

Overview

Treasuring Christ Introduction	The book of Joshua continues the storyline of the Pentateuch. After Moses' death, God commissions Joshua to lead the Israelites into the land of Canaan by first crossing the Jordan River. As they begin their conquest of the Promised Land, God's Word and His presence are their source of guidance, comfort, courage and strength.
Treasure Story	Joshua 1:1-3:17
Treasure Verse	Joshua 24:15b
Treasure Point	<p>Preschool: God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land.</p> <p>Kids: God provided for Israel through the leadership of Joshua and the faith of Rahab. God provides us with Jesus to save us from our sin.</p>
Teaching Activities	<p>Preschool: Joshua Puppets, Song Time, Crossing the Jordan, Treasure Verse Activity, End-of-Day Activities</p> <p>Kids: Rahab Hides the Spies, Spider Webs, Song Time, Disappearing Verse, Song Time, Rock Relay</p>
Supplies Needed	<p>Preschool: Brown paper lunch bags, yarn (black, brown and yellow colors needed), scissors, glue, crayons, CD, CD player, camping items, blue construction paper, tape, whiteboard or chalkboard, dry-erase marker or chalk, Treasure Verse resource page, cardstock, construction paper, marker, craft sticks, children's books</p> <p>Kids: Rahab resource page, markers, scissors, glue, construction paper, ball of yarn, red cord or ribbon, tape, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, eraser, CD player, CD, paper, small stones</p>
Prayer Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask God to make you and the people of your church more like the blessed man in Psalm 1:1-3. Pray that God will help you make His Word a priority. • Pray that God will protect you and your church from wandering away from the Scriptures. Pray that you will be a people who not merely hear the Word but do what the Word says (James 1:22-24). • Pray that God's presence will be a powerful source of contentment in your life so that you are set free from slavery to other passions (Hebrews 13:5).

For Your Edification

Take a Closer Look

The book of Joshua continues the storyline that began in the Pentateuch. God made mankind to dwell in a good land (Eden) where we could worship and obey Him. When Adam and Eve rebelled, God exiled them. But He promised an offspring who would one day bring them back into a good land. God later promised Abraham that He would give his offspring a good land (Genesis 12:7). Abraham's descendants (the Israelites) were enslaved in Egypt, but God delivered them to bring them into the land of Canaan (the Promised Land). They failed to enter the land because of their unbelief and died in the wilderness—except for Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 26:65). The book of Joshua tells the story of the next generation of Israelites crossing over into the land (Chapters 1-5), taking the land (Chapters 6-12), dividing the land (Chapters 13-21), and serving the Lord in the land (Chapters 22-24).

As Joshua leads Israel into the land of promise, God's Word and His presence provide guidance, comfort, courage and strength. The Israelites are finally ready to take possession of the land that God promised them, and His Word and presence are critical to their success. Their destination—the land of Canaan—is a symbol of the heavenly rest that God will give believers (Hebrews 4:8-11). Our journey, like theirs, is guided by God's Word and His presence.

Meditating on God's Word

At the beginning of today's Treasure Story, God commissions Joshua to lead the people and reminds him of the centrality of His Word. God commands him, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8). Notice that it is not mere reading that God demands of Joshua; He doesn't call Joshua to have a passing acquaintance with the Scriptures. Joshua instead is called to meditate on "all that is written in it."

Like Joshua, we also should meditate on the Word of God (Psalm 119:99, 148). The word "meditate" means to muse over something or to think over it on a deeper level. As we pour over the words of the Bible, we should ponder and prize God's voice. God wants us to chew on His Word so that we enjoy its sweetness and are strengthened by its nourishment. As we meditate on His Word, we are thinking His very thoughts. In life, we demonstrate our love for others by listening to them. As believers, we demonstrate our love for God's Word in the same way (Psalm 119:97, 113, 159, 167).

As Joshua prepares to lead the people and conquer the land, God points him to His Word for strength, courage, wisdom, and success (Joshua 1:8-9). Joshua's responsibility, therefore, is to meditate on the words that God provides him. The purpose of meditating on God's Word is obedience: "so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it" (Joshua 1:8b). The Scriptures were written down for our instruction and delight and to give us hope (Romans 15:4). God's Word gives new life to believers, makes us wise, revives our souls, and gives us understanding (Psalm 19:7; 119:93, 130; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23). Through His Word, God produces faith, hope, obedience, and joy (Psalm 19:8, 119:49; John 20:31). What other object of meditation can

provide these blessings?

In addition to its many other benefits, God's Word gives hope to sinners in need of grace. Through His Word, God invites His enemies to be reconciled to Him through His Son (Romans 5:10-11). God speaks to us through His Word to teach, reprove, correct, and train us in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit by which He cuts through the lies of sin (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). God's perfect guide for Joshua and His people as they enter the Promised Land is His Word. As His Word guided them, God's Word will guide us across the Jordan of this world to our home in heaven.

Enjoying the Presence of the Lord

The God of the Bible is no distant deity. Yahweh's Word is not the only help He promises to Joshua—He gives Joshua His presence. God reassures Joshua by saying, "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5b). God can give no greater comfort than to supply us with His omnipotent and loving attention: "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9b).

The people of God commit to follow Joshua as long as God is with him (Joshua 1:17). Throughout the book of Joshua, God makes it clear to the Israelites that He is with their new leader, just as He was with Moses. They can trust and follow Joshua because God is with him. Just as Moses led the people through the Red Sea, Joshua will lead the people through the Jordan. As Israel prepares to cross the Jordan, God tells Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you" (Joshua 3:7b).

Numerous parallels between the stories of the Pentateuch and Joshua's story make it apparent to the reader that God has not left His people. The chart below describes some of these striking parallels:

The Stories of the Pentateuch

The Israelites cross the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22).

Blood marks the doorposts (Exodus 12:13).

Midwives save the Israelite males (Exodus 1:17-19).

Moses' mother saves him by hiding him in reeds from the king (Exodus 2:3).

God rewards the midwives (Exodus 1:21).

Moses sends twelve spies in the land, and two of them return with a good report (Numbers 14:6-9).

Moses meets the angel of the Lord in the burning bush before leading the people out of Egypt. He is given this command: "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5b).

Moses must circumcise his son before the exodus (Exodus 4:24-26)

Moses and the Israelites celebrate the Passover before the exodus (Exodus 12).

The Book of Joshua

The Israelites cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:7-17).

A scarlet cord marks the house of Rahab (2:7-20).

Rahab saves the Israelite spies. (2:3-9)

Rahab saves the spies by hiding them in stalks of flax from the king (2:6).

God rewards Rahab (6:25).

Joshua sends two spies into the land, and they return with a good report (2:24).

Joshua meets an angel of the Lord near Jericho before he leads the people into the land. He is given this command: "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy" (5:15b).

Joshua must circumcise the Israelites before the conquest (5:2-8).

Joshua and the Israelites celebrate the Passover before they enter the Promised Land (5:10).

Moses holds up his hands until all the Amalekites are defeated (Exodus 17:11-13).

After God gives them victory, the Israelites disobey God in the wilderness (Numbers 14).

Moses prays for the people after their failure (Numbers 14:13-16).

Joshua holds up his javelin until all the Canaanites at Ai are defeated (8:26).

After God gives them victory, the Israelites disobey him (7:1-5).

Joshua prays for the people after their failure (7:7-9).

The parallels between the stories are astounding. The God of the Pentateuch does not change; He remains faithful. Just as He led His people out of Egypt, so He will continue to guide them in the Promised Land. The promise in Deuteronomy 31:6-8 is not just for Joshua—it is for all of God’s people. Just as God accompanied Israel on the journey out of Egypt to the Promised Land, so God will accompany those who trust in Him on their journey to their heavenly rest.

The promise of God’s presence is no small matter. It requires great sacrifice. As we learned in our study of Numbers, God’s holy presence could not dwell among sinful people. Atoning sacrifices were necessary to cleanse the people of their sin. In the book of Joshua, the Israelites must still use care while being in the presence of the holy God (Joshua 3:4-5). Yet God does not wait for sinners to cleanse themselves in order to dwell with them; we would never be clean enough. We need someone who is perfect and powerful who can do for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves. Jesus looked upon us in our filthy and rebellious condition and chose to serve us by offering Himself up on the cross. By His sacrifice, we have been cleansed from the guilt and defilement of our sin (Hebrews 9:13-14, 13:12). His death and resurrection secure God’s abiding presence for all who trust in Him, and He gives His Spirit to His people as a guarantee of the inheritance we will one day receive (Ephesians 1:13-14).

The promise of God’s presence is an antidote to a myriad of sin’s deceitful promises. The author of Hebrews offers encouragement to believers by quoting God’s promise to Joshua: “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5). Why should we keep our lives free from the love of money? Why should we be content with what we have? Because *God is with us*. If we are content with what we have, then we will not lust after money or any other material possession. Our contentment should rest in the presence of God because He is a better treasure than anything. If we prize communion with the Lord, the Bible says we will not be vulnerable to the temptations of unworthy, substitute gods.

In the next few lessons, we will see that God’s Word and His presence eventually lead the Israelites to conquer the Promised Land. Those who listen to and obey the Lord will rest safely on the other side of the Jordan. As those who trust in Christ, our lives are to be marked by a sincere devotion to God’s Word and a sweet communion with His abiding presence as we too journey to our heavenly rest with Him.

Enter the Story

The famous 17th century philosopher Francis Bacon once said, “Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention” (*The Works of Francis Bacon*, Vol. 12, pgs. 252-253). What sort of book is the Bible? Is it a book to be tasted or one to be fully digested? In today’s lesson, we will see that the Bible repeatedly refers to itself as an object of meditation and a

source of joy. Through God's charge to Joshua—the new leader of Israel—we will also discover how the God of the Bible chooses to dwell among us and give us courage.

The Bible is typically divided into two main parts: the Old and New Testaments. In Hebrew, the Old Testament is often called the *TaNaK*. In this acronym, the "T" stands for *Torah*, which is the Pentateuch. The "N" stands for *Neviim*, which consists of the books known as "the Prophets." And the "K" stands for *Ketuvim*, which are the books of the Bible called "the Writings." The section of the Prophets (*Neviim*) begins with the book of Joshua, and we will study Joshua for the next few lessons.

The book of Joshua begins where the Pentateuch left off—with the death of Moses (Deuteronomy 34:5; Joshua 1:1). Earlier in the Pentateuch, Moses had stood on top of the mountain of Abarim (also known as Mount Nebo) and surveyed the land of Canaan from a distance. There the Lord told Moses that he would not lead the people into the Promised Land because of his sin; Moses would instead die east of the Jordan River. Moses asked God to "appoint a man over the congregation . . . who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd" (Numbers 27:16b-17). God chose Joshua, the son of Nun, and gave him the same authority he had given Moses (Numbers 27:18-20).

Who was this man the Lord had chosen to lead Israel into the Promised Land? Joshua was first introduced to the reader as a military commander who defeated the Amalekites and then as a close companion of Moses. Ever since his youth, Joshua had been with Moses and had even went up Mount Sinai with him (Exodus 24:13). Joshua was also one of the twelve spies sent into the land of Canaan. Of all the spies, only Joshua and Caleb brought back a positive report (Numbers 13-14). Thus, out of the older generation, only these two men were allowed to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:38, 26:65).

Before the people could enter the land, however, they needed to cross the Jordan River. This crossing was a huge undertaking. During that time of the year, the riverbanks were overflowing because of the rains and melting snow on the nearby mountains. Despite the danger, God gives these instructions to Joshua: "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel" (Joshua 1:2b). With these words, the Lord commissions Joshua after the death of Moses. He also encourages Joshua with reminders of His presence and promises (1:3-9). After he is commissioned, Joshua takes command of the people and sends out two spies into Jericho (1:10-18, 2:1-24). After the spies return with a positive report, the people of Israel miraculously cross the river on dry ground (3:1-17).

In today's Treasure Story, we learn that God's Word and His presence are not only unrivaled guides for Joshua and the people, but for us as well.

Gospel Truths / For Your Edification Continued

Gospel Truths About God

Our immortal and invisible God is way beyond our ability to know Him (1 Timothy 1:17), but He has chosen to reveal Himself through His written Word. The Word of God teaches that He is our Creator and King. He enables us to dwell in His presence and to worship and obey Him. God desires for us to know and enjoy Him.

Gospel Truths About Man

We have all rebelled against our Creator and King. We have been cast away from His good presence, just as

Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Our sin against God makes us unholy and worthy of punishment. In our fallen condition, we resist God's Word and shun His presence. Often our meditations and delights are in things not worthy of our attention.

Gospel Truths about Redemption

The Creator God came in the person of Jesus Christ to save rebellious sinners. Jesus died on the cross to bear the penalty of our sins. God raised Him from the dead and seated Him in heaven as ruler of the universe (Ephesians 1:20-21). All those who trust in Jesus are forgiven and reconciled to God. Jesus grants them His Spirit and leads them into the Promised Land of heaven. Those who trust God delight in listening to His voice and reading or hearing His Word. They enjoy His presence as they sojourn on earth.

For Your Edification (continued...)

- Psalm 1:1-3
- Psalm 19:7-11
- Psalm 119:103
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Matthew 4:4b
- James 1:21-24
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Psalm 118:5-9
- 1 John 4:4-6
- 1 John 3:23-24
- Romans 8:31-34

Preparing My Heart

What has your attention on a day-to-day basis? What do you look forward to each day? What do you meditate on and delight in? What do you turn to for comfort? What kind of joy do those things provide? Does the Word of God offer you more or less comfort than the things of this world?

Think of a person you enjoy spending time with. Why do you find this person's company so enjoyable? What about God makes you seek His presence? Is there anything more valuable or more precious than spending time with your loving Heavenly Father?

When you think of meditating on Scripture and communing with God, do you think, "I need to do better"? If so, remember the Gospel. We are not made acceptable to God by our own striving to do better, but by the precious blood of Jesus. Jesus died to make us acceptable to God. We can admit to God our aversion to listening to Him and asking for His help. Jesus died to reconcile us to God, knowing that our works would never bring reconciliation. Through His sacrifice, Jesus gives us the ability to abide in Him. When the time comes, we too can cross the Jordan to our heavenly home because of what Christ did on the cross.

My Mission As Teacher

This lesson begins our study of the second portion of the Old Testament. It will be helpful to review the broad story of the Pentateuch before diving into the book of Joshua. Remind your students of Moses' death and explain

that Joshua was the next leader to take charge of the Israelite people. Use the parallels between the Pentateuch and Joshua's story to highlight the continuity of the Bible's storyline and the continued faithfulness of God.

Emphasize the role of Scripture and God's presence in His charge to Joshua. Show your students that the Bible repeatedly refers to itself as an object of meditation and a source of joy. Encourage your students to find comfort in the reality of God's presence.

Be sure to explain how the Gospel addresses our unwillingness to listen to God's Word. The death and resurrection of Jesus cleanses us of our guilt and changes our inclination toward God's Word and His presence.

Teaching Plan

Engage

Kids: Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students have arrived)

Supplies Needed: Rahab resource page, markers, scissors, glue, construction paper

Teacher Note: Additional activities can be found in the Bible Study Manager by clicking the Extra Resources tab.

Teacher Note: Since today will mark the beginning of a new year, this lesson includes an extra activity to help your students get to know one another and allow you time to go over your classroom rules. The extra activity is optional and meant for those who are beginning a new class.

In today's Treasure Story, the students will learn about God's provision for His people as He raised up Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses' death. They will also learn about Rahab's great faith in God when she protected the Israelite spies. As an introduction to the lesson, the students will create an interactive picture of Rahab helping the spies. They will finish this activity later in class.

Set out markers and give each student a copy of the Rahab resource page (see resources). Instruct the students to color the page. Next, they will cut out the picture of the wall and Rahab. The city of Jericho was famous for its huge, protective walls, and Rahab lived inside one of these walls in Jericho. The students will then glue this part of the picture onto a sheet of construction paper. Instruct them to stop at this point and set their pages aside to allow the glue to dry.

Kids: Optional Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Ball of yarn

Invite your students to sit on the floor in a circle. Use a ball of yarn to play a get-to-know-you game. Hold onto the ball of yarn and ask a question such as, "What is your name?" or "What is your favorite candy?" Answer the question and then toss the ball of yarn to a student while continuing to hold onto the end of the yarn. That student will answer the question, hold onto the string of yarn and toss it across the circle. As the students toss the yarn, a giant spider web will form. Continue until everyone has answered a question. Then ask a new question to begin a new round.

After your students have formed a large web, instruct them to continue to hold the yarn and look at what they created. Each student is different, but the entire class is joined together by the web of yarn. Christians are also joined together as God's children. We are all different, but we are all a part of God's family. Use this time to review any class rules you may have. Be sure to emphasize that the students

need to respect each other and not distract others from what God may be teaching them.

Discover

Kids: Bible Story Time

(20 minutes)

Teacher Note: Today's Treasure Story is found in Joshua 1-3. Since the passage is lengthy, you may want to review only the summary included below. Encourage your students to find the passage in their Bibles. As a way to introduce the story, invite your students to take turns reading Joshua 1:1-9.

How do you think the Israelites might have felt after Moses died?

Do you think they may have been scared because their leader had died?

After Moses died, God once again showed his love for Israel by raising up a man named Joshua to lead the Israelites. Joshua would be in charge of leading Israel into the land that God had promised to give to them.

How would you have felt if you had been Joshua?

At the beginning of the book of Joshua, God gives instructions and a promise to Joshua. God instructs him to be strong and courageous and to obey all the laws He had given to Moses. Then in verse 9, God tells Joshua why he can be strong and courageous.

What does verse 9 say? (*Ask for a volunteer to read Joshua 1:9.*)

Joshua did not have to be afraid as he led the people into the Promised Land because God would be with him wherever he went.

Joshua had seen God do amazing things through Moses and for the Israelites. He had seen God's awesome power and glory when He freed the Israelites from slavery, led them through the Red Sea on dry land, and provided manna and water for them in the wilderness. Joshua showed great faith in God when he was sent by Moses to spy out the Promised Land. Joshua knew he could trust God to keep His promises.

Soon after Joshua became Israel's leader, he sent spies to the city of Jericho, a part of the land God had promised them. When the spies went to observe the people and land, they met a woman named Rahab. Rahab showed great faith and trust in God by hiding the spies in her house when the king of Jericho sent men looking for them. The king did not want the Israelites to spy on his land.

Rahab feared the Lord and believed that God had given Jericho to the Israelites. She had heard of all the wonders God had done when He brought Israel out of Egypt. She asked the spies to protect her and her family when they came to conquer the city. In exchange for her protection, the spies agreed to spare her life and the lives of her family. They instructed her to tie a red cord outside of her window when the Israelite army attacked. All those inside of her house would be saved.

Rahab agreed and helped the spies escape by lowering a rope through her window. Since Rahab's house was a part of the city walls, the men were able to escape safely. The spies returned to the Israelite camp and gave their report to Joshua. Forty years ago, ten spies were too afraid to take the land. This time, the spies were excited. **They knew God was going to keep His word.**

In Joshua 3:5, Joshua told the Israelites that they were going to see God do amazing things among them. When they came to the Jordan River, God told Joshua to command the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant to stand in the water. When they stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing and stood "in a heap" upstream (Joshua 3:16). The Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry ground, just as the generation before them had crossed the Red Sea. **God allowed this new generation of Israelites to see His miraculous power.** Once all of the Israelites were safely across, God told them to set up 12 rocks gathered from the middle of the river as a reminder of what He had done that day.

In the first four chapters of Joshua, the Israelites continue their journey into the Promised Land, and we continue to see God's rescue mission for all of mankind unfold. God would one day send a leader greater than Moses or Joshua. Just as Rahab put her trust in God and in a red cord, we need to put our faith in the one God sent to save us^{3/4}Jesus^{3/4}and in His blood.

In these chapters, we also see that God provided a way for the Israelites to receive the land He promised to give them. Through the parting of the Jordan River, God was fulfilling His promise to His people. God also fulfilled His promise to Abraham that "all the nations of the earth" would be blessed through His offspring by providing a way for us to be with Him through His Son Jesus (Genesis 26:4).

The Bible is all about Jesus! Every promise that God keeps points us to Jesus. All of God's promises are fulfilled in His Son. If you have never accepted Jesus' gift of salvation or if you would like to know more about Him, please talk to a teacher or parent today.

Kids: Reinforcement Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Pictures of Rahab and the spies from the Early Arrival Activity, scissors, red ribbon or cord, tape

Teacher Note: Additional activities can be found in the Bible Study Manager by clicking the Extra Resources tab.

To reinforce today's Treasure Story, the students will complete the activity they started at the beginning of class. Instruct them to cut out the spies they colored earlier. Then show them how to cut a slit at one of Rahab's hands and feed a red ribbon or cord through the opening. They may want to tie a knot in the cord behind the paper so that it cannot slip all the way through the opening. The students will then use tape to attach the spies to the other end of the red cord. As they pull the cord, it will appear that the spies are climbing up and down the wall.

As your students are working on their pictures, review the story with them and discuss the importance of trusting in Jesus.

Kids: Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(5 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, eraser

Teacher Note: Additional activities can be found in the Bible Study Manager by clicking the Extra Resources tab.

Teacher Note: If you have a class of younger students, consider shortening the Treasure Verse: “Choose this day whom you will serve . . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15b).

Today’s Treasure Verse is Joshua 24:15b: “Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Write the verse on the board and read it together as a class. Tell the students to continue to read the verse as you begin erasing one word at a time. Continue until the students can recite the entire verse without any words remaining on the board.

Kids: Playground Time/Center Activities/Free Play

(15 minutes)

Kids: Song Time

(5 minutes)

Supplies Needed: CD, CD player

“Wondrous Love” is this quarter’s theme song. This song can be found on the iTunes music store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/jesus-wants-my-heart/id639679286>.

Treasure

Kids: My Mission Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Paper, small stones

Teacher Note: Additional activities can be found in the Bible Study Manager by clicking the Extra Resources tab.

The students’ mission this week is to trust God with their fears and worries. God told Joshua that he did not need to be afraid because He was always going to be with him. God is powerful, and He always keeps

His promises.

Ask your students to share a time when they were afraid but trusted God and asked Him for help. Emphasize the importance of remembering when God helps us. When we are tempted to be afraid or to worry the next time, we can remember God's power and His love for us. Remind them that the Israelites set up 12 stones to remind them of God's power and love for them (Joshua 4:19-24).

Encourage your students to keep a journal this week. In the journal, they should write down their fears or concerns. Then they should pray and ask God to help them and to give them courage. Encourage them to also record how God answered their prayers.

Read Joshua 4:4-7 to your students. Spend a few minutes discussing the passage and then divide your students into two teams for a relay race. With this race, they will pretend to run into the Jordan River to collect rocks before racing back to their teams. Ask the students to help you crumple up pieces of paper to be the "rocks." Set the rocks at one end of the room and line the two teams up across from the rocks. When you say "go," the first students from each team will race to get a rock and bring it back to their teams. There, they will tag the next person in line who will race to collect a rock. Tell the students that they may only carry one rock at a time. Continue until all of the rocks have been collected. The team who gathers the most rocks will win.

Then gather your students back together and discuss the importance of writing down, talking about, and remembering what God has done in our lives. If possible, give each student a small stone. Encourage them to put their stone somewhere so that they will see it every day to help them remember who God is and all that He has done for them.

Kids: Prayer Time

(10 minutes)

- Spend a few minutes taking prayer requests.
- Ask for volunteers to pray for the requests.
- Close the class time in prayer by thanking God for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin.
- Ask the Lord to help us remember to trust Him in all things this week.



Cut here ↗

