

May 10, 2020 PreK

Bible Passage: Crossing the Jordan / Joshua 1–4

Story Point: God led His people through the Jordan River on dry ground.

Key Passage/Memory Verse: “The Lord...will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. ” Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

Big Picture Question: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

Christ Connection: *God was with Joshua and the Israelites as they went into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.*

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* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

Parents- here’s a preview of what we’ll be studying in the Fall as church ☺

Only one geographical barrier separated the Israelites from the promised land of Canaan: the Jordan River. When the Israelites arrived, the Jordan River was flooded due to spring rains and snowmelt. Any other time, the river would have been manageable, but crossing the swollen river would have been as daunting as crossing the Red Sea. (See Josh. 4:23.)

The Israelites had mourned Moses’ death for 30 days (Deut. 34:8), but now this new generation looked to Joshua to lead them into the promised land. God had chosen Joshua and promised to be with him. Joshua prepared the people to cross the Jordan River, and they agreed to obey him as they obeyed Moses.

God gave Joshua a promise and a command. First, He promised to go before them and drive out all the people of the land. Then God commanded him to tell the priests to carry the ark of the Lord (a symbol of God’s powerful presence) into the waters of the Jordan. Then the waters of the river would be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above would stand in one heap. When this happened, all of Israel would know that God was with Joshua.

All of the people passed over on dry ground. Joshua set up 12 memorial stones as a reminder of God's faithfulness in bringing Israel safely across the Jordan into the promised land.

The Israelites could do nothing apart from God. He was with them, and He was going to fight for them. In John 15:5, Jesus said, "You can do nothing without me."

As you teach your child/children this week, emphasize that God was still at work with His people. He was going to do even bigger things for the Israelites—saving them from their enemies and one day sending them a Savior. The cross is our reminder of what Jesus has done for us: a miraculous saving we could never do for ourselves.

*** BIBLE STORY:**

Turn to Joshua 1:4 with the help of your preschooler.

Say • We know that the Bible is God's Word, and it is true. Our true story today comes from the Book of Joshua. Can you say Joshua? Joshua is in the first part of the Bible, so it is in the Old Testament.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Crossing the Jordan: Joshua 1–4

Joshua was the new leader of Israel. He had led the Israelites to the edge of the Jordan River. God had promised Abraham that his descendants would live in Canaan (KAY nuhn). The only thing keeping the Israelites from the land God promised to them was the Jordan River. They had to cross the river.

Joshua said to all the people, "Get ready. Tomorrow we are going to cross the river." **The river was deep and wide. The Israelites needed help crossing the river. God was going to help them.**

God gave Joshua and the other leaders special instructions for crossing the river. They did everything God told them to do. **Some of the men carried the ark of God ahead of the people. The ark reminded them that God was with them.**

The men carrying the ark walked to the edge of the river. Joshua said, "Listen. God is going to do something great. When these men carry the ark of God into the river, God will stop the water in the river."

The people watched. **The men carrying the ark took a step into the river. God made the water stop! So all of the Israelites crossed the river safely on dry ground.**

God told Joshua, “Tell the people to pick up 12 stones from the middle of the river where the men are standing with the ark. They should carry the stones with them and put them down where they spend the night tonight.”

God had a plan for the stones. He wanted them to be a memorial. A memorial is something that helps people remember a person or something that happened. The people would see the stones and remember that God helped them cross the river. In the future, when children saw the stones and said, “What are these stones?” The people could tell their children that God stopped the water so they could cross the river.

The Israelites did exactly what God told them to do. They picked up 12 stones and made a memorial.

The men with the ark crossed the river, and the water began to flow again. The river was wide and deep like it was before. **At last, God’s people were in the promised land!**

Christ Connection: *God was with Joshua and the Israelites as they went into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.*

SAY • God did something incredible by allowing the men carrying the ark to cross through the river. **God led His people through the Jordan River on dry ground.** God showed His power to the Israelites so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.

KEY PASSAGE

Key Passage: “The Lord...will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. ”
Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

SAY • Our key passage says “the Lord will be with you.” God was with Joshua and the Israelites as they went into the promised land. God is with us too!

* **PRAYER** Thank you, God, that you are always with us! Thank you that we can trust in you and you will save us from our sin. We love you so much. Amen.

*** ACTIVITIES:**

1. ACTIVITY PAGE:

Invite preschoolers to look for and circle the nine hidden images in the picture.

Say • Finding those hidden images may have been a little difficult. The Israelites had a difficult task in our Bible story today. Can you tell what that task might be from looking at this picture? Listen to the Bible story to find out.

2. MEMORY ROCKS

Say • **God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.** God instructed 12 men to carry large rocks out of the riverbed and build a memorial. The purpose of the memorial was to remind them and future generations about the miracle God performed so they could enter the promised land.

When we get discouraged, it's easy to forget what God has done for us. By looking at those rocks, God gave His people an easy way to remember! Today we're going to make our own memory rocks memorial to remind us what God has done in our own lives. Collect 12 rocks/stones outside if the weather allows.

As a family, take turns sharing a time when God provided for you/your family or to share something you are thankful to God for. Create a rock memorial together. This is a reminder of God's faithfulness to your family.

3. STOP THE RIVER

SUPPLIES: Gallon sized ziplock bag, bubble bath/body wash/hair gel, shells or plastic animals optional

Fill a gallon-sized ziplock bag half full of bubble bath, body wash, or hair gel. Place small shells and small plastic sea animals in the bag (whatever you have). Seal the bags with duct tape. Set the bags on a table. Invite preschooler to try to push all the contents of the bag to one side as if stopping the "water."

Say: • God stopped the water in the Jordan River for His people to cross. We cannot stop a river from flowing. That is something only God can do. **God led His people through the Jordan River on dry ground.** God showed His power so His people would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.

4. PLAY OUT CAMPING

SUPPLIES: any camping supplies you have that you want to put out or you can pretend together!

Set out whatever you have: a tent, binoculars, backpacks, pretend campfire, life jacket, sleeping bag, and other items you might use camping. Invite preschooler(s) to play out camping scenes.

Say • Have you gone on a camping trip as a family? What types of activities did you do? Sometimes people camp close to a river. Playing in the water can be fun, but you have to be careful if the water is too deep to walk through. Today we heard about how God kept His people safe and made a way for them to cross a deep river in our Bible story. **God led His people through the Jordan River on dry ground.** God showed His power so His people would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.

5. MOTHER'S DAY ACTIVITY PAGES

Happy Mother's Day to all of our Moms and Grandmas!

We've included some fun activity pages/cards the kids can do to celebrate mom/grandma!

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Who led the Israelites to the Jordan River? (*Joshua*)
- What remind the people that God was with them? (*the ark of God*)
- Did God's people have to swim across the Jordan River? (*No, God stopped the water and they walked.*)
- Why did God tell the people to pick up 12 stones from the middle of the river? (*so they would remember that God helped them cross the river*)
- ***How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.***