

Lower Elementary Crossing Jordan

Checklist

- ☐ keepsake
- ☐ small rocks (12 per child)
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ glue gun (or liquid glue)
- ☐ pillow with pillowcase removed

Introduction:

Show children a keepsake.

Tell them the story about it and how it helps you remember a special memory.

What keepsakes do you have?

What special memories do they help you remember?

Is it important to remember special things?

What are some things you remember learning about God?

How do you feel knowing that God who did all these things loves you and watches over you?

If you ever feel afraid or start to forget what God is like, what can you do? (read Bible stories, pray, talk to someone who has known God longer than you)

For forty years, the Israelites wandered in the desert. They had disobeyed God over and over again. He told them they would not get to enter the Promised Land. Instead, their children would be the ones who would get to live there.

Now their forty years were up. Moses gave a speech to the Israelites, reminding them to obey God, and He would guide and protect them. Then, Moses went home to God. Now Joshua would become the new leader of the Israelites.



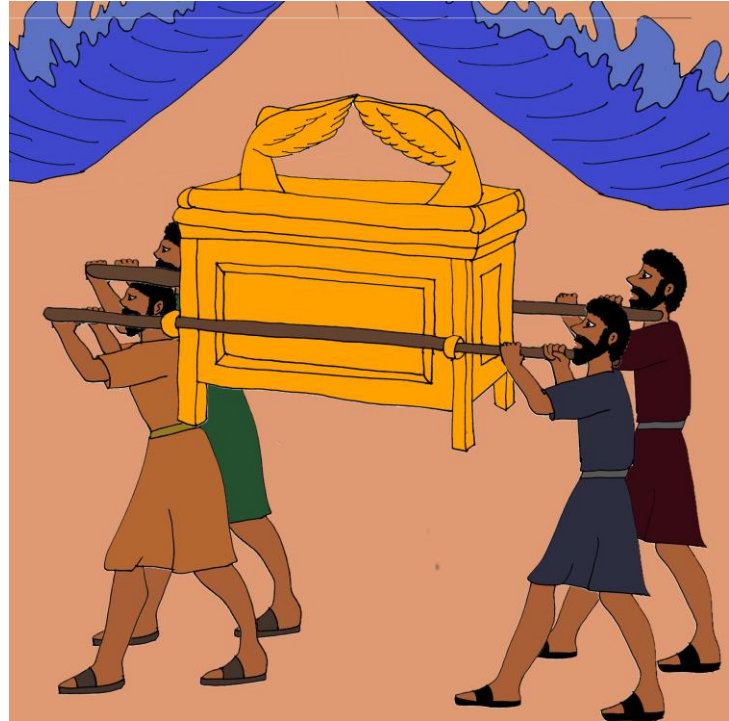
God spoke to Joshua.

“It is up to you to lead My people across the Jordan River. I will give you the land that I had promised to Moses. I want you to be strong and courageous. Don’t be afraid. Don’t ever feel discouraged. I am your God, and I will be with you wherever you go.

“I will show the people that you are the one I have chosen to be their new leader,” God told Joshua. “Here is what you must do.”



The Israelites could have taken a route around the river (they had forty years to get there, after all), but God wanted to show this new generation how powerful He is. So, He commanded them to cross the Jordan River. Just as God told him, Joshua had all the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant to wade into the river a bit. It was springtime, and the river was flowing higher than usual. But as soon as the priests' feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing. It began piling up, further upstream, as if an invisible dam held it back. As the ground began to dry, the priests stood in the middle of the riverbed.



Then Joshua called for twelve men to go into the middle of the river and pick up large stones. They each carried their stone across the river and set them down.

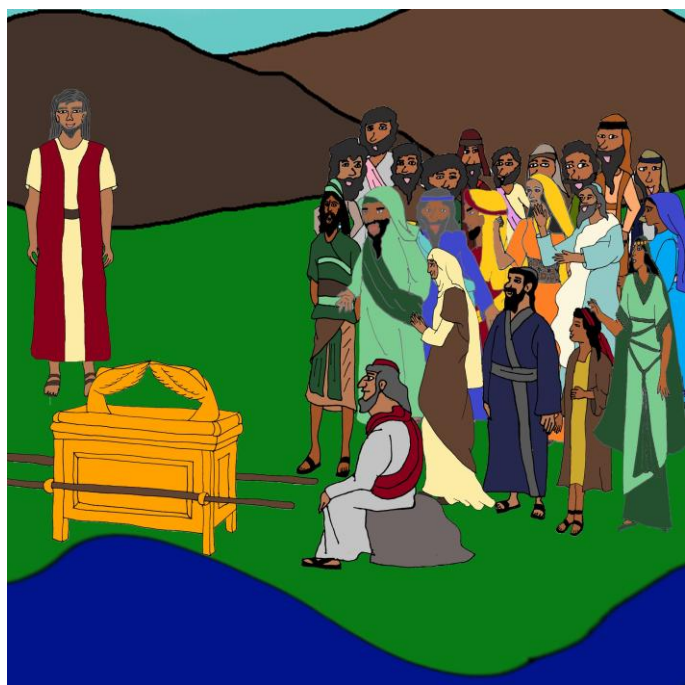
“One day your children will ask you about these rocks,” Joshua explained to everyone. “They will ask what they mean, and you should tell them that those rocks mark the spot where God stopped the Jordan River from flowing, so we could cross over it into our new home. One stone for each tribe of Israel.



And so, the Israelites crossed over Jordan, entering the land that God had promised to their parents when they left Egypt.

“Listen, all you Israelites!” Joshua cried out to them. “Here is the one thing you really need to remember: The Lord our God is the only true God. You need to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your strength. Read His commandments over and over and over again until you memorize them. Talk about them at home all the time—in the morning, when you eat, when you go to bed. Think about God’s plan for you when you are out traveling. Decorate your homes with God’s words.”

Joshua knew how important it was for God’s people to never, ever forget how powerful God is and how much He had done for them.



Closing Discussion:



Moses is one of the most famous people in the entire Bible. How would you feel if you had to take over the job of someone like that?

What did God tell Joshua to prepare him for this job? (I will be with you)

What did the Israelites need to cross to get into the Promised Land? (Jordan River)

Why was it hard to do this? (the waters were strong)

What miracle did God do? (stop the waters)

What did the priests carry through the river? (the ark with the Ten Commandments)

What did the people make to help their children remember what God had done? (a memorial of stones piled together)

Why is it important to remember the things God has done for us?

Can you name some things God has done for you (given you) that are important to remember?

Craft:

Rock remembrance pile.

Closing Activity:

Show children an empty pillow case. Let them take turns resting their heads on it. Was it comfortable? Why not? Take the pillow out of its hiding spot and put it in the pillow case. Let them try again. Was this more restful? Why? We are like the pillowcase and God is like the pillow. Without God inside of us, we can't have real peace. We need Him to bring us comfort and rest.

Crossing Jordan

Name: _____



**When you cross deep rivers,
I will be with you. ~ Isaiah 43:2a**

Materials: paper plates, glue, small rocks

- ❖ Children glue twelve small rocks onto plate to make a memorial
- ❖ OR Teacher hot glues stones together
- ❖ Teacher asks children to name something God has done for them (or given them) that they want to remember
- ❖ Teacher writes “_____’s Memorial Stones”

