

Lesson 6: Crossing the Jordan

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) See that God helped the Israelites cross the Jordan River into Canaan
- 2) Learn the importance of thanking God and remembering what He does for us
- 3) See that God is powerful and we need to obey His commands.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 Accommodations section for ideas

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- Map of Israelites Across from Jericho – one for class to share
- Crossing the Jordan Maze and Color Page – one per student
- Stack the Stones Activity Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Cookies or 12 Grapes (to represent stones) 1-2 cookies or 12 grapes per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Say to students:

This quarter we will continue to study the Old Testament and look at the book of Joshua. If you have your Bibles let's find Joshua and turn there now. Can anyone remember what we studied last week in Joshua Chapters 1 and 2? Joshua sent two spies into the land of Canaan, and while they were there they met and were rescued by Rahab who lived in Jericho. She sent them away safely and asked that because she believed in God as they did, that they spare her and her family from death when they came and invaded Jericho. They said they would. We also saw that throughout the rest of her life, Rahab was faithful to God and was even one of Jesus ancestors.

2) Israelites Cross the Jordan River

10-15 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Let's turn to Joshua 3:1-11 and start reading. Can I get two volunteers to read? Thank them for reading. Then ask:

What is happening here? Joshua is preparing the people to cross the river into the Promised Land.

*Show map of Israelites crossing the Jordan towards Jericho.



Let's read verses 12-17. Ask:

How did the Israelites cross? God stopped the waters of the river so that the Israelites crossed over on dry land. The priests went first with the Ark of the Covenant, when they got to the middle of the River on dry land, the rest of Israel crossed over as well.

Say: None of these people were alive when their fathers and mothers had crossed the Red Sea leaving Egypt when God caused the sea to part. (Except maybe Caleb and Joshua.) So this was an amazing miracle for them to experience. They would have heard about the Red Sea parting, but now they could actually experience it for themselves when God made the Jordan River stop flowing and parted for them!

Read **Joshua 4:1-9** Ask:

What were the 12 men from each tribe to do? Take a stone from where the priests were in the middle of the Jordan and make a memorial to remind the Israelites what had happened and the miracle God performed in order for them to pass through and get to Canaan.

Read **Joshua 4:21-24** and **5:1** Ask:

What were the stones to remind them of in verse 24? So that all peoples will see and know that God is mighty and powerful and that we should all fear and respect Him forever.

How did the kings in the area react when they heard what had happened? Their hearts melted and their spirits left – meaning they were terrified and felt hopeless.

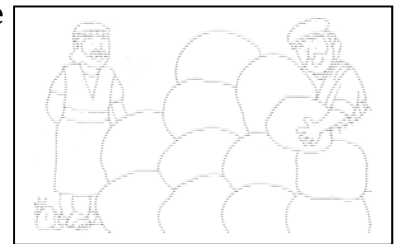
3) Stack the Stones Activity Sheet

15-20 minutes

Hand out one sheet along with crayons and pencils to each student. Read the instructions aloud and have each student draw or write 12 different ways they can remember all the good and powerful things God does for them in their lives everyday.

Some ideas if they need help are: family, friends, church family, salvation, protection from God, help in times of trouble, providing food, clothing and shelter. Ways God is powerful – example of the Israelites crossing the river, the 10 plagues, the Garden of Eden, Resurrection of Jesus, etc.

When done, have students move on to the next activity.



4) Maze and Color Page Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet per student with pencil crayons. Read the instructions and help students cross the Jordan into Canaan. Allow them to color the page also if there is time.

Discuss questions while they work. Example questions are:

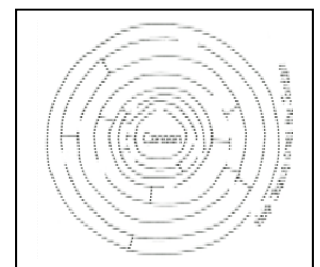
How would you feel if you saw a river completely stop and dry up as someone's feet touched the edge of it?

How was God's power shown here?

How is God's power shown in our lives today?

How can we remember God every day?

How does God ask us to remember Jesus every Sunday? Partake of the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7**)



5) Optional: The Israelites March Activity Game

5-10 minutes

Tell the students that you are the leader (like Moses). Tell them that they are the Israelites and they need to follow the leader and do what you do. *Make sure you have some room to play this game either outside or in.

Call out the event and have students follow:

The Israelites are captive in Egypt! (Form a big huddle and don't let anyone out.)

The Israelites escape thanks to God and run from Pharaoh! (Everybody runs to a certain place you decide.)

The Israelites cross the Red Sea! (March with knees high through the dry sea.)

The Israelites gather manna. (Everyone bends towards the ground and pretends to gather manna from the ground in their baskets.)

The Israelites wander around because they are lost. (Have group walk around in circles.)

The Israelites enter the desert. (Have everyone pant and fan themselves because of the heat.)

The Israelites reach the Promised Land. (Have the group hug and cheer and be happy.)

6) Practice Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 31:6 – Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Have students repeat this verse with you a number of times. Say a few words, then have them repeat a few times. Once everyone has that done, go to another few words and have them repeat, keep going until they have said the entire verse a few times. The goal is to learn this verse by the end of the quarter.

7) Optional – Snack: Cookie or 12 Grapes (to represent stones)

5 minutes

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“Today we saw that the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. That must have been exciting after 40 years of wandering in the desert. To help us remember what we learned today, I am going to hand out a snack that looks like a stone. What did we learn about stones in today’s lesson?** (They were to be reminders of God’s power and need for respect) **As we eat our snacks today, let’s remember that we too should think about God every day and maybe from now on whenever we eat a cookie or grapes, we can remember the stones that reminded the Israelites and us of God’s power and might! God is good – He is to be praised and thanked for all the good He provides!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking. **How does God ask us to remember Jesus today?** By partaking of the Lord’s Supper every Sunday.

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

Give Thanks

Tune found in Hymn Book

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks unto the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what
the Lord has done for us. (Repeat)

Give thanks
Give thanks (Repeat)

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God thank You for Your might and power, thank You for Your everlasting ability to always take care of us as You did Joshua, Rahab and all the Israelites. Thank You that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us in our faith to always remember that You are there with us and that we need to remember to pray, study and focus on Your Words day and night to gain strength for our days ahead. Help us to remember Your might and power as you dried up and stopped the Jordan River from flowing to help the Israelites. Father be with our families and friends and those who were unable to be here today because of problems or sickness. Bring those people back safely next week. Help us to be strong and courageous in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive and able to save all who come to Him through baptism. Thank you for Joshua and his example that we can look to for encouragement. Bless us as we enter this new week, keep us from sin and temptation. We pray that you will lead us this week and that Your perfect will be done in our lives. Thank you for being our wonderful God, in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!