



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

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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: Crossing the Jordan River

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God's people crossed the Jordan River.

Say: Raise your hand if you like water! Raise your hand if you have ever gone swimming.

Today, we're going to hear about a very important time when God's people, the Israelites, had to get across a big BIG river. Have you ever crossed a river before? Like on a hike?

Say: God wanted His people to go to their new land. But...there was a river in the way. The name of the river was the Jordan River. Let's say Jordan River! Ready? Jordan River. The people crossed the river in a very special way. How do you think they crossed it? (swimming, boat, horses, etc.) We will find out later just how they crossed the river. Once they got across safely, God's people got rocks to remind them that God protected them and made a way!

MAKE: Rocks to Remember

Supplies: a rock for each child, paint, paper plates, paint brushes, paint smock

Directions: Help each child to put on a paint smock from your classroom. Let them choose their rock. Then, put the rock on a paper plate and place each child's craft sticker on the paper plate. Encourage kids to use the paint brushes to carefully paint their rock.

Tip: *Work one on one with kids as they arrive. The earlier the craft is started, the sooner the paint will dry. Encourage "light" painting to help it dry quicker.*

Say: *Remember how I said God's people used rocks to help them remember what God did for them? Well, today we are going to each paint a rock that we can take home as a reminder of what God does for us!*

While you are working with each child, ask:

- What has God done for you? *Encourage answers and help them by suggesting that God loves them, He gives them food and a nice home.*
- What is one thing you are thankful for today?

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *If you’re Happy and you know it.*
- *God Can Do Anything but Fail*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, we're going to watch a video to tell our story.

BIG IDEA:
God knows everything! Even how to get His people across a huge river!

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Jordan River

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is wearing sunglasses.

Say: Hamilton, you look like you're going to the beach! Are you going for a swim today?

Hamilton nods excitedly. Well, that's funny because today we are going to talk about people who went to a river. But, they didn't have to go for a swim like you are because God dried the river up! They didn't even get wet! Do you want to hear this story with us, Hamilton?

Hamilton nods excitedly.

Watch the story video about Crossing the Jordan River on Plex or use classroom device.

Say: God is Omnipotent. (ahm-ni'-po-tent) (Make muscles with both of your arms) He is also Omniscient. (ahm-ni'-shent) (Move your hand across your forehead like a sliding salute.)

Say: God knew just what to do to get His people across the river into their new land! He was strong enough to do it! Hamilton, did you know that God already knows what will happen when you go to the beach today? **Hamilton looks confused.** Yes! Because God knows everything – He is omniscient! He is with you always, and He loves you! How does that make you feel, Hamilton? **Hamilton looks happy.** Well, we hope you have a great time, Hamilton, and we can't wait to see you next week. Let's all say bye to Hamilton! **Hamilton waves bye.**

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that God is Omniscient. (ahm-ni'-shent) (Move your hand across your forehead like a sliding salute.) He knows everything!

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: God wants us to REST. He calls that Sabbath. We can rest by ourselves. We can rest here with our friends. We can rest with our families. Let's take a moment now to rest. Lie down if you'd like or you can sit up. We'll have some quiet time to think about God. God is Omnipotent. (ahm-ni'-po-tent) (Make muscles with both of your arms) He can do anything! He also is Omniscient. (ahm-ni'-shent) (Move your hand across your forehead like a sliding salute.) He knows everything!

Encourage kids to lie down for a few moments (as long as they can) to practice resting with God.

Say: Thank you God that you know (name each child.)

BLESSING (1 minute)

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.

Say: 2 Samuel 22:33 says, "God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure."

Friends, may you always remember that God is on your side. He is for you. He knows you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Crossing the River

Supplies: blue plastic tablecloth

Directions: Clear a space in the room to lay the tablecloth on the floor like a long river. Encourage the kids to cross the river in different ways by prompting them.

Say: *Today, we heard about how God led His people across a BIG river! What was on the other side? The promised land! Let's pretend we are the Israelites trying to cross that big river... How can we cross the river?*

- Let's try swimming. **Pretend swim across the river.**
- Let's try using a boat! **Pretend row across the river.**
- Let's try jumping! **Try to jump across the river. Make it skinnier so the kids can make it.**

Say: *We did it! We crossed the river! The Jordan river was much bigger. No one could cross it! God stopped the river so the people could cross.*

PLAY!

Purpose: *Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"