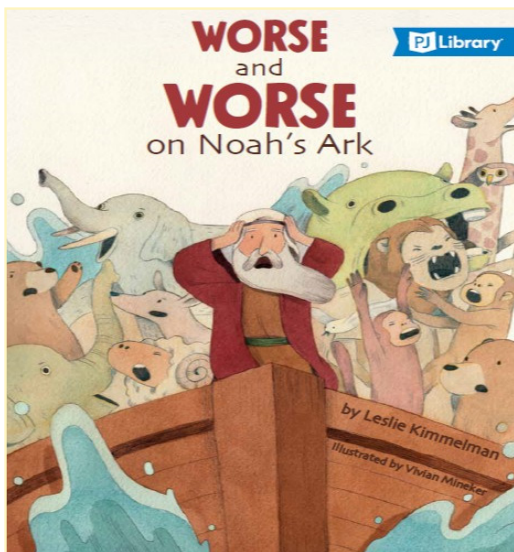
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What makes things better?



HANDS ON!

Make Your Own Ark

What's the best part of the Noah's Ark story? All those animals, of course. What's the second-best part? Building the ark! And that's something you can do at home, even if you have hardly any animals around.

Supplies:

- Large cardboard box (big enough to get inside)
- Markers, paint, or other art supplies
- Stuffed animals

Ask a grown-up to cut windows and a door in the sides of the box. Decorate the outside with markers or paint. Bring your best stuffed animal friends aboard and pretend you are Noah, sailing on the water. Now gather together some stuffed animals to come aboard the ark. Think of different problems that could come up on your trip (like a leak, animals fighting, etc.), and see if you can get the passengers to work together to solve them. Talk about all the good things about being together on the ark, and don't forget to find dry land when you're done!

Seeing the Good

Never-ending rain. Smelly animals. Food shortage. Leaky boat. There's a lot to kvetch about on this ark! Whether you're on land or sea, it can be easy to gravitate toward seeing the difficult things in a situation. The Jewish value of *hakarot hatov* – recognizing the good – is a conscious decision to find the blessings amid challenges. Even though times are tough, Noah recognizes the value and uniqueness of each creature, and believes that everything will turn out all right in the end. Noah's positivity helps transform the atmosphere onboard from sulky to celebratory. On a crowded ark and in life, an upbeat attitude goes a long way. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/worseandworse.

Go Team!

When the ark springs a leak, Noah sees an opportunity to unite the passengers. One by one, animals and humans take on jobs. Before you know it, teamwork – *shutafut* in Hebrew – is patching up not only the leak, but also the ark community. Parties pop up, songs burst forth, and animals look after each other – what a transformation! When we all decide to share responsibility, our communities are healthier, happier, and better equipped to handle the winds and waves of life. So, lend a hand, paw, hoof, or feather and see what you can do together.

After the Storm

A beautiful rainbow marks the happy ending of the flood story in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). God paints the sky with colors and promises Noah, "When the rainbow appears, I will remember the covenant between Me and all creatures that there will never again be a flood that wipes out life on earth" (Genesis 9:14-15). Rainbows can be a reminder to appreciate the gift of being alive, which can be especially important after a little rain has fallen. *generation*"), adults play a meaningful role by teaching and modeling positive values and traditions to children. What better hand-me-downs could there be?

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

CAN you name three good things in your life that you're thankful for?

WHEN the animals in this story work together, life on the ark gets better. When have worked with others to get something done? How did you feel?

IF you had been on Noah's ark, what would you have found difficult? What would you have liked?