

# Israel Enters the Promised Land

Joshua 1, 3-5

What are these priests carrying?  
They are in the middle of the Jordan River. Why are they not getting wet?  
What miracle was done by God and what reminder did God's people have for future generations?  
Let's read to find out the answers.



## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Today we will hear about Joshua leading the Children of Israel with God's help. Please be with us as we learn about Your Word so that we may then tell others of the Good News found in the Bible and one day consider teaching or preaching Your Word to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## The Story - Joshua 1, 3-5

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 from the people, each carried a large stone on their shoulder out of the middle of the Jordan and took it out 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 your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before them until they had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before them until they had crossed over, that all the people of the earth may know and fear the LORD your 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.

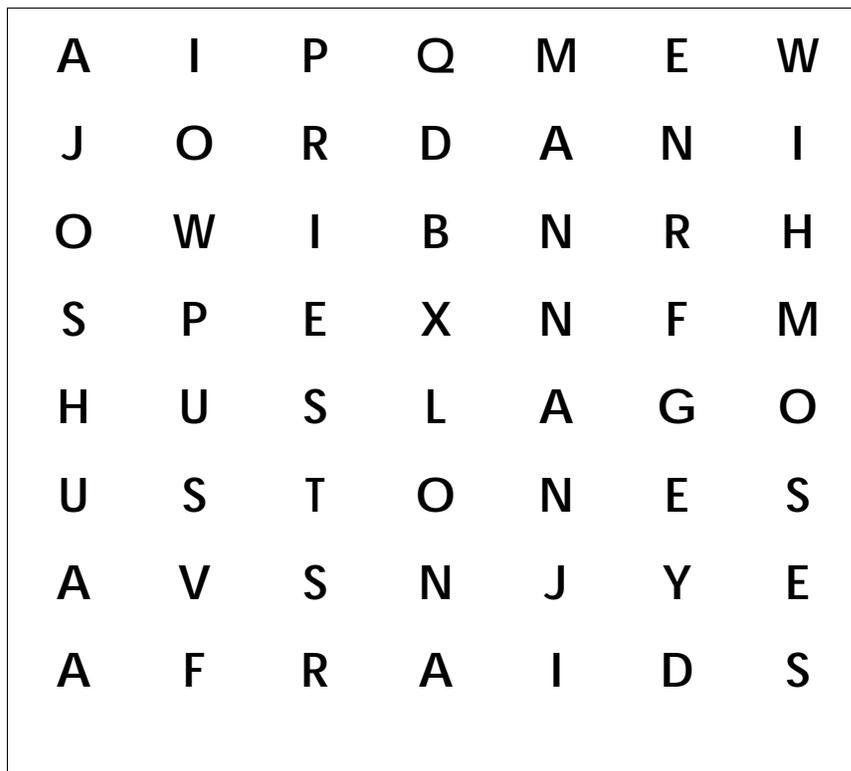
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*Outer Aim - God was with Joshua and the Children of Israel and led them into the promised land of Canaan.*

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Circle the correct word and then find the circled word in the WORD SEARCH.

1. Who had died at the beginning of this lesson? Caleb Moses Joshua
2. Whom did God choose as the next leader? Caleb Moses Joshua
3. What river did the people have to cross? Jordan Red Mississippi
4. Who held the ark of the covenant in the middle of the river so the people could cross?  
Joshua priests soldiers
5. What did God no longer send for the people to eat? rain food manna
6. What 12 things did men pick up and bring out of the dry river bed?  
stones shells fish
7. How did the kings of the land feel about the Children of Israel? brave afraid glad



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

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**What God's Word Tells Us** - Find Joshua 1:6 and write it on the lines below. Then make a list of things of which you are afraid and a list of things and people God gives us to make us strong and of good courage.

Joshua 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

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*Things that make me afraid:*

- ▶ kidnappers
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

*Who and what God gives me to make me strong and courageous:*

- ▶ pastors
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

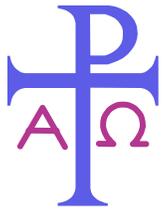
**Passages**

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

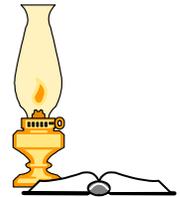
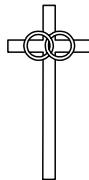
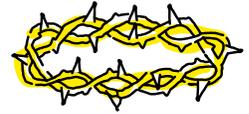
Romans 8:31- If God is for us, who can be against us?

Psalms 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

**Your Turn** - The Children of Israel were given a pile of 12 stones as a memorial or reminder of God's help for them in crossing the Jordan River. Draw a line to match the Christian symbol we have and its meaning or reminder to us.



- Baptism ●
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit ●
- Christ's Suffering ●
- God's Word is a Light ●
- Marriage in Christ ●
- Jesus Christ, the Beginning and End ●



## Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 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.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,  
Thy Church's buckler, shield, and sword.  
Oh, let us in its power confide  
That we may seek no other guide.

In these last days of sore distress  
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness  
That pure we keep, till life is spent,  
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

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 and to Your promises. Help us to be strong and courageous in our faith life. Give us faithful leaders such as Moses and Joshua and help me to consider becoming a Pastor, Day School Teacher or Sunday School Teacher. Help us to remember all You have done for us so that we can serve You all our days. Amen.