

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.

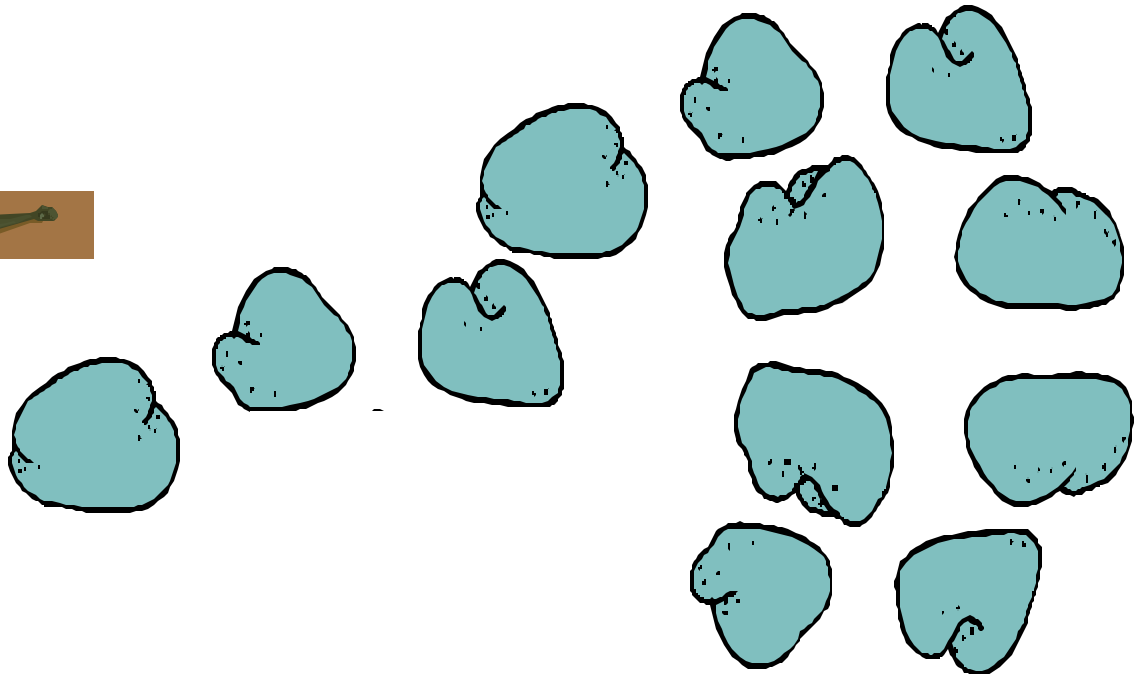
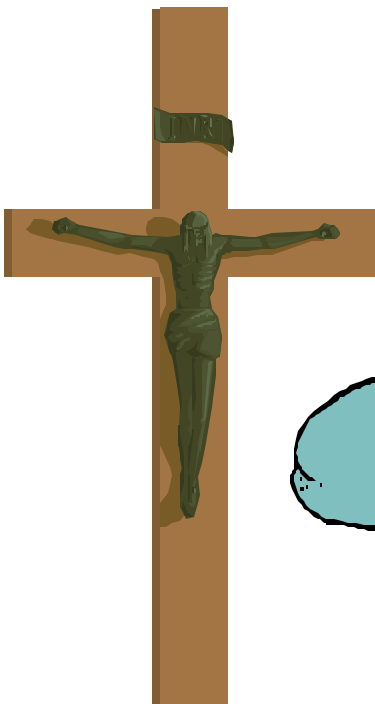
Activity Two - Have the children cut out and glue the stone shapes on top of each other to make a pile on the left half. Have them glue the cross to the right half below.

**The stones reminded the people
of God's help crossing the
Jordan River**

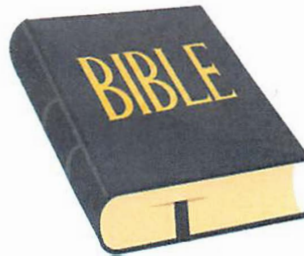
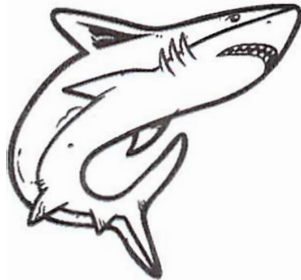
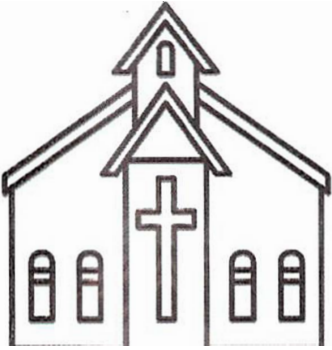
**Jesus's cross reminds us
Jesus died to take away
our sins**

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.

Israel Enters the Promised Land

Joshua 1, 3-5



Coloring Activity - 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.

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 that 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
on their shoulder out of the middle of
the Jordan and took it to the other
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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
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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
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The LORD said to Joshua,
"Command the priests who bear the
ark of the covenant to come up
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When the priests' feet touched
the dry land, the waters of the
Jordan returned to their place as
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The people camped near
Jericho. They ate food from the land,
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Then the manna stopped and the
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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.***

Activity One - 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

A	I	P	Q	M	E	W
J	O	R	D	A	N	I
O	W	I	B	N	R	H
S	P	E	X	N	F	M
H	U	S	L	A	G	O
U	S	T	O	N	E	S
A	V	S	N	J	Y	E
Y	C	E	T	A	S	S

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

Activity Two - Have the children draw 12 stone shapes, one on top of the other to make a pile on the left half. Have them draw a cross on the right half.

*The Stones Reminded the People of God's
Help Crossing the Jordan River*

*Jesus' Cross Reminds Us Jesus Died to Take
Away Our Sins*

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

Activity Three - Read the **Bible Passages** below. Put an X on the things that make us afraid. Circle the things from God that give us courage.

lightning & thunder	Hymnal	kidnappers
Pastor		devil
	sickness	Christian Teachers
snakes & spiders	Bible	baptism

Passages

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

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

Hymn - TLH # 292 v. 1, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
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Prayer

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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.

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

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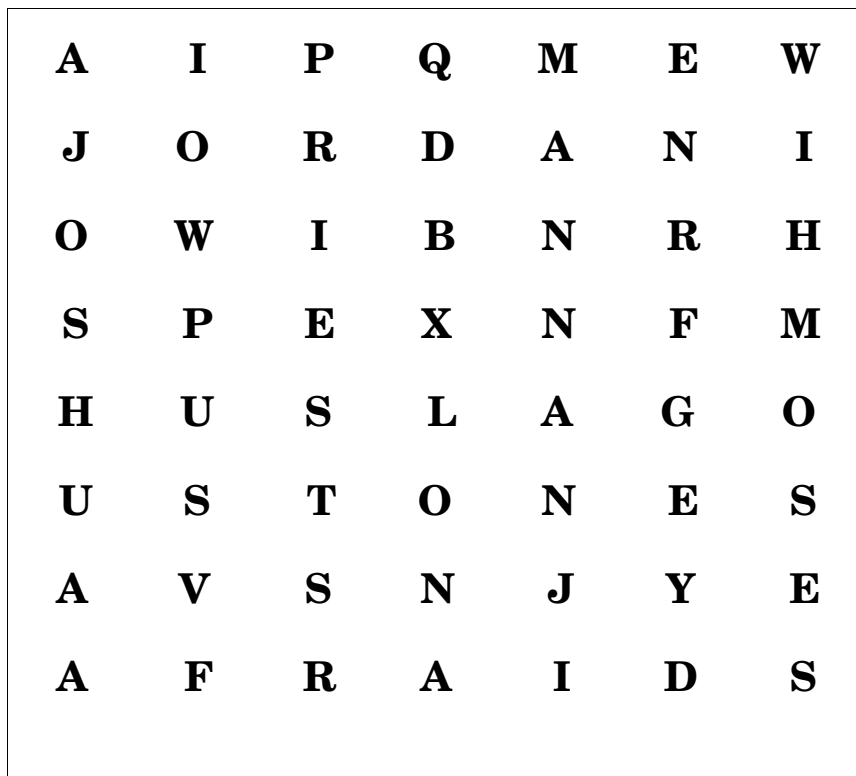
The people camped near Jericho. They ate food from the land and unleavened bread and dry grain. Then the manna stopped and the Children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan.

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.

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

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



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

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.

Jo shua 1:6_____

<i>Things that make me afraid:</i>	<i>Who and what God gives me to make me strong and courageous:</i>
▶ kid napp ers	▶ p a sto rs
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶

Passages

Jo shua 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage.

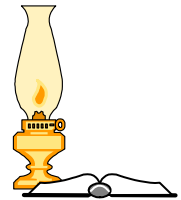
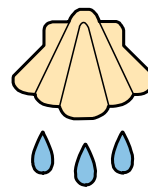
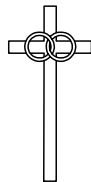
Ro mans 8:31- If God is for us, who can be against us?

Psa lms 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.

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?

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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 servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: {2} "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them; the children of Israel. {3} "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses... "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

{6} "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an

inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. {7} "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. {8} "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. {9} "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the

God's Hand in Our Lives

Old Testament

Israel Enters the Promised Land

Level 4



LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

{10} Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, {11} "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"...

{16} So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. {17} "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. {18} "Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

(Joshua 3) Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. {2} So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; {3} and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. {4} "Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

{5} And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD

will do wonders among you."

{6} Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

{7} And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. {8} "You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

{9} So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." {10} And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: {11} "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. {12} "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. {13} "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

{14} So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, {15} and as those who bore the ark came to the

Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), {16} that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. {17} Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

(Joshua 4) And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: {2} "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, {3} "and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge to night.'"

{4} Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; {5} and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, {6} "that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these

stones mean to you?' {7} "Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

{8} And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. {9} Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

{10} So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. {11} Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people... {13} About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho.

{14} On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

{15} Then the LORD spoke to Joshua,

saying, {16} "Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

{17} Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan."

{18} And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

{19} Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. {20} And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. {21} Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' {22} 'then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; {23} 'for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, {24} 'that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is

mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

(Joshua 5) So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel..

{9} Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

{10} Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. {11} And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. {12} Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

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

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the CROSSWORD PUZZLE with answers from the Bible Lesson.

ACROSS

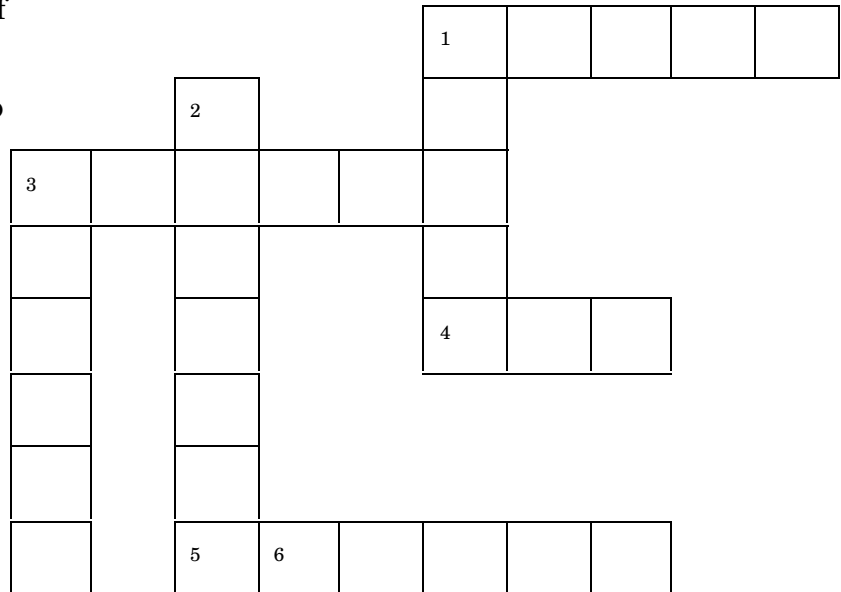
1. Who had died at the beginning of this lesson?

3. What river did the people have to cross?

4. The ____ of the Covenant was carried into the river.

5. What 12 things did men pick up and bring out of the dry river bed?

7. What was the name of the special place of the memorial of stones?



DOWN

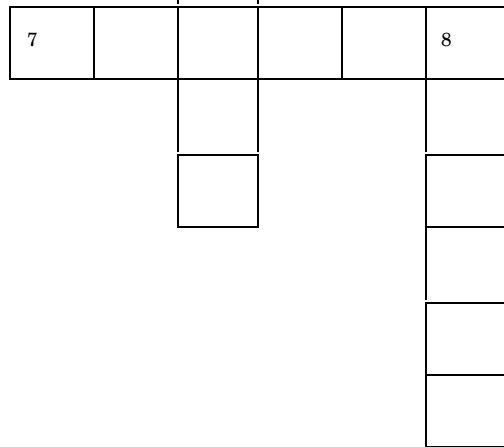
1. What did God no longer send for the people to eat?

2. Who held the ark of the covenant in the middle of the river so the people could cross?

3. Whom did God choose as the leader after Moses?

6. How many stones were carried out of the river for the memorial?

8. How did the kings of the land feel about the Children of Israel?



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

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 _____

<i>Things that make me afraid:</i>	<i>Who and what God gives me to make me strong and courageous:</i>
▼ kidnappers	▼ 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 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 ☞

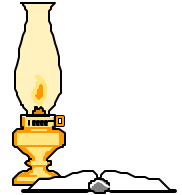
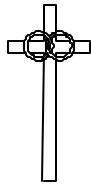
☞ Father, Son, Holy Spirit ☞

☞ 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 fall the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light
For us be ever veiled in night.

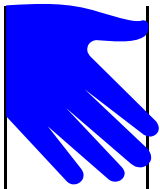
A trusty weapon is Thy Word,
Thy Church's buckler, shield, and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide.

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.



STORY

6/17/06

Israel Enters the Promised Land - Joshua 1 - 5

TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as I prepare to tell these lambs purchased with Jesus' blood about your love, bless my daily meditation of Your Word. Help me not to be afraid of whatever threatens me. May I be used as a courageous leader of Your people into their eternal rest. Amen.

OUTER AIM

God Prepares Joshua to Lead His People Into the Promised Land

INNER AIM

Be Strong and Very Courageous

BACKGROUND

The mantle of leadership had passed from Moses to Joshua. The basic character of the people had not changed. We continue to see God's love and mercy in contrast to the disobedience of the Children of Israel. God's promise of this land to Abraham (Genesis 12) is being fulfilled after 400 years of sojourning in Egypt and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

The Lord renewed the commission of Joshua and the promises He had made to Israel. "This is the land I will give you. I will never leave or forsake you." Only two things were required. 1) In loving obedience, the word and commands of God should be very precious to Joshua. 2) In strong faith he should be very courageous. It must have been a little scary when the people of Israel promised to follow Joshua just as they had followed Moses.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of Manasseh already possessed their land east of Jordan. They were reminded especially of their obligation to help the other tribes secure the rest of the land.

Joshua secretly sent two spies to view the land and Jericho. Jericho stood as the key to the land of Canaan because of its location and fortress. These spies were sheltered by Rahab, the harlot. (She is later mentioned with the ancestors of the Savior - Matthew 1). In faith she acknowledged Jehovah and asked for His protection. Cf. James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31. The spies came back convinced. "Truly Jehovah has delivered into our hands all the land, for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us."

Jehovah assured the people of His protection by repeating the miracle that led them out of Egypt. This time it was the Jordan River that they crossed in miraculous fashion. The Ark of the Covenant led the people through on dry land. Remember that Joshua and Caleb were the only ones that had seen the crossing of the Red Sea as adults (Joshua 3:7, 10; 5:1).

The rolling back of the waters 1)assured the people that the Lord was with Joshua as He had been with Moses(Joshua 3:7); 2) assured the people that the Lord was with them and would deliver them from their enemies (Joshua 3:9-10); and 3) the people who inhabited the land would realize the power of Jehovah and fear His people (Joshua 4:23-24).

Joshua also set up twelve memorial stones so that the next generation would remember what Jehovah had done for His people. Again (Joshua 4:6) it would provide an opportunity to explain to the next generation what God had done by explaining the meaning of this memorial of twelve stones from the bed of the Jordan River.

First it was necessary to renew God's covenant by the rite of circumcision. At Gilgal (literally = rolled away) their reproach was rolled away. Then the nation celebrated the Passover. Now that they were in the land promised to them, the manna ceased.

The Captain (Prince) of the host (army) of Jehovah appeared to Joshua. This was Jesus, the Angel of the Lord, who had appeared to Moses at the burning bush. Joshua was to bring to completion the task that had been given to Moses.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, today we learn 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. Help us to remember all You have done for us so that we can serve You all our days. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Review Israel's sorry history. The first time the Children of Israel were about to enter the land promised to Abraham, they were afraid to go in because of the strength of people, who already were in that land. As a result the Lord God said that they would wander in the desert for forty years. During these forty years an entire generation would die without being able to enter into the promised land. Of the twelve spies sent into the land, only Joshua and Caleb said, "God will give us this land."

Moses had died and now Joshua was about to take over the leadership of these people. God assured Joshua that the Lord would neither forsake nor leave him. This would be an important time in the history of God's people.

Again, they sent out two spies into the land. They were protected by Rahab, a prostitute in the city of Jericho. She recognized the power of Jehovah and asked the spies to spare her and her family. What is remarkable is that Rahab, this Gentile woman, would become an ancestor of the promised Messiah.

Joshua was further strengthened by the appearance of the commander of the Army of the Lord. He was addressed by Joshua as “my Lord.” Some have thought this “commander” was the archangel Michael. Others have thought He was the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Word. The point is that “if God be for us, who can be against us?”

APPLICATIONS

God continues to raise up faithful leaders for the next generation. Discuss with the children the pastors and teachers, who have served their congregations in the past years. Encourage them to think in terms of their service by talking about preparing for the teaching or preaching ministry.

The key to success is the study of God’s Word. The Book of the Law refers to the Torah, the first five books of Moses. We need to meditate upon God’s Word day and night. This meditation includes the reading of the Bible, thinking about its message, praying about it, and finally applying it to our daily lives.

God uses remarkable and unusual people to serve Him. God includes two women in the list of the ancestors of Jesus (Matthew 1). Rahab is a Gentile and a prostitute, and yet God in His mercy includes her in the ancestors of Jesus. The other woman is Ruth, the Moabitess, the great-grandmother of David.

It is good to build our own memorial stones. We talk about our history, build our buildings, and talk about ILC so that the next generation will remember what the Lord has done for us. It is important that the truths of God’s salvation be passed on to the next generation.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

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

Middle any of the above and...

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

Upper any of the above and...

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.

HYMN CHOICES

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (TLH #54)