

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

Program C-2

## 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

First Session Classes will be:

Coloring “God Stops a River” Page  
Playing Crossing The River Game  
Eating Kix Cereal Snack

Coloring Page

Materials: “Remember Crossing the River” Coloring Page  
Crayons/markers

Do: Give everyone a page to color.  
Write their names on their page.

Talk About: How many rocks were stacked together? (12, one for each tribe) Where did the rocks come from? (The middle of the riverbed) What do the rocks mean? (A reminder that Israel crossed over on dry land)

TWELVE STONES

Blocks

Materials: Blocks

(In room)

**Do:** Have the children count out twelve blocks. Stack them together to make a pile similar to the rocks in our story. Let everyone make as many piles as they wish.

You can make a “river of rocks” with many blocks. Let each child take their rocks out of the “riverbed” to make their pile.

**Talk About:** God wanted the people to remember that the Jordan River had been dry so that they could cross over. The rocks from the middle of the riverbed would remind them that they easily crossed the river.

## PLAYDOUGH

**Materials:** Play-dough (In room)

**Do:** Make rocks out of play-dough. Help them make twelve and pile together.

**Talk About:** Sometimes we need to be reminded of the things God does for us. These rocks would remind the people of Israel.

## TEACHER EXTRA:

Make Play-dough in class. Teachers, bring a hotplate and pan from home, along with the ingredients listed below. Let the children help measure and stir. (They love helping!) Be sure to roll out Play-dough and allow it to cool before letting them play with it.

### Play-dough Recipe:

2 C. Flour	2 C. Water
1/2 C. Salt	2 tsp. Food coloring*
2 Tbs. Cream of Tartar	2 Tbs. Oil

Mix dry ingredients in a medium pot. Add water, oil and food coloring. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes. When it forms a ball in the center, turn out and knead on a floured surface. Allow to cool.

\* Try using 1 pkg. unsweetened Kool-Aid to give color and smell!