

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud. —Maya Angelou

I like to take photos. Besides family, my five favorite subjects are: sunsets, mountains, the ocean, sunrise and — rainbows!

Rainbows are a special treat. Oceans and mountains will always be there. Sunsets and sunrises emerge slowly and you have time to have your camera ready.

But rainbows are often unexpected and catch you by surprise. This is part of the joy of a rainbow. It is a special treat.

We love rainbows for another reason: they only appear after a rainstorm. Only after the sky has been dark, and only after rain will you see a rainbow.

There is no rainbow without sunlight. The transformation of the landscape from something dark and dreary into something bright and beautiful warms and excites the heart.

And occasionally, there's a double blessing: two rainbows, one above the other!

The rainbow is the topic in today's Bible reading from Genesis 9. A great flood has covered the earth. Only the righteous souls on the earth at the time had been spared: Noah and his family and pairs of every living thing.

This story has spawned many puns and funny ideas. Here are a few you can repeat to your grandchildren or friends:

What kind of lighting did Noah have on the ark? *Flood lights.*

Where did Noah keep his bees? *In the ark hives.*

What was the name of Noah's wife? *Joan of Ark.*

On with the story. So now, the waters have receded and God has a chat with Noah. Do you know what God said?

God said to Noah and his sons that he would make a promise to them: Never again would a flood cover the earth as it had so recently. God said that he would place a "bow" in the clouds, and every time he saw the bow, God would remember his promise.

This promise was not only made with Noah and his sons, but to all creation: "When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth" (Genesis 9:16).

When we see a rainbow, let's be thankful for God's promise, and let's try to remember to take care of the earth so that no harm befalls it.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God of glorious sunsets, mountains and oceans, God of the sunrise and sunset, I worship you before your great power. Help me to do what I can to preserve this wonderful world you have made. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Romans 1-4
Monday: Romans 5-8
Tuesday: Romans 9-11
Wednesday: Romans 12-16
Thursday: Proverbs 1-3
Friday: Proverbs 4-7
Saturday: Psalms 19-21

Verse to Remember

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 8:38-39 NIV

M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T
D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N
E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A
E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S
D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A
E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E
H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L
A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P
E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W
T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I
H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S
E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D
V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O
O S R E E P Y H E K U B E R M
L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R

WORD LIST

COVENANT
DELIGHT
DISCIPLINE
EVIL
FATHER
FOOL
FORSAKE
FOUNTAIN
FRUIT
HEART
HONEST
HUMBLE
INSIGHT
LISTEN
LORD
LOVE
NEIGHBOR
PATH
PLEASANT
POVERTY
PROTECT
REBUKE
SLEEP
SON
TEACHING
TONGUE
WALK
WISDOM
YOUTH

PROVERBIAL WORDS

Find and circle the words listed in the column to the left in the WORD SEARCH grid to the far left. These words are all taken from Proverbs 1-7 of the readings this week. Remember to look for words vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forward and backward.

BUSINESS CARD

Can you match the name and job title that might have appeared on the business card of these people in the Bible? For example, Peter/ Fisherman.

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|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah | A. Priest |
| 2. Luke | B. Carpenter |
| 3. Amos | C. Cupbearer |
| 4. Matthew | D. Cloth seller |
| 5. Lydia | E. Physician |
| 6. Joseph | F. Shepherd |
| 7. Paul | G. Tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. Tailor |
| 9. Tabitha | I. Silversmith |
| 10. Demetrius | J. Soldier |
| 11. Eli | K. Tentmaker |

ANSWERS:
1C, 2E, 3F, 4G, 5D, 6B, 7K, 8J, 9H, 10I, 11A

FIRST SUNDAY



IN LENT