

I'm in the Lord's Army



Lesson 3

Crossing the Jordan River

Theme: Faith — Trusting God

Memory Verses

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9
Friday	Joshua 2:1-14
Saturday	Joshua 2:15-24
Monday	Joshua 3:1-17
Tuesday	Joshua 4:1-18

God gave Israel the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. The nations that once lived in this land were wicked, and God would make them leave so He could give the land to His people. God's people would live in the land God gave them, but they must be careful. If they did not follow God and obey His word, they would also be driven from the land (Leviticus 18:24-30).

Leading the People

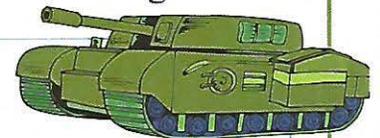
God chose Joshua to be Israel's leader after Moses. God promised to be with Joshua and give him success. But Joshua must “be strong and courageous” and “be careful to do according to all the law” of God (Joshua 1:6-7).

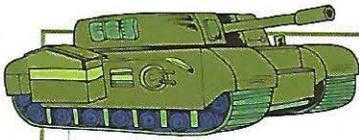
Joshua 1:1-9

After Moses died, God called on Joshua to lead Israel. Joshua's first job was to lead all the people across what?

How did God expect Joshua to act?

_____ and _____





Joshua 2:1-14

In what city did Rahab live?

What did Rahab ask the spies to do for her?

Planning the Trip

Joshua sent two spies into Canaan to check out Jericho, the first city the people of Israel would take as their own. As it turned out, the spies not only learned about Jericho, but they also had the chance to help Rahab. Rahab was not an Israelite, but she had faith in God.

Rahab protected the spies and asked them to protect her. The spies told Rahab what to do when Israel came to take the city. By following their instructions, Rahab would save herself and everyone in her house.

Crossing the Jordan River

Imagine what it was like to wake up on the morning Israel would cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land. The nation of Israel had been thinking about this day for a long, long time. You can understand why “Joshua rose early in the morning” (Joshua 3:1) on the day his people were to cross the Jordan! Who could sleep on a day like this?!

The priests were to carry the ark of the covenant ahead of the people.

This showed that God was going before His people to lead them. When the priests who carried the ark first stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing and looked as if

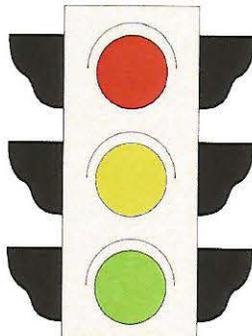
Joshua 2:15-24

What did Rahab do for the spies?

How did Rahab trust God?



I try to be more courageous to obey God every day.

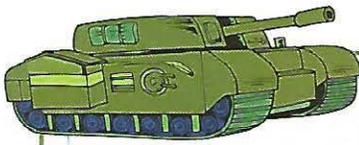


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — rarely

Yellow — sometimes

Green — usually



Joshua 3:1-17

What was to go ahead of the people as they crossed the Jordan River?

What happened when the priests carrying the ark stepped into the water of the Jordan?

True or False? The people crossed the Jordan, but it was hard because the mud was deep.

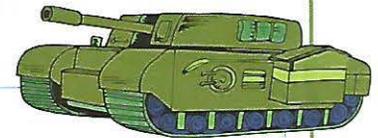
it piled up. The priests stood in the middle of the riverbed while all the people crossed on dry ground.

As soon as everyone was across, “the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and went all over its banks as before” (Joshua 4:15-18). Wouldn’t it have been exciting to be a part of this amazing event?!

Remembering the Event

The Lord gave instructions that twelve men, one from each tribe, were to take stones from the riverbed and carry them to the place they would camp. The stones were to be made into a memorial. The memorial would remind people of what God did when

Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground. In years to come, children would ask their parents what the stones meant. Parents would have a chance to teach their children how God had powerfully acted for His people (Joshua 4:24).



Joshua 4:1-18

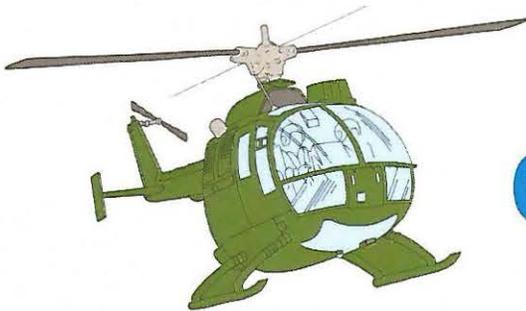
What were the fathers to tell their children who asked about the memorial at the Jordan River?

What happened to the water after everyone got across?

Think About It . . .



Imagine what it was like to step into the riverbed and walk across it with the water piling up so you could pass on dry ground. What feelings would you have? How would you walk across the riverbed? What do you learn about God from this event?



Operation Bible Facts

Which book of the Old Testament is about spying out the Promised Land and wandering in the Wilderness?

Right here, write from memory Galatians 5:22-23.

On a map inside the back cover, trace lightly with a pencil the route of the Exodus, including Mount Sinai, the Wilderness wanderings, Moab, and Mount Nebo.