



BE COURAGEOUS

God Stopped the Jordan River | May 8, 2022 | 3rd - 5th grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 3-4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God went ahead of Joshua and the Israelites into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.

BOTTOM LINE: True courage comes when I trust God.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

In Joshua 3-4, we see another miraculous work of God to show His people that they could trust Him. God went out of His way to deliver His people, protect them, and provide for them. He showed He is all-powerful and trustworthy.

The children of Israel often gave in to worry and bitterness. Their attitude revealed deeper heart issues: their belief that God had failed to take care of them and would fail in the future. It was in the 40 years of wandering in the desert that God showed them over and over that He was worthy of their trust. Yet they still did not trust Him. This struggle to face fear and trust God creeps into our lives, too. That's why we must never forget that based on God's character as revealed in Scripture and in our lives, we can look forward with hope, knowing that God, who has preserved us, will continue to do so.

As you get ready to lead your group, prepare your heart by reminding yourself of God's faithfulness. Tell the kids in your group how God has shown Himself worthy of your trust. They too can put their hope in a God who never fails.

TAKEAWAYS

- The Jordan River was deep and wide and there was no way for the people to cross without God's help.
- He stopped the river and allowed His people to cross into the Promise Land because He is always faithful to His promises.
- The people made a memorial in the middle of the river so that they would never forget what He did for them.
- When God tells us to do something, we do it because His Word is always best for us.
- When God proves that He was faithful, we should never forget it so that we will trust Him again in the future.
- **Bottom Line:** True courage comes when I trust God.

Ideas to Consider

The purpose of miracles: The purpose of miracles is to declare God's might to all the peoples of the earth and to encourage Israel to always fear the Lord. (Josh 4:24)

Small Group Prayer: "God, thank You for proving we can trust Your Word. Help us have courage in impossible situations because we know You are powerful and are with us wherever we go. Amen."

SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Choose Your Own Game

What You Need: Socials Book, 3 pool noodles, masking tape, stopwatch/timer, score sheets, plastic cups, candy worms, lifesavers, paper clips, paper, bandaids, sticky tack/gum, scissors, stacks of books, 100 index cards, 50 pennies, ,scotch tape, measuring tape, 3 pool noodle circles, cones, I Spy activity pages, pencils

Objective: There are 5 activities in your Socials Book, kids will help decide the game of the day.

Winning: The goal is to get everyone in your group to participate in a game.

As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

What You Say: Ask this question: "Have you ever been to a big river or lake? What was it like? (pause for kids to share. How about a monument or memorial? Tell me about it. Memorials help us remember something important. Memorials usually remind us of an historic person or event. In today's story, the Israelites made a memorial to remember something God did for them. Let's learn what God did."

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Make a Memorial

What You Need: blue construction paper (1 sheet per kid), half piece of white paper (1 per kid), half piece of gray paper (1 per kid), scissors, glue sticks, markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of blue paper, white paper, and gray paper.
- Tell kids to turn the blue paper horizontally on the table.
- Instruct kids to glue the white piece of paper in the middle of the blue paper vertically so that it looks like dry land with water on each side.
- Give scissors to each kid and guide them to cut circles for stones out of the gray paper.
- Lead kids to glue the gray stones onto the white paper.
- Once they finish gluing, guide kids to write on the stones examples of God's power (God stopped the water, God saves us from sin, God created the earth, etc.) Your littlest ones might need someone to write for them.

What You Say "The Israelites built a memorial to remember how God helped them enter the promised land. Put this art somewhere in your house where you will see it often. When you look at it, remember God's power and that we can trust Him and His Word. Now let's look at our discussion questions to talk about this some more."

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Tallest Stone Tower

What You Need: paper balls (12 per team), timer, measuring tape

What You Do:

- Ball up construction paper to look like stones.

- Form 2 teams of kids.
- Give each team 12 paper stones.
- Set a timer for 2 minutes.
- Challenge the kids to build the tallest tower they can with the paper stones.
- When time is up, Instruct kids to stop building.
- Measure each tower to see which team built the tallest tower.
- If time allows, let kids try again using the knowledge they learned from the first attempt.

What You Say “God instructed the Israelites to build a stone memorial like we just did. He wanted the Israelites to remember what He had done for them. What things can you remember that God has done for you?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Is it OK to think about God only while gathered with the church?**
- **What can you do to remember God whenever you are not gathered with the church?**
- **Why did God tell the Israelites to build a memorial?** Remind kids that a memorial helps people remember something. Guide kids to think of how the Israelites needed God’s help to cross the Jordan River. Invite kids to consider how God stopping the water showed His power. Discuss the reasons understanding God’s power can help us love and obey Him.
- **What other stories in the Bible can you think of that remind us God is powerful?** Lead kids to remember how God fulfilled His promises to Abraham, Jacob , and Moses. Encourage kids to consider stories of Jesus’ miracles in the New Testament. Encourage kids to also consider ways they have seen God’s power in their lives. Help them list them out and ask if hearing other people’s story is encouraging to them.
- **What are some ways we can remember God is powerful?** Help kids see that believing in Jesus is the first and most important step in acknowledging God’s power. If they are struggling to see God’s power as good, invite kids to consider keeping a prayer journal, telling others about God’s power, and reading the Bible daily. Encourage kids to memorize Scripture that reminds them of His power.

TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.