

PARENTS' FLYER

Crossing the Jordan: a Story to Read with Your Children

Moses writes in Deuteronomy: "Israel, remember this! The LORD — and the LORD alone — is our God. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working."

Friends, remember the stories of the LORD's love. Remember, how with God's help, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, and into the wilderness. For forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. Moses grew old, and Joshua, son of Nun, was chosen to be Moses' successor.

Remember how the Lord spoke to Joshua after Moses died? "Get ready now, you and the people of Israel, to cross the River Jordan into the land that I am giving you. Joshua, no one will be able to defeat you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will always be with you. I will never abandon you."

So Joshua ordered the leaders of the twelve tribes to go through the camp to tell the people: "Get ready, for soon we are going to cross the River Jordan to occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

You can imagine what the people were saying. While the River Jordan is nothing like the mighty Mississippi, it was the flood season, and the River Jordan is deep and wide. They had no bridge, no boats. But the people trusted Joshua, the leader the Lord had chosen for them, so they packed and prepared to cross the river.

Friends, remember how, a few days later, Joshua called to the Israelites: "You will know that the living God is among you when the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the Earth crosses the River Jordan ahead of you. When the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant put their feet in the water, the River Jordan will stop flowing, and the water will pile up in one place."

So the Israelites gathered their children and their herds. And the priests went ahead of them, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. The priests stepped into the cold water of the River Jordan.

Remember how the Israelite nation, gathered on the bank of the River Jordan, watched as the water stopped! There was no water coming down the River Jordan. It began to pile up; some say it was piled three hundred miles high that day! The people were in awe. Now they knew for certain that God was with Joshua as He had been with Moses. And so the people walked across the River Jordan on dry ground. No mud!

Remember how the Lord told Joshua: "Call twelve men, one from each tribe. Command them to take twelve stones out of the River Jordan, from the very place where the priests are standing with the Ark of the Covenant. Tell them to carry the stones with them and to put them down where you camp tonight."

The twelve men did as Joshua ordered. Each took up a stone from the riverbed. Those stones were carried to the camping place, and arranged there. That place was named Gilgal, which means "circle of stones."

Joshua gathered the people at the circle of twelve stones that had been taken from the River Jordan. He told the people, "In the future, when your children ask 'What do these stones mean?', tell them about the time Israel crossed the River Jordan on dry ground. Tell them the Lord your God dried up the river just as he dried up the Red Sea for us. Tell them the stories of Moses and Aaron, of Miriam and thanksgiving. Tell them how God led us through the wilderness for forty years and fed us when we were hungry and gave us water when we were thirsty and loved us even when we grumbled. Tell your children and your children's children these stories. Then, all the people of the earth shall know how great the Lord your God's power is, and you will honor and love the Lord your God forever."

-- retelling adapted from Joshua 1, 3-4 and Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 Today's English Version; Copyright 2003 Amy Crane. Permission granted to freely distribute and use, provided the copyright message is included.

Scripture quotations marked NIV taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

Other Scripture taken from the Good News Bible in Today's English Version-Second Edition, Copyright 1992 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

FAMILY TIME WITH GOD

To extend this rotation at home: Talk about being obedient, even when we don't understand why. Make a list of family rules and Bible rules and school rules with your children. Talk about the reasons for each. Your children will understand some explanations, and there will probably be some that you will have to explain as "Because I said so" rules. Discuss how children and adults sometimes do not understand why God says "Yes" or "No" or tells us to do something, but that sometimes we must be like the Israelites at Jericho and obey Him even things don't make sense.

[adapted from Talkable Bible Stories by Larry Richards, Revell, 1995.]

Parents, Tell your children the stories of our faith. Teach them God's commands. If you do not feel comfortable telling the stories, read them. You can read from the Bible; many of the stories (such as this rotation's stories about Joshua) are interesting enough for even the youngest listener to hear directly from the Bible — and children are never too old to be read to.

Thank you to our Gloria Dei 2019 Joshua Rotation Team:

Movie Time: Sherrie Smith

Construction: Troy Kunkel, Craig Adair

Art: Chantale Woronka

Cooking: Cheri Keller

Shepherds: Dawn Hill, Maureen Craig, Anisa Harnden, Brooke Hicks, Frank Metz, Bev Witherow, Judy Volta

Closing Team: Albin Gersich, Beth Tobin

Curriculum Writers: Amy Crane, Jamie Senyard and Michelle Slatton

Sunday School Design Team: Janett Andersen, Suzi Anthony, Karen Janz, Dennis Longnecker, Beth Tobin,