



God Is Our Leader – Crossing the Jordan River

Joshua 3

God Statement: God Is Omniscient (all-knowing)

KEY VERSE: “God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure.”
(2 Samuel 22:33, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Omniscient – God is Our Leader

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is omniscient!

SAY:

Does anyone remember what our God Statement is right now? God is omniscient, that's right! What does it mean? *God is all-knowing.* Today, we're going to talk about how God is our leader! Last week, we saw how God led the Israelites out of Egypt. What was the name of the man who God used to lead the Israelites out? Moses, that's right! Well, today we are going to hear about a new leader that God gave to the Israelites named Joshua.

When I say the word “leader”, what is the first thing that pops into your mind? *Let kids respond.* Name a leader that you know! What does it mean to be a leader? *Let kids respond.* In our story today, we are going to learn about this new leader, Joshua, and what God told him to do, but we will also see how God is our ultimate leader and we can trust that He is all-knowing and loves us! But first, let’s play a game.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Follow Joshua!

Supplies: none

Say: *Today we get to learn about Joshua! He got to lead the Israelites, but it wasn’t always easy. God led Joshua every step of the way. Even when Joshua may not have known what was going to happen next. Let’s play a game to prepare us for our lesson today!*

Directions: Have kids play “follow Joshua” (like “follow the leader”). *Explain: In today’s lesson, we get to learn about how Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land! Let’s pretend to lead one another on a long journey. Pick one child to be the leader and allow them to have a turn for a few seconds, then switch. Call out random children to give everyone a turn at being the leader.*

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you’re excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

***** After Expectations, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide.*****

KEY VERSE**Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure.”
(2 Samuel 22:33, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ****

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Is Our Leader – Crossing the Jordan River

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

**** After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God. ****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect*

independently. Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: *Cross station, heart stickers, chalkboard station, chalk, worship song (Egypt) in PowerPoint*

Prepare Ahead: *Write “God Keeps His Promises” at the top of the chalkboard*

God is our leader! God led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness, and He was with them the whole time. God leads us too!

Let’s take some time today to reflect on all we’ve learned about God over the last few weeks – God redeems, God keeps His promises, God has a plan for us, God goes before us, and God is our leader! God can do all of this because God is omniscient – all-knowing.

RESPONSE STATIONS ACTIVITY:

Invite kids into a time of individual reflection. Explain each station and encourage them to use this time to respond to what God is teaching them on their own. Each station is a variation of a worship response activity we’ve done recently.

- ***Station 1 – Hearts on the Cross***
 - ***At this station, as kids come up, a teacher will give them a heart sticker to place on the Cross. As they place the heart on the Cross, they can say “God Redeems” to remind themselves that even when they do bad things, God will forgive them.***
- ***Station 2 – Chalkboard***
 - ***At this station, kids can draw or write how they’ve seen God keep His promises throughout the Bible or in their own lives.***

Once you’ve explained the stations, remind kids that this is an individual time of response, then open the time in prayer.

After most everyone has had time to respond, set up the final worship song – Egypt. If you are still responding, that is okay, take your time. If you are finished, let’s sing the song we learned last week – Egypt – and praise God for being our Leader!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING**Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets**Host**

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: What holiday do we celebrate in November? Thanksgiving, that's right! What are your favorite foods to eat at Thanksgiving? *Let kids respond and share.* Mmmm, those all sound so yummy. My favorite Thanksgiving food is _____.

Say: Did you know that there are families in our church, neighborhoods, and schools who might not get to eat some of those really yummy foods this Thanksgiving? They can't just go to the store and buy those items because they don't have enough money. Right now, our missions focus is ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets. Remember all those yummy foods you mentioned earlier? Well, you can share those yummy foods with people who need them this Thanksgiving by shopping for food items and bringing them on the weekends to our Feeding Families bin. We will be collecting items until November 13!

Say: Let's take a moment to pray for our missions focus. Let's pray that God would provide the food needed to give a Thanksgiving Basket to everyone who needs one. Pray that God's love will show through those delivering Thanksgiving Baskets.

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will receive food through ACTs Thanksgiving Baskets.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May God lead you and show you His love this week. May you praise God for who He is and all He has done in your life.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Joshua 3**
 - a. **What happened when the priests and the ark of the covenant went into the water?** (The water rose up, stood still, and made a path!)
 - b. **Did the Israelites have to swim through the river? How did they get through?** (No! they were able to walk on dry land.)
3. **This was such a special promise God kept for the Israelites. He helped them across the river when they couldn't see another way. Have you ever had to trust God with something big in your life? Did He help you accomplish something difficult?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Joshua 3:14-16**
 - a. **What happened when the priests and the ark of the covenant went into the water?** (The water rose up, stood still, and made a path!)
3. **Read scripture: Joshua 3:17**
 - a. **Did the Israelites have to swim through the river? How did they get through?** (No! they were able to walk on dry land.)
 - b. **God promised that He would protect the Israelites and help them to get across the river. Did God keep this promise?**
4. **What do you think it would have been like to walk through the river? What might you have seen if you looked around you?** (fish? Water?)
5. **This was such a special promise God kept for the Israelites. He helped them across the river when they couldn't see another way. Have you ever had to trust God with something big in your life? Did He help you accomplish something difficult?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE: Jordan River Puzzle

Supplies: 1 puzzle page per child

Directions: Pass out one puzzle page per child. Have them color the puzzle page. Encourage them to cut out the pieces when they take the page home with them.

***Say:** Today we learned about how God led Joshua and the Israelites through the Jordan River! How awesome! God truly had a plan for the Israelites and for Joshua too. Let's create a fun puzzle to remember our lesson today.*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.