



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.

Lay out the blue play dough in one long, flat strip to represent the river. Position the plastic people or objects at the ¾ 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.

- ? 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 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.

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

- ? Refer to the 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 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!

- ? But what about the 12 stones they carried across? Do you have any ideas about 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 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 waters 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 the one true, omnipotent God.

Memorials Today

Refer to the 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 words 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.

Show Lesson Illustrations #1–4 and pictures of monuments you brought. I want to show you some pictures. You can 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.

*Joshua stacked
the stones.*



Remember what God has done!