

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program C-1

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3:1- 4:24

Joshua Series: Lesson #1

Bible Verse: The LORD will do wonders among you. Joshua 3:5

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Obey God and wait for His miracles.

Prop ideas: 12 large rocks or stones

Small indoor water fountain – one with stones would be great. Get the water flowing, begin the story, and turn off when you get to the part where the priests step into the river. Try to time it where there is no water flowing as you put your hand on some stones for a dramatic effect.

SAMPLE STORY

Israel had been wandering in the desert for forty years because they had been disobedient to God. They doubted God and thought that the people in the Promised Land were too big and strong to overcome. Now, the forty years is over. Everyone who had doubted God was dead. Israel had a new leader, Joshua. (Joshua was one of the two faithful spies who had believed in God. Joshua and Caleb were the only two who believed that God would give them the Promised Land. Joshua had also been the helper to Moses). When Moses died at the age of 120 years, God chose Joshua to be the new leader. Joshua was ready to lead the people into the Promised Land.

Israel was camped along the Jordan River, across from the city of Jericho. It was the time of harvest and the Jordan River was flooding. There was so much water and it flowed very quickly. The people of Israel had no boats to cross the river. How would they get across? There were no bridges. If they walked through the water, it would surely sweep them away and drown them. Joshua told the people to get ready. Get ready because, “*The LORD will do wonders among you.*” God had a great miracle coming up.

God told Joshua to have the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant to the river. (The Ark contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments and represented God’s presence). The priests carrying the Ark were to step into the river, while the water was still flowing and moving very fast. As soon as their feet touched the water and amazing thing happened: the Jordan River

stopped flowing. There was dry land for everyone to walk on. All the people of Israel walked across the river on dry land as the priests stood in the middle of the riverbed holding the Ark.

God told Joshua to have one man from each of the twelve tribes pick up a large rock from the middle of the river and take it with them. After the men picked up the rocks, the priests walked out of the river carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as they left the riverbed, the water of the Jordan River began flowing again. It was back to the flood stage and moving quickly. Joshua took the twelve rocks and stacked them together. The pile of rocks was to be a reminder for everyone that *“The LORD will do wonders among you.”* When children ask their parents *“What do these stones mean?”* They will answer, *“Israel crossed over on dry land.”*

God did a wonderful miracle. But, the people of Israel had to have faith in God and believe before the miracle occurred. The water did not stop flowing until after the priests set foot in the river. They had to have faith and they had to obey God before He *“did wonders among them.”*

FYI

Second Session Classes will be:

Coloring “Remember Crossing the River” Page
Twelve Stones: Playing with Blocks
Playing with Play-Dough

Coloring Page

Materials: “God Stops a River” Coloring Page
Bible Verse stickers: The Lord will do wonders among you. Joshua 3:5
Crayons/markers (In room)

Do: Give everyone a page to color.
Add Bible verse sticker when finished.

Talk About: Point out the Ark of the Covenant. This represents God’s presence. The priests waited for everyone to get safely to the other side before leaving the river.

CROSSING THE RIVER GAME

Materials: 2 Pieces of Rope (Jump Rope)

Do: Have teachers hold both pieces of rope parallel and on the ground. Wiggle the rope back and forth and up and down. This is the fast flowing river.

Choose one person to be the “Priests and Ark.” As soon this person sets foot between the ropes, stop the wiggling. Tell everyone to “cross the river safely.” As soon as the “Priest and Ark” leave the river, start the flow of water again.

Repeat with a new “Priest and Ark.”

Alternatives: Play “Jump the Jordan.”

Let the ropes be the sides of the river. Start about 2 feet apart. Have everyone “Jump the Jordan.” You are safe if you do not touch the rope. If you touch the rope, sit down. Move rope farther apart and repeat.

Continue until no one can safely jump to the other side. Play again as interest holds.

Play “Wild River.” (Snake)

Use one rope to be the Wild River (Snake).

Teachers wiggle the rope back and forth on the ground, to make the Wild River.

Try to jump over without touching the rope, or Wild River (Snake).

Talk About: The people of Israel had an easy time crossing the Jordan. They did not have to jump or run. They just walked across on dry land. As long as the Ark was in the riverbed, God made the water stop flowing.

KIX CEREAL SNACK

Materials: Kix Cereal
Paper Plates

Do: Give each child some paper plates and cereal.
Practice counting to twelve.
Try to stack twelve pieces of cereal into a pile.
Eat.

Talk About: God told the Israelites to pick up twelve rocks from the middle of the riverbed. They stacked the rocks together to remind everyone that they had crossed over on dry land.