



Lesson 45: Crossing the Jordan

Scriptural Basis:



Joshua 2 - 4

Overview:

The official passage into the Promised Land starts with crossing over the Jordan River. After spying out the land, and having an encounter with an unlikely ally (Rahab the prostitute), it is time for Israel to cross over. Joshua instructs the entire Nation of Israel to follow God by way of following the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant across the River. As soon as the priests set foot in the river, it stops flowing, several miles upstream at a town called Adam. The priests remain in the center of the Jordan as all of Israel passes over dry land. Twelve men, one from each tribe are selected to carry a stone from the middle of the Jordan to build a memorial to God's great work for future generations to see.

Things to consider:

With Moses dead, God demonstrates His continued presence with Israel and His provision of a leader (Joshua) by doing a miraculous work, similar to the Red Sea event. The profound importance of God's presence and leadership is displayed in the centrality of the Ark of the Covenant (God's throne) in the story.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Joshua 2-4. Note the themes we see about God in this story:

Greatness - He is referred to as "God of the heavens above and the earth below" (Josh 2:11) and twice as "Lord of *all the earth*" (Josh 3:11 and 13)

Mercy – God provides a way for Rahab and her family to be spared from the coming wrath

Faithfulness – though their journey was a long one (due to lack of faith), God is faithful in delivering Israel into the Promised Land.

Preparing for the lesson:

- A: Review the teacher page and handout for previous lesson(s)
- B: Read and meditate on Scripture
- C. Research/plan Lesson presentation:
- E. Research/plan Additional activity, craft and/or music:

Teaching the lesson:

A: Review: Last week – Joshua becomes leader

B: Bible verse memory activity

C. Story

D. Additional activity