



Date: _____
Series: Joshua
Summer, Year 2, Lesson 1

Joshua Crossing the Jordan

Take Home Point: *God is always with me.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Joshua 3:14 – 4:9

We will help children know:

- Joshua trusted God when he crossed the Jordan.
- God is always with me.




We will help children feel:

- Secure because God is with them all the time.
- They can trust God.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that looks like rocks.
- Make a craft neck string that reminds us of the 12 rocks.
- Play a learning game called *Is God With Me Now?* and a movement game called *Twelve Rocks*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: ***God is always with me.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3 3 4	Sing (Optional) Puppet Presentation Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice Bubba puppet children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 11	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible blue plastic tablecloth or option of masking tape to make a line 12 crumpled up pieces of paper <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins cups of water round cereal <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of Appendix A, one per six children, on regular paper 24" pieces of yarn, one per child tape dyed rigatoni or mostaccioli, 12 per child (Option, omit dye) <i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 "rocks" made from crumpled up paper bucket big enough to hold 12 rocks masking tape hula hoop
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	13 13 14	Review Lesson and Take Home Point Pray Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies:

- children's picture Bible
- Bubba puppet

Bubba Learns God is Always With Him

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call out Bubba.

Kids call Bubba. **Bubba...Bubba...Bubba.**

Bubba comes out hesitantly and moves to the side of the puppet stage.

Presenter: Well, hi, Bubba. I'm glad to see you here.

Bubba: *Bubba looks away and says nothing.*

Presenter: Bubba, what's wrong? You are not saying anything. Can you tell me what is the matter?

Bubba: I want my mommy.

Presenter: Oh-h-h, you must be feeling lonely today.

Bubba: Yes, I want my mommy or my elephant.

Presenter: Bubba, it's time for Kingdom Quest. Usually you are happy and excited to be here.

Bubba: Yes, but today I want my mommy. But my elephant would be ok too.

Presenter: Well, Bubba, your mommy will come and get you right after class. She is SO proud that you are able to come to Kingdom Quest all by yourself. You are growing into such a big boy.

Bubba: I am a big boy.

Presenter: You are. When you miss your mommy or your elephant or feel all alone, you can remember that God is always with me.

Bubba: God is always with me? Where? Where is he? (*Looks to the side.*) Hey, God, are you hiding over there?

Presenter: No, Bubba, he's not hiding over there.

Bubba: I thought you said he was here.

Presenter: He IS here, but you can't see him. He is with you and he helps you even if you can't see him.

Bubba: How do you know?

Presenter: God tells us so in this book called the Bible. Today we are going to learn about one of God's leaders named Joshua. Joshua wondered if God would be with him and help him cross a river with all of God's people.

Bubba: Was God with Joshua?

Presenter: Let's find out.

Presenter: See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible.

Presenter: Bubba, did you hear what happened to Joshua when they crossed the river?

Bubba: Yes, the water moved out of the way. What were they carrying?

Presenter: The four priests, who are God's helpers, were carrying a special box that reminded them that God is with us. It was the "I AM with you" box. Then later they carried 12 stones to make a big pile. This was to remind them, and the children that grew up after them, of the miracle God did. He was with them just as he is with us.

Bubba; Is God with me, too?

Presenter: **Yes! Boys and girls, is God with Bubba?** (Encourage the children to say, "Yes." **(Yes!)** **Is God with you?** **(Yes.)**)

Presenter: **Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.**

Presenter: **Bubba, will you help us sing our song of the week?**

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

For GOD is WITH me NOW.
For GOD is WITH me NOW.
NO NEED to BE a-FRAID.
For GOD is WITH me NOW.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us You are with us
Everywhere we go. Everywhere we go.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible
- Blue plastic tablecloth for a river, cut in half. Lap the two pieces so that they look like one "river". Option: line on the floor that represents the edge of the river.
- Twelve pieces of newspaper crumpled up to represent the river rocks.

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3:14 – 4: 9

Introduction

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

God tells his people to cross the Jordan River.

Put the river on the floor and have all children on one side of it. Put the 12 rocks in the river.

- **Let's imagine that this is the River Jordan.** Point to tablecloth on floor. **We are the people of God. On the other side of the river is the Promised Land. It is a wonderful place. There are many places to live and plenty of good food. Let's pretend to take a bite of food.**
- **God wants us to go to the Promised Land. He has given it to us. Let's walk over to the river.**

The people are afraid.

- **We are at the edge of the river but we do not know how to cross it. It is very deep and the water is moving very fast. We have lots of things to carry over the river. Let's all pretend we are carrying a backpack and a bag.**

God tells Joshua how to cross the river.

- Joshua was a brave leader of God's people. Joshua prayed to God and asked him how to cross the river. Let's fold our hands and bow our heads.
- God told Joshua to have the leaders carry the Ark of the Covenant across the river. This special box reminds us that God is always with us. The leaders should carry it to the edge of the river. Everyone else should get behind them. Let's all get behind me while I pretend to carry the box.

People are afraid.

- The people were still afraid to go in the river. It is very deep and very fast. They think they will be swept away. Joshua said, "Don't worry. The special leaders are carrying the box. When they step into the water, God will do something wonderful."

Move the two halves of the tablecloth river apart to create a path across the river. Or use your imagination and describe what is happening.

God makes a miracle.

- As soon as the leaders put their feet in the river, it parted and left a dry path to walk on! God made a miracle! God's people had crossed the river safely. Let's walk across the river.

Rocks help people to remember.

- God wanted the people to always remember the miracle he made. He told the people to pick up 12 rocks from the river. Let's pick up 12 rocks. After all the people had crossed through the river, God let the river flow again.
- God told the people to stack the rocks up and always leave them there to remind them of this special miracle. Let's put our rocks in a pile.

The miracle is remembered.

- From that time on, people saw the rocks and asked why they were there. They were told of God's goodness and how he made a mighty miracle when they were crossing the Jordan River. God was with them always. Let's say, "Thank you, God!"

God is still with us.

- God is still with us all the time. We cannot see him or feel him, but he is with us. Let's hug ourselves.
- Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.

Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us You are with us
Everywhere we go. Everywhere we go.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

For GOD is WITH me NOW.
For GOD is WITH me NOW.
NO NEED to BE a-FRAID.
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Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- *Napkins*
- *Cups and water*
- *Any cereal in a round form*

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of the rocks in the river. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us You are with us
Everywhere we go. Everywhere we go.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

God made a miracle to make the Jordan River stop so the people could cross over it. He told them to take 12 rocks from the river to remind them of this miracle. Our snack today reminds us of rocks. Hold out a handful of cereal "rocks".

Pass out napkin, cup of water and a handful of cereal to each child.

You may eat your pretend rocks now.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.

Let's sing our song of the week.

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Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."

Supplies:

- Copies of Appendix on regular paper, 1 per 6 children
- 24" of yarn for each child
- 12 pieces of mostaccioli or rigatoni pasta, dyed in various food-coloring colors and allowed to dry (Option: omit dye)
- tape

Before class, use a piece of tape to wrap one end of the yarn to aid in threading the pasta. To avoid the pasta falling off as children string it, tie the untaped end of the yarn around one piece of pasta. When children are finished threading all 12 pieces, untie this piece. Also, cut the boxes out on Appendix page and fold in half so the words show.

We learned in our lesson today that God told the people to get 12 rocks from the river and stack them up. This would always remind the people of God's love and the miracle he made. We are going to make a colorful neck string with 12 pieces of pasta on it. This will remind us of God's miracle.

Pass out 12 pieces of pasta to each child. Show them how to put the taped end of the yarn through the pasta. Remove the anchor piece and tie the ends together when children are finished. Now put the "God is always with me" box over the neck string in the middle of the pasta (6 pieces on each side of it) and tape it shut so it stays on.

This box says, "God is always with me" and will help you to remember God's love.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**For GOD is WITH me NOW.
For GOD is WITH me NOW.
NO NEED to BE a-FRAID.
For GOD is WITH me NOW.**

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us You are with us
Everywhere we go. Everywhere we go.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we are going to play a game called *Is God With Me Now?* After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. **Is God with me when I go in an airplane? Yes. Let's pretend to be an airplane.**
2. **Is God with me when I sleep at night? Yes. Let's close our eyes and snore.**
3. **Is God with me when I go swimming? Yes. Let's swim with our arms.**
4. **Is God with me when I go to Grandma's house? Yes. Let's make a big noisy kiss.**
5. **Is God with me when I ride in a car? Yes. Let's honk our horn.**
6. **Is God with me when I am sick? Yes. Let's pretend to sneeze.**
7. **Is God with me when I play with my kitty? Yes. Let's all meow.**
8. **Is God with me when I watch a movie? Yes. Let's pretend to eat popcorn.**
9. **Is God with me when I play in the sandbox? Yes. Let's pretend to dig up some sand.**
10. **Is God with me always? Yes! Let's give ourselves a hug.**

Movement Game

Supplies:

- 12 paper rocks made from crumpled up paper
- bucket or box big enough to hold 12 rocks
- hula hoop
- masking tape

Before class, put two horizontal lines on floor about 8 feet apart. Mark off a section in the middle to represent the dry path. Put the 12 paper rocks in the dry path.

Today we are going to play a game called *Twelve Rocks*. We will each get a turn to take the bucket, run to the river, and pick up 12 rocks. Then run over to the hula hoop (placed across the room) and stack the rocks up as best you can. Then we will put them back in the river and the next person will have a turn. We will all help the person picking up the rocks to count to twelve.

Continue until all children get a turn to pick up the rocks.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.

Let's sing our song of the week.

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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

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Everywhere we go. Everywhere we go.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson with questions or by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the answers as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

**See if you know the words I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event.
If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.**

God gave his people a special place to live called the Promised Land. They were almost there when they came to a river. Did the people want to cross the river? (No.) Who told Joshua how to cross the river, God or a cook? (God.) Who was supposed to carry the special box across the river, the special leaders or a truck driver? (Special leaders.) Did the people get across the river safely? (Yes.) Was God with them? (Yes.) Is God always with us? (Yes.)

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us You are with us
Everywhere we go. Everywhere we go.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*

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For GOD is WITH me NOW.

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For GOD is WITH me NOW.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God is always with me. God is always with me.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.

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Joshua 3:14 – 4:9

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