GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3:1-4:24



YOUR BIBLE READING

The crossing stones helped families remember and tell God's rescue story.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

The Priests Step Into the Jordan

Joshua 3:1-4:24



Joshua and the Israelites moved to the Jordan River and camped before crossing. After three days, officers went through the camp with instructions. When the people saw the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, they were to leave and follow at the distance they were given. They had not traveled this route before. Following the ark would help them know the way, while the instructed space marked the special responsibility of the priests.

The ark was the sacred chest connected with God's covenant, not a boat like Noah's ark. Joshua told the people to prepare themselves because God would do wonders among them. He told the priests to take it up and pass ahead. God assured Joshua that Israel would recognize his leadership, as they had recognized Moses'. The crossing would be a sign of God's presence with the people and with the leader he had appointed.

Joshua gathered the people to hear God's words. When the priests' feet rested in the Jordan, the waters flowing from upstream would stop. The river was overflowing its banks because it was harvest time. This was not a dry ditch that anyone could walk across without noticing. The account makes the high water clear before describing the priests moving from the bank into the edge of the river with the ark.

As their feet touched the water, the flow from above stopped and stood in a heap far away near the city of Adam. The water below ran off, and the people could cross opposite Jericho. The priests stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the river. Their movement had led to a pause: they would remain there with the ark while the nation passed through the opened route toward the other side.

Remember: A meaningful reminder can help a story reach the next generation.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Stones for Children's Questions

Joshua 3:1-4:24



All Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground while the priests remained in place. God told Joshua to choose twelve men, one from each tribe. They were to take twelve stones from the middle of the river, from the place where the priests stood, and carry them to that night's camp. Joshua passed on the instruction. Each man took a stone on his shoulder, making a reminder that represented the whole community's tribes.

Joshua explained why the stones mattered. In the future, children would ask what they meant. The answer would be a story: the Jordan's waters had stopped before the ark of God's covenant, allowing Israel to cross. The stones were to preserve that memory. Joshua also placed stones in the middle of the river where the priests had stood. The crossing included action in the moment and preparation to explain it to people born later.

When everything commanded was finished and the people had passed over, Joshua told the priests to come out. As soon as their feet reached the bank, the water returned to its place and overflowed again as before. The river did not remain a permanent road. The people had crossed during the opening God provided, and now the priests and ark were with them on the far side after their long stand in the riverbed.

At Gilgal, Joshua set up the twelve stones the men had carried from the Jordan. He spoke again about the questions children would ask and the account their families should tell. God had dried the Jordan as he had dried the sea when Israel left Egypt. The stones were not meant to replace the words. They would invite the next generation to ask, listen, and remember what their people had witnessed during this crossing.

Pause and think: What object could help your family or group share an important story with someone who was not there?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Let a Reminder Invite a Question



Find a safe object at home that has a story, with a caregiver's permission. It might be a photograph, a handmade item, or something passed down in a family. Ask what it helps people remember. An object does not explain itself. A good question can invite a story that would otherwise remain unknown to someone who only sees its shape or color.

The stones represented all twelve tribes. Imagine making a class reminder of a project: how could everyone be included without needing everyone to make the same thing? Perhaps names, different drawings, or pieces of a shared design could help. This is an ordinary example of making room for a whole group in something that people will see and ask about later.

A miracle crossing is not an instruction to enter dangerous water. Follow adult guidance around rivers and floods. You can explore this account through a map or model on a dry surface. As you do, keep the movements clear: the priests enter, the people cross, the stones are carried, and the priests leave before the river's flow returns to its usual place.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Israel crosses the Jordan, and memorial stones give future children a reason to ask and hear the story.

What object could help your family or group share an important story with someone who was not there?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What happened when the priests' feet touched the water?

2. Why were the twelve stones set up?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Joshua set up the stones as a memorial at Gilgal.
- ☐ The priests carrying the ark entered the Jordan.
- ☐ Israel crossed while the priests stood on dry ground.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw twelve memorial stones beside the Jordan River.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

A meaningful reminder can help a story reach the next generation.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Joshua 4:20-24

A thoughtful conversation

The ark here is a sacred chest, not Noah's boat. The dry crossing is a miracle in this story, not permission for children to enter floodwater.

Activity answers

1. The flow stopped, and Israel crossed on dry ground.
2. To help people remember and explain the crossing.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help us remember with gratitude and share stories with care.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Joshua 3:1-4:24. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 06_Jo_03_04_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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