



Lesson

9

4s-K

CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER

November 1 & 2

**GOD IS OUR
LEADER**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: God used Joshua to lead the Israelites to the promise land. Before they could reach the promise land, they had to cross the Jordan River. After three days and three nights of waiting, God told Joshua to lead his people across the rushing waves of water. As the Israelites stepped into the water, the water stopped flowing, allowing them to cross on dry land. The Israelites created a memorial with 12 big rocks from the river, reminding generations to come that God led His people across the Jordan River on dry ground.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God is our leader and we can trust in His plans to guide us through any trials we may face.

Joshua 3-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kids Sing

Rehearsal is November 22
Performance is December 6/7

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Herlock Sholmes

KEY VERSE:



God gives me strength for the battle.
He keeps my way secure.

2 Samuel 22:33, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

Our church is collecting food to help bless over 350 families for Thanksgiving. Kids are encouraged to bring non-perishable food (like canned or boxed food) to their campus. Together, we can help families in our church, nearby schools, and our community enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

Now through November 9, kids can bring donations as a way to take part in showing God's love in action.



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.



SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God is Our Leader!

Help kids connect relationally and to the daily lesson by participating in the Bag of Wonder activity together.

Bag of Wonder: Rock



SAY:

We are going to take turns passing around this Bag of Wonder! It has something inside that helps us think about our lesson today. You can hold it, smell it, shake it, touch it...but no peeking inside! What do you think it could be? You each get one guess!



DO:

Pass the Bag of Wonder around until each child has had a turn holding it and guessing what's in the bag. Offer hints to help the kids guess the item.



SAY:

I *wonder* why this item is in our Bag of Wonder today! Our lesson is about how **God is Our Leader**. This true story comes from the Bible in **Joshua 4:20-24!** (*Open your Bible to show the kids the verse is in the Bible then read the explanation below*).

CONNECTION: Last week, we learned about God parting the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross it safely, on dry ground. Today, we have a similar story. Joshua was leading the Israelites into the promise land but, to get there, they had to cross the Jordan River. As the Israelites stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing and they crossed on dry land. Just like this rock, when they made it across the river, the Israelites created a memorial with 12 big rocks from the river. Just like this rock, their rocks reminded them that God is our leader.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who is our story about today?

God, Joshua, & the Israelites

2. What is the problem?

God's people were trying to get to the promised land, but they couldn't cross the Jordan River on their own

3. What will God do?

God led His people across the river on dry ground. God's people made a memorial of stones to remember God leads His people!

Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Crossing the Jordan Activity Page

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: river activity page and people cut out, scissors, glue, markers/crayons



DO:

Pass out one activity page and person template per child. Have them cut out their person template (if not already done so) and glue it to the designated space on the river page. Allow kids to color their pages.



SAY:

God is our leader! In our story, we are going to learn about how God was with Joshua and asked him to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River on dry ground. God made a way for them! Let's make a craft to remind us of our lesson.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Rescuer

SONG 2: Egypt



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you walk boldly and confidently as you follow God! He is your leader!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God is Our Leader!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: “God is our leader” footprint steps, 1 stone per kid (reused for each service)



SAY:

God is our leader! God used Joshua to lead the Israelites, God’s chosen people, to the promise land. God even led the Israelites right through the Jordan River on dry ground because God can do anything and God was their leader! The Israelites stacked 12 big rocks to help them remember what God had done! God is our leader too. We can trust in God’s plans to guide us through any trials or obstacles we may face in life.



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***God is our leader! We can follow God because He is good and He loves us!***
 - ***Let’s practice following God as our leader right now. Just like the Israelites, we’re going to make a memorial to remember that God is our leader too!***
 - Give each kid a stone. Then, have them take turns stepping on the foot prints and saying “God is my leader!” as they walk on the footprints.
 - Once they get to the end, have them stack the stones on each other. After all the stones are stacked, say “God is our leader” all together.
 - ***God is our leader and He loves us!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY:

May you walk boldly and confidently as you follow God! He is your leader!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

God, Joshua, & the Israelites

2. What was the problem?

God's people were trying to get to the promised land, but they couldn't cross the Jordan River on their own

3. What did God do?

God led his people across the river on dry ground. God's people made a memorial of stones to remember God leads His people!

4. Why does this matter to me?

God is my leader too. I can trust that God's plans are good and He will guide me through good and hard times.

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can think about ways God has led me before and write them down to remember; I can tell others about God as my leader; I can practice following God by reading the Bible and talking to Him



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing their parent the announcement card and the weekly **Lesson Card**.