



BE COURAGEOUS

God Stopped the Jordan River | May 8, 2022 | 3 year olds and 4 year olds

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: Activity Dice

What You Need: Activity Dice Play set

What You Do:

Set up the game according to set instructions. Feel free to modify game rules to fit your group. Celebrate any victory.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Introduce the Story

Place a blue plastic tablecloth or blue construction paper securely to the floor at the edge of the group time area with painter's tape. Instruct preschoolers to stop and sit down at the edge of the tablecloth or paper. Consider locating a picture of the Jordan River to show preschoolers. Then say this: "We are sitting at the edge of a pretend river. In our Bible Story today, we will hear that on that Joshua led God's people to the edge of the Jordan River. They needed to cross it to get to the land on the other side of the river. The water went far down and was big from side to side. Let's listen to hear how God's people got to the land on the other side."

Play a Worship Song or 2 from DVD or Roku
Play the Teaching Video on DVD or Roku

RECAP the STORY:

"Joshua led God's people to the edge of the Jordan River. The river was too deep to walk across and too wide to swim across. So God was going to help them. First, some men carrying the ark of God stepped into the river. God made the water stop! All the people walked across on dry ground. Joshua told 12 men to pick up stones from the middle of the river. They set up the stones to remind them of what God had done for them."

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Draw with Neon Colors

What You Need: Be Courageous Printable (1 per kid), highlighters (1 per kid), crayons or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Be Courageous Printable.
- Ask them to use their highlighter to connect the dots to spell the Bible Verse.
- Then ask them to draw a picture in the box of a Bible or something they have learned from the Bible.
- Assist them as needed.
- Put kids names on their papers.

What You Say "I like the bright neon colors you used on your papers. The bright colors remind me of bright lights. Lights can help us see a path and know which way to go. The Bible verse says "God's Word shows my path. Psalm 119:105" God's Word is another word for the Bible. In the Bible, we can read how God wants us to live. What have you learned from the Bible?"

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Toss and Count

What You Need: bean bag

What You Do:

- Gather preschoolers to form a circle.
- Gently toss a beanbag to a child and say, "1."
- Instruct her to toss it to another child and say, "2."
- Lead children to continue tossing the beanbag and counting as a group to "12".
- Then start the game again with "1."
- Continue playing as time allows.

What You Say “ We counted to 12. God made the water stop so the Israelites could cross the river. Joshua told 12 men to pick up big stones from the middle of the river. They set up the stones to remind them of what God had done for them. What are ways we can remember what God has done for us? God was with His people as they went into the promised land. God showed His power so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust Him.”

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.