Israel Enters the Promised Land

Joshua 1, 3-5

The Story

After the death of Moses the LORD spoke to Joshua, the man God chose to become the new leader of the children of Israel. The Lord said, "Moses is dead. Go over this Jordan River, you and all the children of Israel, to the land which I am giving to them. I will give you all the land that I promised to Moses."

"I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you. Be strong and of good courage, divide the land among the people as I promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Keep all the laws which Moses commanded you, that you will have success wherever you go."

"Read and study the Book of the Law day and night, that you may obey all that is written in it. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua said to the people, "In three days you will cross over this Jordan River, to go in to live in the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

Joshua and all of the people rose early in the morning and came to the Jordan and stayed there three days.

The people were told, "When you see the Ark of the Covenant *(that special box that was a reminder God was with the people)* and the priests who carry it leave, follow them so that you know where to go in this strange land."

The LORD told Joshua, "You shall command the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan River and the priests' feet touch the water, the LORD shall make the water of the river stand as a heap and you shall stand on dry land in the middle of the Jordan River."

"Take twelve men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, have each take a stone from the middle of the Jordan and carry it to the other side."

The people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests in front. As the priests' feet touched the Jordan, the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away. Then the priests who held the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD stood still on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan River and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

When all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, the twelve men chosen from the people each carried a large stone out of the middle of the Jordan and took it to the other side.

Joshua told the people why the LORD wanted twelve stones. “This will be a sign among you when your children ask in later years,'What are these stones?' You shall tell your children, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land. The LORD our God dried up the waters of the Jordan before us until we had crossed over, just like the LORD our God did to the Red Sea, which He also dried up before Israel until they had crossed over. In this way, all the peoples of the earth may know and fear the LORD our God forever.'"

The children of Israel took the twelve stones and laid them on top of each other.

All this while the priests who held the ark stood in the middle of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded.

The LORD said to Joshua, "Command the priests who bear the Ark of the Covenant to come up from the Jordan."

When the priests’ feet touched the dry land, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place as before.

The people camped near Jericho. They ate food from the land and unleavened bread and dry grain. Then the manna stopped and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan.

When all the kings of the land heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the children of Israel, they were very afraid.

God was with Joshua and the children of Israel and led them into the promised land of Canaan.

God is with us as we travel on this earth and will lead us into the promised land of Heaven.

Activity One - Have the children color the picture on page 1 as follows.

Have the children color the Ark of the Covenant green.

Have the children color the priests’ robes red.

Have the children color the water of the Jordan River blue.

Have the children color the dry ground brown.

Activity Two - Have the children cut out and glue the stone shapes on top of each other to make a pile on the left half. Have them glue the cross to the right half below.

The stones reminded the people of God's help crossing the Jordan River	Jesus's cross reminds us Jesus died to take away our sins

Glue the stones on a pile here.

Glue the cross here.

Activity Three - Read the **Bible Passages** below then X off the things that make us afraid and Circle the things from God that give us courage.

Passages

Joshua 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage.

Romans 8:31- If God is for us, who can be against us?

Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.

Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Today we learned about how important it is to listen to Your Word. Help us to be strong and of good courage. Give us faithful leaders and help us to remember with thanks all You have done for us in making us one of Your dear children. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.