

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God always takes care of us.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they can have faith in God because He never stops taking care of us.

KEY PASSAGE:

Joshua 3:7-4:7, Crossing the Jordan

MEMORY VERSE:

*“You are the God who does miracles. You show your power among the nations.”
- Psalm 77:14 (NirV)*

SUMMARY:

Most of us know the story of how God parted the Red Sea, but did you know that God also miraculously helped the Israelites through the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land? This was God’s reminder to His people that He was always with them. Kids will experience the Traveling Water experiment as a reminder that God shows his faithfulness to us over and over again. He never stops looking out for His people.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the ways you care for us.

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen*

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God always takes care of us.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they can have faith in God because He never stops taking care of us.

KEY PASSAGE:

Joshua 3:7-4:7, Crossing the Jordan

INTRO:

Do you know what the most expensive investment most people make is? It's their house. Houses cost far more than any other item you will ever purchase. Not only are you going to pay more money to purchase it, you're going to spend even more money protecting it.

How do we do that? Well for starters, a lot of people spend money on a security system. A round the clock security service may only cost \$30 a month, but over the time you live in that house, you could spend thousands of dollars on security. Many people also have a monthly bill to protect their home from other invaders – specifically bugs. That's another \$30-40 a month to have someone come and spray for spiders, termites, roaches, and other pests.

And let's not forget the most important thing. A house needs to be protected from water. You need a sump pump in the basement to prevent flooding. You need good gutters and downspouts to wash the rain away from the house. And you need a good, solid roof to keep the rain out to begin with. All of these things require maintenance. All of them eventually need to be upgraded or replaced. All of them will cost you more money.

We protect our houses because we want to protect not only the things inside, but the people inside. Adults spend what they must to keep their homes nice, save, invader-free and water free because they want to protect themselves, their children, their pets, and everyone else living inside.

Last week we started this series, and a cloud in a bottle reminded us of the Bible story when God used a pillar of cloud to show Israel that He was always with them. It taught us that we can have faith that God is always with us.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Today we're going to catch up with the Israelites as they are about to enter the Promised Land and discover a new reason to have faith!

READ JOSHUA 3:7-47

MAIN POINT:

I'm sure many of you have heard the story of God parting the Red Sea. When the Israelites were freed from slavery and left Egypt. God did this same miracle, parting the waters so His people could cross over on dry land. After the people had crossed, God brought the waters back together and washed away the Egyptian army that had tried to recapture them.

A generation had passed since that miraculous day, and the people who came to the Jordan River didn't remember the Red Sea. God performed this same miracle with Joshua to show the people He would always protect them, just as He had for their parents. We can have faith knowing that the same God who parted the Red Sea and the Jordan River is watching over us and protecting us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

I started this lesson by talking about something we don't always think about. When you're in your room at night, and the rain is falling on the roof, you don't worry about a leak in the ceiling, do you? It's all been taken care of. Without us having to ask, our parents have made sure we have a solid roof, a good gutter system, and everything needed to protect your house from the elements.

Most of us go about our day to day lives not thinking of the many ways we've been protected. Our parents protect us with the cars they choose to drive, the car seats we sit in, the foods they give us, the safety equipment they insist we wear when we ride our bikes. If these are all the ways our parents, who we know and see, protect us, imagine how much God is doing to watch out for us.

None of us has ever seen the waters of a river like the Jordan parted, much less the Red Sea. But what did we see today? We saw water travel down a string from one cup to another. I'm sure all of you expected to see the water pour straight down onto the table or the floor, but we made water follow a piece of string.

Science can explain how the traveling water moved down the string, but only the awesome power of God could part the not one, but two bodies of water to lead His people to the Promised Land!

We don't think about our roof protecting us from water, but we can see it when it rains.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We don't think about God protecting us from all sorts of danger, but the traveling water experiment, and the water traveling off our roof away from our home, can remind us He is there. God loves us, and in many ways big and small, He's always looking out for us. Let's thank God for His amazing protection and ask Him to build our faith as we trust in His care.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the ways you care for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Where do you keep all your special things that you want to protect in your room?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 77:14

Teach half the kids the first half of the verse and teach the other half the second half of the verse. Go back and forth together, with each half of the group saying their part of the memory verse. Then switch!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Toss a balloon in the air and as a group, protect it from hitting the ground by bouncing it up in the air.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Joshua 3:7-4:7

What body of water did Joshua lead the Israelites toward?

Who stepped into the Jordan River ahead of everyone else?

What happened when the men carrying the Ark stepped into the river?

How did this miracle show the Israelites that God would protect them?

How do we know God still protects us?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Protect us always, and help us to remember you are always by our side.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Where do you keep all your special things that you want to protect in your room?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 77:14

Teach half the kids the first half of the verse and teach the other half the second half of the verse. Go back and forth together, with each half of the group saying their part of the memory verse. Then switch!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Toss a balloon in the air and as a group, protect it from hitting the ground by bouncing it up in the air.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Joshua 3:7-4:7

What happened when the men carrying the Ark stepped into the river?

What mementos did God tell the Israelites to take from the Jordan to remember this miracle?

Does anyone know the other time God parted the waters for His people to pass?

Why did God perform this miracle a second time at the Jordan River?

How do we know God still protects us today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Protect us always, and help us to remember you are always by our side.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*