

Lesson 90: The Israelites Cross the Jordan River
Joshua 3:1 - 4:24

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/HBHtW9KtHu4>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/ByDVZygPG04>

Worship Theme: Give thanks to God knowing that the living God is with us.

Memory Verse: I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. (Psalm 9:1)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. O Lord, I Give You Thanks <https://youtu.be/UT6rpTYpIU0>
2. Thank You Jesus From My Heart <https://youtu.be/MdYoscjxNeo>
3. Give Thanks <https://youtu.be/g0QKUUZJ-LE>

Prayer

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Thank You"

1. Ask every child to stand up and say something they're thankful for. They cannot say the same thing that someone else said.
2. Remind the children that there are many ways we can show our thanks to God.

Introduction:

Remember what we've learned over the past several weeks: God led the Israelites to the Promised Land. He protected them along the way and provided what they needed. God does the same for us. But even though we know God will always help us, it's important that we don't take that help for granted. We should always remember God's help and thank him for it. God always answers our prayers. He'll help us and guide us every day. Let's remember to turn to him and to thank him for the awesome things he does!

Bible Story:

When the Israelites got to the land God had promised them, they realized they had a problem. As they were traveling, they found themselves at the edge of the Jordan River. This was a problem because they knew they had to go across the river to get to the Promised Land. The Jordan River was fast and wide and deep. In fact, it was as full of water as it could get. It was almost overflowing!

Joshua and the other leaders of the Israelites told the Israelites to get ready for God to do something amazing. They said, **"See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you" (Joshua 3:11)**. So when the priests started carrying the ark of the covenant toward the Jordan River, the Israelites followed. When the priests put their feet in the water, something amazing really did happen! The river stopped flowing, and the water stacked up in one place! The priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant stopped in the middle of the river bed, and all the Israelites walked across the Jordan River on dry land!

After the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River, Joshua told them to gather 12 stones from the middle of the river. Then the priests carrying the ark of the covenant walked out of the river, and the Jordan River began to flow again. The Israelites carried the stones to the other side of the river and built a large pile of stones. These stones would remind them for years to thank God for what he did for them. Joshua told the Israelites, **"In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over... He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that**

you might always fear the Lord your God” (Joshua 4:21-24) Just as the Israelites did, we need to always remind ourselves to thank God for all that he has done for us.

Questions to discuss:

1. What problem did the Israelites have when they were trying to get into the Promised Land? (They had to cross the Jordan River)
2. Who walked into the Jordan River first? (The priest with the ark of the covenant)
3. What happened when the priests walked into the river? (The water stopped flowing)
4. What did the Israelites make to remind their children to thank God? (They built a large pile of stones with rocks from the middle of the river.)
5. What can you use as a reminder to thank God?

Memory Verse:

“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” (Psalm 9:1)

Craft: Thank You Card

1. Print a “Thank You” card (see below) for the children.
2. They can decorate/color the card and write to anyone they want to thank.
3. Thanking people around us makes God happy. Children can make more cards when they're done.

Song: Select songs from the list above

Prayer

Teacher’s Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Reread Joshua 4:24. Note the public display of power that God left as a reminder of his love and power. In times of darkness, it is often helpful to remember what we have experienced in the past. Encounters with our Savior remind us that he is with us. Sharing these experiences with others can give hope to the hopeless and bring glory to the work God has done in you. Identify five people to whom you will testify of God’s power in your life this week. After you share, watch how God’s power in you affects the people you share with.

Thank You Card

