

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 6

### God reveals His might at the Jordan

Joshua 3:1-5:1



## DAY 1

God prepared Israel to learn from the miracle at the Jordan •  
Joshua 3:1-13

### READ

Joshua 3:1-13

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Joshua 3:1-13

Every day we see amazing things, but we are not always ready to see what God is showing us. So when God led Israel across the Jordan, He made sure they were ready to see. The ark of the covenant would lead the way to show that God's presence was with them (Josh 3:3). Also, the people were to consecrate themselves to be ready to see the great wonder God was about to do (Josh 3:5). Why did God want Israel to be ready to see? Because He was going to show them that the "living God" was present with them (3:10). He wanted them to see that He is "Lord of all the earth," with power in Canaan just like His power in Egypt (3:13; Exod 15:8). God also would do this great thing to prove to them that Joshua was His chosen leader (3:7; 4:14). God has amazing things to show you too, both in creation (Rom 1:20) and in the Bible (Ps 19:10). Is your heart ready to see (Ps 119:18), or is it darkened because you are not ready to honor God (Rom 1:21)?

### ASK

1. What was supposed to lead the way across the Jordan River?  
*The ark of the covenant.*
2. What did the ark of the covenant represent?  
*God's presence.*
3. What were God's purposes in showing His power at the Jordan River?  
*To show His presence, show His power, and confirm Joshua's leadership.*

### DISCUSS

1. How can you prepare in the morning to see God's presence and power throughout the day?
2. How can you prepare before the Sunday school lesson or sermon, so that you are ready to see amazing things about God when you come to church?

## DAY 2

God miraculously stopped the Jordan River • Joshua 3:14–17; 4:10–18

### READ

Joshua 3:14–17; 4:10–18

### EXPLAIN

**The truth of Joshua 3:14–17; 4:10–18**

What would you think if you saw a raging river just dry up? Normally, the Jordan River is about 90 to 100 feet wide and 3 to 10 feet deep, but it was harvest time, so the river was flooding over all its banks (3:15). The Jordan valley was also overgrown with a dense thicket that was really hard to move through. Why would God lead Israel to cross at such a bad time and such a difficult place? So that it would be even more amazing when he piled up the river 15 miles upstream (3:16). God made it like the miracle at the Red Sea (Exod 15:8). He specifically put Israel in a hard spot in Egypt in order to display His great power (Exod 14:2–4). So again He put them at a hard spot at the Jordan to show His power again. He had redeemed them by His power, and now He was bringing them into their inheritance by His power. So when things are hard in your life, remember that God loves to show His power in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9).

### ASK

1. What made Israel's crossing of the Jordan River so amazing?  
*The Jordan River overflows was flooded at that time, and the valley was also overgrown with a dense thicket.*
2. What did God do to the river making it possible for Israel to cross?  
*He held back the waters in a heap near the town of Adam, about 15 miles to the north (3:16).*
3. Why did God choose such a difficult time and place?  
*As He did at the Red Sea, God put His people in a tough spot to show His power and remind that His power alone saves them.*

### DISCUSS

1. Why was stopping the water of the Jordan River easy for God to do (Job 38:8–11)?
2. How does your redemption and inheritance depend on God's power (Col 2:12; 1 Pet 1:5)?

## DAY 3

God instructed Israel to remember • Joshua 4:1–9, 19–24; 5:1

### READ

Joshua 4:1–9, 19–24; 5:1

### EXPLAIN

**The truth of Joshua 4:1–9, 19–24; 5:1**

Have you ever forgotten something important? God did not want Israel to forget the power they had seen at the Jordan. He commanded Joshua to make a memorial out of 12 stones taken from the middle of the Jordan (4:1–3). This would remind them God's great power (4:6–7). Joshua actually built two memorials, one in the river and one at their camp after crossing (4:9). Now descendants of Israel for generations could return to the

memorial and remember once again how powerful their God is (4:19–22). They could remember how He broke the enemies' fighting spirit (5:1). If He could defeat the raging river, He could also defeat their enemies. And if He was with Israel, He is also with everyone who belongs to Him (Rom 8:31). So remember the Jordan. You might like to see miracles all the time, but that is not the way God chooses to act. Instead, you must remember. The power He showed at the Jordan is the same power at work for all who believe, even if it doesn't come in the form of a miracle.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did God tell Joshua to do after crossing the Jordan River?  
*To build a memorial out of 12 stones taken from the midst of the river.*
2. Why did God tell Joshua to build a memorial?  
*So that their descendants could return to the memorial and remember God's great power.*
3. What did God do to the Canaanites by bringing Israel across the Jordan on dry ground?  
*He caused the Canaanites to lose their courage. He was keeping His promise to give Israel victory.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Read Romans 8:31–39. What are some enemies these verses talk about? Why don't you need to fear them if you belong to God?
2. Come up with a way to record times God showed His goodness and power to you, so that you can remember in tough times (Ps 4:1), and also tell your children.

**DAY 4***God established boundaries for the sea • Job 38:8–11***READ** 

Job 38:8–11

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Job 38:8–11**

Sometimes life doesn't seem fair, and Job wanted to complain about it to God. So God appeared to Job and asked him to explain. But things didn't go the way Job thought they would, because Job couldn't answer any of God's questions. One of God's questions for Job was about His work on the third day of creation (Gen 1:9). On that day God showed His great power over the sea by giving it boundaries and forming the continents (Job 38:8–11). The great sea, with its rushing waters and roaring waves, was like a baby before God. God was like the ocean's parent, dressing the sea with clouds and swaddling it in thick darkness (38:8–9). Then He put the sea to rest, like putting a baby in its crib. There is no rebellious wave or troublesome tide before God. He sets its limits (38:10–11). Could Job do any of that, or even explain how it was possible? No. So it was better for him to quietly trust God and not try to tell God how to do things. Since God is so powerful, you should trust Him too.

**ASK** 

1. Was Job able to explain why his suffering was unfair? *No. He could not answer any of God's questions about how the world worked.*
2. On what day of creation did God demonstrate His power over the sea?  
*The third day of creation (Gen 1:9).*
3. How does God describe the sea?  
*As a baby before Him.*
4. Who established the limits for the sea?  
*God. He has told the sea how far it may go.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Are you facing any difficulties in your life recently? If the ocean is like a little baby to God, do you think He has power over your problems?
2. When hard things happen in your life, do you complain, or do you quietly trust and faithfully obey God?