

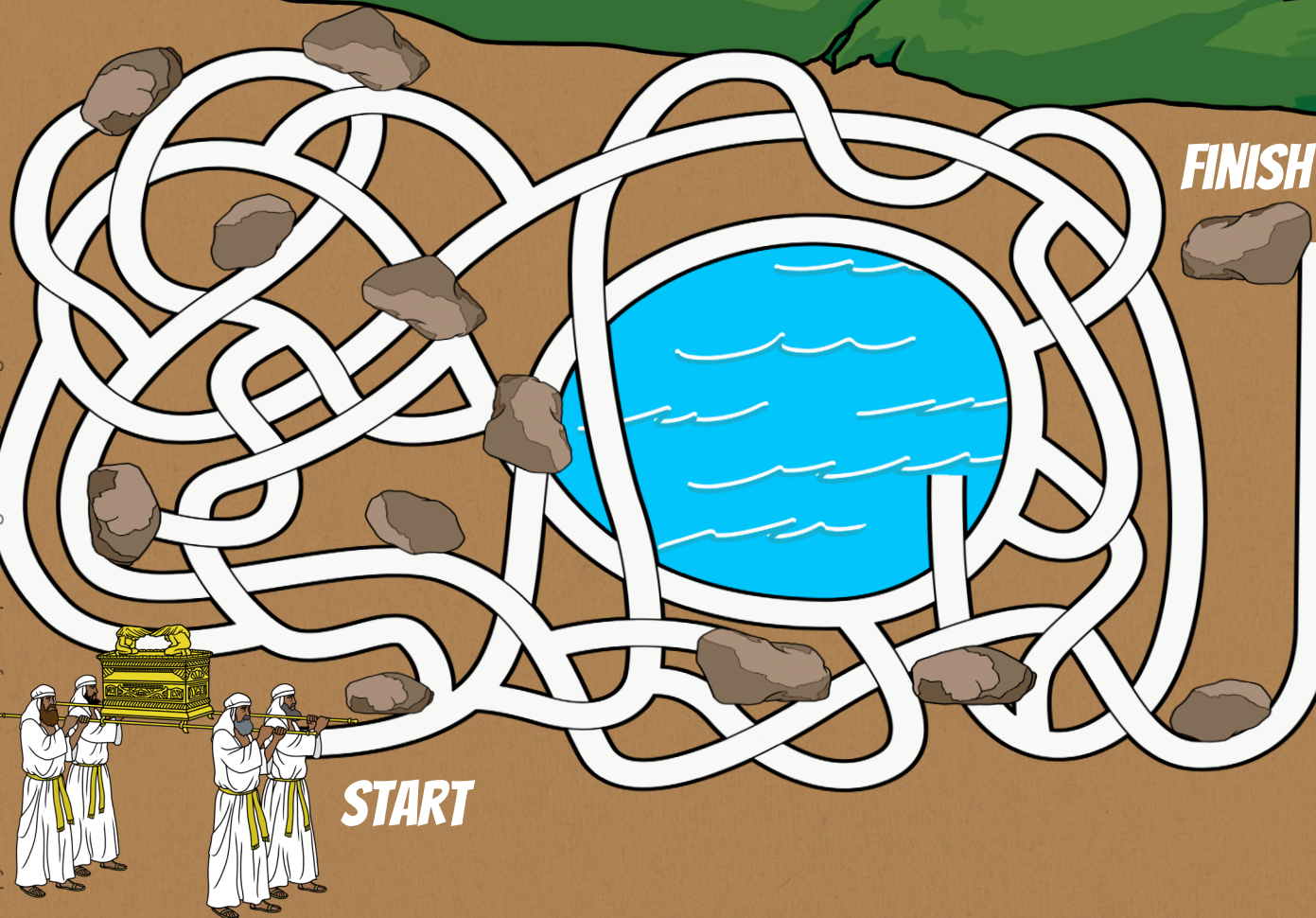


Grades 4–5 • Lesson 65

Israel Crosses the Jordan

Joshua 3:14–17, 4:19–24; Luke 22:19–20

Follow the path the priests and the Israelites took across the Jordan River. Count all the stones in the riverbed and then write the number in the blanks below the maze.



The leaders of every tribe collected _____ stones from the riverbed. Joshua set up these _____ stones so the people would not forget God's power and faithfulness.

Name _____

Memory Verse

Do you know the verse well enough to fill in the missing words?

Know therefore that
the _____
your God is God, the

God who keeps
_____ and
steadfast _____
with those who love
him and _____ his
_____,
to a thousand
_____.

Deuteronomy 7:9

What You Heard *In the Word*

- God strengthened the faith of Joshua, the priests, and the Israelites when he stopped the Jordan River so they could safely cross into the promised land.
- Joshua set up 12 memorial stones, one from each tribe, so the people would remember God's miracle and his faithfulness.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

What if your friend said that God's miracle to stop the Jordan River wasn't so special because she heard that an earthquake or mudslide could have blocked the water for the Israelites to cross. **What could you say?**

Natural disasters like earthquakes or mudslides can block a river from flowing, but there is more to God's miracle than just stopping some water. First, God told Joshua what he was going to do before it happened, so it wasn't an accident. Second, only God could stop the water at the exact time the priests' feet touched the river. Remember that the river was flooded and overflowing its banks! Then God caused the river to return to its place after all the people were safely across exactly when the priests' feet reached the opposite bank. God can control natural disasters to do his will, but we should give him the glory for his miracles rather than random acts in nature.

HomeWord *For Parents*

Joshua's spies came back from Jericho with the encouraging news that all the people in the land were afraid of them (Joshua 2:24). There was only one problem—the Jordan River lay between Israel's camp and Jericho! To make matters worse, the river was at flood stage, overflowing its banks (Joshua 3:15). God commanded Joshua to have the priests carry the ark of the covenant and lead the way to the river. Next came a true test of faith. The priests were commanded to step into the waters of the Jordan River. When their feet entered the water, the Lord stopped the waters of the river north of their location, and the ground dried up. The priests carried the ark into the middle of the river and stood there while the people hurried to cross over (Joshua 3:15–17).

Joshua collected 12 stones and piled them where the priests stood as a marker of God's power and presence. A leader from each tribe also collected a stone from the riverbed and brought it to the other side (Joshua 4:8–9). At Gilgal, the Israelites' first camp in the promised land, Joshua took the 12 stones from each tribe's leader and set them up as a memorial of God's miracle at the Jordan. He commanded the people to teach their children the meaning of the stones. They were a reminder of God's faithfulness and power so they would fear the Lord always (Joshua 4:19–24).

The miracles of God parting the Red Sea for Moses and stopping the Jordan River for Joshua marked the beginning and ending of Israel's journey through the wilderness. News of these miracles spread throughout the land of Canaan, causing the people to fear the Lord and recognize his power.

