

Lesson 65

Israel Crosses the Jordan

God provided safe passage across the Jordan River for Joshua and the Israelites.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Lesson Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and praise our great God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.
What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? The Ten Commandments.
What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? The Israelites.
Who were the Israelites? The descendants of Israel (Jacob).

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next. Pre-K Lesson follows.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Last time, we saw how God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses died. Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman's house.

What was the name of the woman? Rahab.

Rahab heard about the miracles God had done for the Israelites. She believed that their God was the one true God.

How did Rahab help the spies? She hid the spies on her roof under the flax and then helped them escape out her window.

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. They said they would if she kept their secret.

What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was? A scarlet (red) cord.

Joshua was ready to lead the Israelites into the promised land and attack the city of Jericho. There was only one problem—the Jordan River was between the Israelites' camp and Jericho! They would have to cross the river somehow even though it was deep and flowing fast.

God Stops the Jordan River

Who do you think would help Joshua with this big problem? God.

Right! God was about to do a great miracle. God commanded that when the people moved out to cross the river, the priests were supposed to go first and carry the ark of the covenant.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The ark of the covenant reminded the people that God was with them.

So the Israelites followed the priests. But when they came to the river, it was so full, it overflowed. The deep water rushed past the people as they stood looking at it. Oh no! How would they ever get across the river? It would be very hard to cross this river safely on their own. But God told Joshua to have the priests step into the river, and then God would do something wonderful.

Have the blue play dough and plastic people or objects ready to show.

Lay out the blue play dough in one long strip to represent the river. Position the plastic people or objects at the 3/4 point from one end. When the priests got to the edge of the water, they had to show great faith in God by stepping into the rushing river.

Can you guess what happened when the priests' feet touched the water? Allow guesses.

God made the river stop flowing!

Split the play dough where the objects are and bunch up the longer part on the far end. God blocked the water so it just piled up and stayed in one spot. Then God dried up the ground where the Israelites would cross. Slide the leftover smaller part of the play dough away to show how it flowed down the river with no other water to replace it, leaving a dry area near the plastic people.

So what happened next? Let's find out.

Joshua 3:17

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from the book of Joshua in the Bible. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

The priests walked to the middle of the riverbed and stood there. What was the ground like? Was it squishy and muddy? Did they slip and slide around? No. They stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the river.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The priests stood with the ark of the covenant in the middle of the dry riverbed while all the people walked over on nice, dry ground. Isn't that amazing?!

Who made the water stop and dried up the ground so they could cross the river? God.

Joshua Sets Up the Stones

God wanted the people to remember who did this miracle for them. So God told Joshua to stack 12 stones in the riverbed where the priests were standing to mark the place where they held the ark of the covenant.

God also commanded Joshua to tell the men to collect something from the riverbed.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did the men collect? Stones, rocks.

One leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel took a large stone from the middle of the riverbed and carried it to the other side. Then God gave the command for the priests to leave their place in the middle.

What do you think happened when the priests came out of the riverbed? Allow guesses.

When the priests stepped up out of the riverbed on the other side, the waters of the Jordan River filled back up to overflowing like it had been before God's miracle happened. Everyone safely crossed to the other side of the river into the promised land. Hooray!

But what about the 12 stones they carried across? Do you have any ideas what they did with them? Allow discussion.

Joshua 4:20–22

Let's read what Joshua did with those stones in Joshua 4:20–22. Read the verses.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did Joshua do with the stones? He set them up at Gilgal. Stacked them.

Gilgal was where the Israelites made their first camp in the promised land!

When their children asked what the stones meant, what could their fathers tell them? How God dried up the Jordan River so they could pass over.

The stones would remind the people of what God did to bring the Israelites safely into the promised land. And there was another time God did something like this with water. Do you remember the Red Sea? Pharaoh and the Egyptian army had trapped the Israelites and God parted the water of the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape. God wanted his people to tell their children about both of these miracles so they would fear and honor the Lord and so other people would hear about him.

Memorials Today

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. We call these 12 stones the memorial stones because they were set up to help the Israelites remember something very special that happened.

What other word does “memorial” sound like? Memory, remember.

We have all kinds of memorials to help us remember special people and things that have happened. They can be statues, special buildings, or even special holidays.

Have Lesson Illustrations and pictures of monuments you brought ready to show.

Show Lesson Illustrations #1–4 and pictures of monuments you brought. I want to show you some pictures, and you tell me what they remind you of.

Show Lesson Illustrations #5–8. Now I want you to look at these memorials that come from the Bible.

These are all important memorials. But the ones from the Bible like the cross, or the baby in a manger, are extra special because they remind us of wonderful and amazing things that God has done. When we learn and remember more about God, it helps us know and love him better. God wanted the Israelites to remember him and what he did for them, and he wants us to remember him, too.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Last time, we saw how God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses died. Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman’s house.

What was the name of the woman? Do you remember? Rahab.

Rahab heard about the miracles God had done for the Israelites. She believed that their God was the one true God and that he would help the Israelites take the land as their own.

How did Rahab help the spies? She hid the spies on her roof under the flax and then helped them escape out her window.

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. They said they would if she kept their secret.

What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was? A scarlet (red) cord.

The spies told Joshua that all the people of the land were frightened of them. Joshua was ready to move forward into the promised land and

attack the city of Jericho. There was only one problem—the Jordan River was between the Israelites' camp and the city. They would have to cross the river somehow even though it was very deep and flowing very fast.

God Stops the Jordan River

Who do you think would help Joshua with this big problem? God.

Right! God was about to do a great miracle. He told the people that when they crossed the river, the priests were supposed to go first, carrying the ark of the covenant.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Who remembers what the ark of the covenant looked like? Wooden box covered with gold, a mercy seat on the top with two angels.

The ark of the covenant reminded the people that God was with them. By having the priests go first with the ark, God was showing the people they should follow him and trust him.

So the Israelites set out following the priests. But when they came to the river, it was so full it overflowed. The deep water rushed past the people as they stood looking at it. Oh no! How would they ever get across the river? This was the flood season when the waters of the river were high and strong. It would be very hard to cross safely on their own. But God told Joshua that the priests should step into the river, and then God would do something wonderful.

Have the blue play dough and plastic people or objects ready to show.

Lay out the blue play dough in one long, flat strip to represent the river. Position the plastic people or objects at the 3/4 point from one end. When the priests got to the edge of the water, they had to show great faith in God by stepping into the rushing river.

Can you guess what happened when the priests' feet touched the water? Allow guesses.

God made the river stop flowing!

Split the play dough where the objects are and bunch up the longer part on the far end. Up the river, about 15 miles away, God blocked the water so it just piled up and stayed in one spot. Now there was no more water flowing down to where the Israelites wanted to cross. Slide the leftover smaller part of the play dough away to show how it flowed down the river with no other water to replace it, leaving a dry area near the plastic people.

So what happened next? Let's find out.

Joshua 3:17

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from the third chapter of the book of Joshua. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky

note. Read Joshua 3:17.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

The priests walked out and stood in the middle of the riverbed. What was the ground like? Was it squishy and muddy? Did they slip and slide around? No. They stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the river.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The priests stood with the ark of the covenant in the middle of the dry riverbed while all the people walked over on nice, dry ground.

Who made the water stop and dried up the ground so they could cross the river? God.

Right. The ark of the covenant reminded the Israelites that it was God who was holding the waters back for them. Isn't that amazing?!

Joshua Sets Up the Stones

God wanted the people to remember who did this miracle for them. So he told Joshua to stack 12 stones in the riverbed where the priests were standing to mark the place where they held the ark of the covenant.

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One leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel took a large stone from the middle of the river and carried it to the other side. After everyone had crossed, God gave the command for the priests to leave their place in the middle.

What do you think happened when the priests came out of the riverbed? Allow guesses.

When the priests stepped up out of the riverbed on the other side, the waters of the Jordan River were unblocked, and it filled back up to overflowing like it had been before God's miracle happened. Everyone safely crossed to the other side of the river into the promised land. Hooray!

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Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions
Two beanbags
Three laundry baskets or boxes
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions
Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions
Three chairs set out for bases
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions

of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

- Review Questions
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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Bible Version

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