



3PK

August 23-24, 2014

DATE

Crossing the Jordan

LESSON TITLE

Joshua 2-4

WHERE TO FIND IT

God loves it when we say "thank you"

MAIN POINT

schedule

First 10 minutes of the service hour:

Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

Next 5 minutes: Connect Time

Next 25 minutes: Large Group

Last 25 minutes: Snack and Small Group

Finish early? Repeat the activity! Kids this age learn through repetition. Or, check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

tips

Keep in mind, kids might not be perfectly engaged during small group. Do your best to engage every kid, but don't let redirecting take the place of reviewing the story. You may be surprised at what they pick up...even if they appear to be disengaged!

check-in/out

As parents pick kids up, encourage them to ask kids the Connect Questions posted outside the door (show them where the questions are if they're unsure).

large group heads up

After God's family crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, God didn't want them to forget that he had delivered them from slavery and lead them into to a new home.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.*

- **Clean up! (when you get the 5-minute warning from the presenter)**
- Line up.
- Tell kids that we're going to hear a story about something AMAZING God did to help his family. After God helped them, they said, "Thank you." Let's start today by thanking God! Have kids either name different things they're thankful for or just say, "Thank you" after you name something:
 - Cupcakes
 - Pizza
 - Swimming pools
 - Teachers
 - Toys
 - Flowers
 - Dolls
 - Cars
 - School
 - Zoos
 - Ice Cream
 - Zebras
 - Dancing
 - Kids' Club
 - Etc. It can be anything!

If the music hasn't started yet, remind kids that when their listening ears are on, their mouths should be closed tight. Then practice that together! For fun, hop into Large Group like HOPS.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) review the story and (2) understand that God wants us to thank him.

Why? The Israelites saw many miracles but they still often forgot to thank God. We are no different.

Tip: Kids may have trouble coming up with things they are thankful for (question #7). Help them by giving ideas such as food, clothes, friends, birds, puppies, etc. You can go back to some things from Connect Time too!

small group

**Serve kids snacks as you review the story.*

REVIEW

1. In today's story, where was God's family going? (to the land God promised to give them)
2. What did they have to cross to get there? (a GREAT BIG river; Jordan River)
3. What happened when God's family stepped into the Jordan River? (The river split in two, and there was a dry path right down the center.)
4. When the Israelites crossed over, what did they take out of the river? (12 rocks)
5. Why did they get 12 stones out of the river? (To build a reminder that God had led them across the river into their new homes.)
6. What did they say to God? (Thank you!)
7. Can you tell me some things you are thankful for?

ACTIVITY: HOT POTATO

Use the "**stone**" to play hot potato.

- **Sit** in a circle
- **Pass** the rock around the circle while the music is playing (a great song to use is Thank You Lord, Track 8 on the CD in your room).
- When the music stops, **the kid holding the rock says "thank you"** to God (can be about a specific thing or just a more general thanks).
- **Repeat!** If you want to mix it up, play "Freeze Dance." Turn on the music and when you pause it, everybody freezes. The last person to freeze has to say one thing they're thankful for (or just say, "Thank you!")

***Pray with the kids, thanking God for all he's done for us.**

Extra time? Try to get kids to engage with the story. Build towers with 12 blocks or have them draw their favorite part on the back of a coloring page. You can also play “I Spy”: Say, “I spy something with the color _____” and let the kids guess. Or say, “I spy something shaped like a _____” and let the kids guess. Let the kids come up with their own objects too. To mix things up, ask the kids to find something in the room with a certain color or shape and bring it to you. (Don’t make it a contest to find an object first—just have fun seeing many examples of colors and shapes!)

LARGE group

special notes

You'll need help from a couple leaders for this—so enlist their support before the presentation and give clear instructions.

****You'll need at least one other volunteer to hold up one of the waves.**

presenter tips

Find ways to keep kids engaged by having them repeat a word or phrase, act something out, or make a face or a motion. Every couple of minutes give them a way to engage verbally or kinesthetically. Double bonus - It will actually help them remember what you're saying too!

script

Presenter: Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm _____ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS. She's going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make today Kids' Club.

Video: HOPS 1 Have Fun! (*about 1 minute*)

REVIEW

Presenter: (Hold up the Bible for kids to see.) This is God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It's God's Rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? The world was perfect! Give me a smile and a thumbs up! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.) But THEN, something bad happened. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, and sadness and death came into the world... Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.) This was *really* sad.

But even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God...God loved them anyway! And he didn't want to leave them in a world filled with pain and sadness and wrong things. So God planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—can be close to him again. The rescuer was God's very own son, Jesus.

GOD RESCUES HIS FAMILY

Well, God planned to send the Rescuer, Jesus, through a family. And he started building that family long before Jesus came. We talked about how God's family got into a LOT of trouble. They were stuck as slaves in Egypt, but God sent Moses to rescue them! Then they had to wander in the desert for awhile, but God promised them that one day they would live in an amazing and wonderful new home!



script continued

CROSSING THE JORDAN

Well, finally, it was time for them to go to their new home. **(Show loop of Jordan River.)** But first, they had to cross a GREAT BIG river (arms out wide). Can you all show me what GREAT BIG is? (Kids will open their arms wide, too.) Imagine looking across that GREAT BIG river and knowing your new home is just on the other side.

Hmmm, how do you think they could get across the GREAT BIG river? (Let kids respond.) They could not swim across...it's a GREAT BIG river (opening arms wide). They had all of the stuff they owned and lots of grandparents and babies and cousins and all sorts of people!

They couldn't take a boat across...there were too many people to fit on a boat. So the Israelites didn't know how to cross the GREAT BIG river. ...*But guess what?* God had a plan!

He told a guy named Joshua, the man who was leading God's family, to go to the edge and stand in the water. What!? Stand in that GREAT BIG river? That sounds a little scary to me... let's all pretend to stick our toes into the water (let kids pretend). Imagine how it feels. It might be cold and you can probably feel the water flowing fast down the river.

The people probably didn't want to go any farther! But you know what? Joshua trusted God and knew that God would take care of the people. So, the Israelites all got together and got ready to follow Joshua. Can we all get up and get ready too? Stand up and make a line here just like the God's family.

*(Guide volunteers in getting children into a single file line. Stand at the front of the line with the **two cardboard waves** sitting close together.)*

GOD MAKES A WAY THROUGH THE RIVER

Are you ready to go to the GREAT BIG river and see what happens? See, the Israelites went to the river and stepped in. And do you know what God did? He **PILED UP** the water on either side... just like this... *(Pull the waves apart to create a path through the middle.)* The waves got higher and higher on both sides. And the people walked right across on dry land. It was a miracle!

OK, let's try it... let's walk through the river, just like God's family. *(Lead the kids in walking in between the waves and then sitting back down.)*

THE PEOPLE SAY THANK YOU

Great job, you guys! And after the Israelites crossed to the other side of the river, Joshua didn't want them to forget all of the things that had happened to them. So God's family went back to the river and found some rocks. **(Hold up a big rock for the kids to see.)**

They made a pile out of the rocks so that they could look at it **(show picture of rock pile)**. Then every time they looked at the rocks, they remembered all of the good things God had done for them. And they said, "Thank you." Can you guys say that with me? (Let kids say: Thank you.) Great job!



script continued

I'm going to remind you of some of the things God's family remembered. Then I want you guys to say, "Thank you." Ready?

- They remembered that God had brought them out of Egypt, where they were slaves. (Let kids say: Thank you!)
- They remembered that God had helped them cross the Red Sea. (Let kids say: Thank you!)
- They remembered that God had given them food to eat. (Let kids say: Thank you!)
- They remembered that God had given them water to drink. (Let kids say: Thank you!)
- They remembered that God had given them his 10 commandments(Let kids say: Thank you!)
- They remembered that God had been with them every step along the way(Let kids say: Thank you!)

You know, God has done a lot of good things for us too! And He LOVES it when we thank him for those things. Let's pray together right now and thank God for all that he has done for US.

(Pray, breaking it into smaller, repeatable phrases.)

Pray: Hi God! Thanks for taking care of your family. Thank you for taking care of us. We love you. In Jesus' name, aaaa-MEN!

WORSHIP

Now let's sing to God to thank him.

Song: Thank You Lord

Song: Be Strong

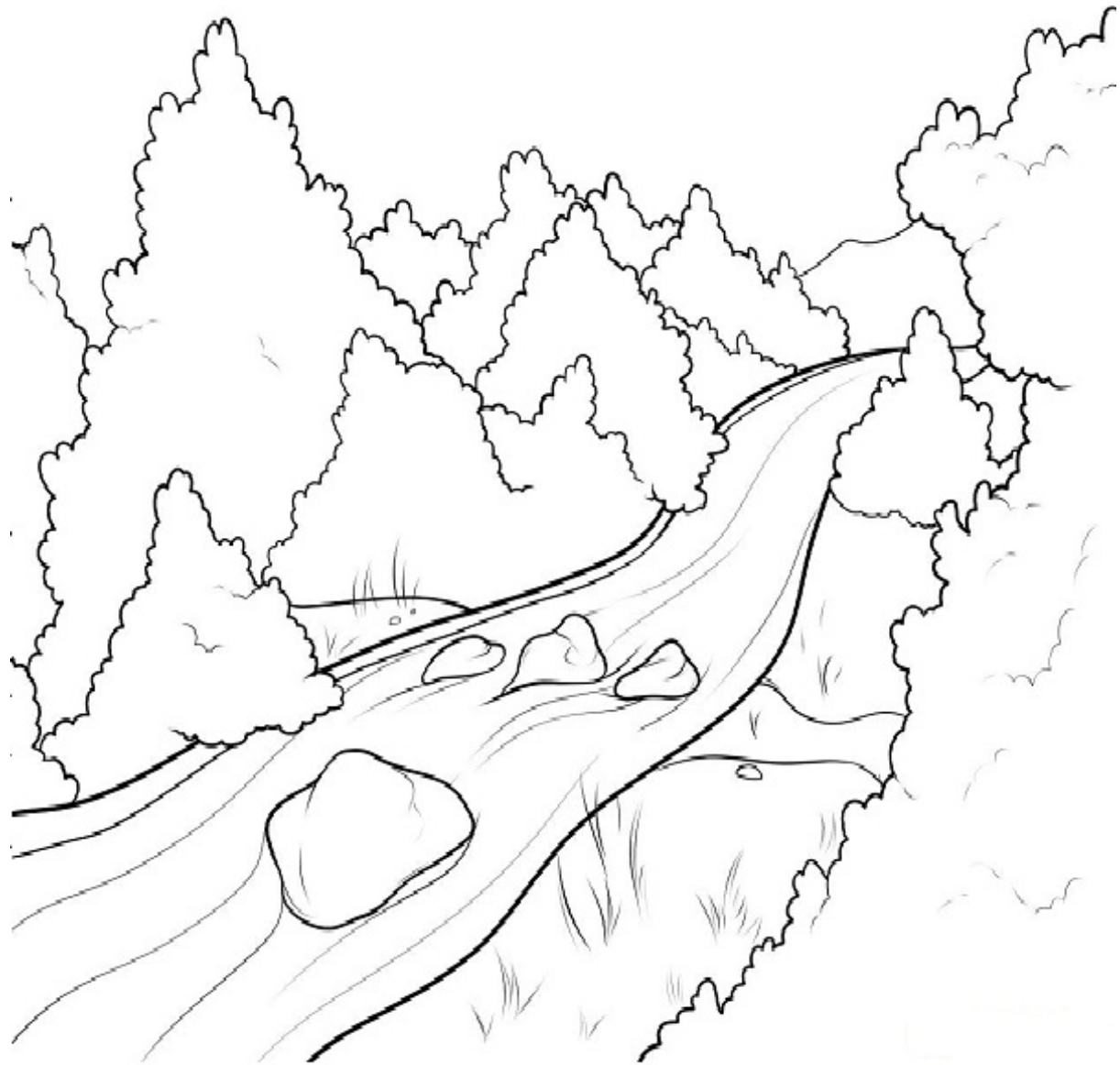
Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop to their groups.)



script continued

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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

"Thank you" game – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid

Coloring pages: River

Per room

Markers

1 fake rock (fakerock.com; search "pillow foam";
choose 3x3x2)

large group supplies

Bible

2 waves (can use OT: IN-13638992 or something
comparable that we've used in the past)

1 fake rock (fakerock.com; search "pillow foam";
choose 5x5x7)

a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 1 Have Fun
2. Video: Jordan River loop
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jE63unMk7k>)
3. Image: pile of rocks
4. Song: Thank You Lord
5. Song: Be Strong

connect questions

Tell me how God's family crossed the Jordan River.
What did God's family do to say thank you?

parent page

Daily Talk Starters printed separately