

Crossing the Jordan River: Joshua Leads the Israelites into the Promised Land

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA

*Excerpts from River Community Church Prairieville, Louisiana by Jamie Senyard and Amy Crane. April 2007,
Revised and Update for Gloria Dei by Beth Tobin in 2011, and 2015.*

ROTATION OVERVIEW:

Bible Texts and References: Joshua 1-6, and 23-24

Memory Verse:

Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV)

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Additional Verse: Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

"Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you where ever you go."



OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the rotation, the students will:

1. connect this story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness to the story of the Exodus from Egypt.
2. know who Joshua is and that he was chosen by God to be the leader of the Israelites after Moses.
3. relate the story of the fall of Jericho.
4. know that God fights our battles for us.
5. know that God asks us to be obedient servants and to do what is right (even when people make fun of us).
6. be able to repeat the memory verse.

A natural course of discussion during lessons may especially help older students to:

7. make connections between the Exodus stories and begin to recognize the time line of events in the Old Testament.
 - Abraham and Sarah (January Rotation)
 - Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors (Past Rotation)
 - The birth of Moses through the burning bush (Last Year)
 - The plagues and crossing the red sea, Miriam's Song. (February Rotation)
 - Manna in the Wilderness (Next Year)
 - The Ten Commandments (Previous Year)
 - Crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land (Current Rotation)

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Sunday School Time Schedule:

10:00 Students meet with shepherds in workshop locations.

10:05 Lesson Begins

10:40 Lesson Closure

10:45 Sunday School Closing Begins in the Choir Room Upstairs

10:55 Sunday School Ends. Parents pick up children from the Choir Room.

References: www.rotation.org

Workshop Overviews:

- In the **Movie Workshop**, the children will watch the Veggie Tale video Josh and the Big Wall and will consider that God's ways are motivated by His love for His people.
- In the **Cooking Workshop**, the children will hear the story of Joshua's obedience to God and the people's trust in God as they cross the River Jordan and knock down the walls of Jericho. The children will make a Dutch Pancake and blow horns as the cake comes out of the oven - and dramatically falls. They will share what they think God wants them to learn.
- In the **Art Workshop**, the children will make a map which will help them understand where the important events we learned about during the last few rotations and the events of this rotation took place. They will make "Remember Rocks" to help them remember the story just as God commanded Joshua to have a member of each tribe of Israel gather a stone from the bottom of the Jordan River and make a memorial to always remember what God has done for them.
- In the **Construction Workshop**, children will hear the story of Rahab helping the Israelite spies. They will take a look at those things in our lives that "block" our relationship with God. They will "build" a representative wall with these things and knock it down. They will also build a wall out of scrap wood that they can take home with them. On the wall, they will write the memory verse.