



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** God is Our Rescuer  
Summer Year 2, Lesson 14

# Remember The Rescue

**Take Home Point:** \*Remember what God has done for you. Tell it to others! \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Joshua 3-4. Crossing of the Jordan.

**Key Verse:** Joshua 4:24, "The LORD did this so that everyone in the world would know his mighty power and that you would fear the LORD your God every day of your life."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River.
- The people set up a stone monument to remind them to tell their children of the mighty acts of the Lord.
- God wants us to remember his mighty acts as well.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Thankful as they remember what God has done for them.
- Excited to tell others about how God has worked in their lives (the rescue of the cross).

**We will help kids do:**

- Recall how certain things make an impression on their lives.
- Recall how God has worked in their lives to make an impression on them.
- Carry a rock with them that will be a conversation starter for them to tell others about how God has worked in their lives.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Shepherd and kids reminisce on people who have made an impression in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rock for each child</li> <li>clay for each group</li> <li>hard surface like cardboard to put clay on</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  9  12	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “What’s With the Rocks?”—Gordy is confused about a pile of rocks he sees. He thinks he might get hurt in a rock fight.</p> <p><b>Dramatic Storytelling:</b> “The Crossing of the Jordan”—a father retells the story to his son of how the Israelites entered the promised land.</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “What’s With the Rocks?”—just as the pillar of rocks on the riverbed of the Jordan were to remind the people of how God delivered them, the cross is a visual reminder to us of how Jesus delivered us from sin and death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy with a helmet or construction worker’s hat on</li> <li>one big candy bar</li> <li>the Ark of the Covenant (optional, used in Lesson 10)</li> <li>blue fabric or blue tablecloth for waves</li> <li>12 large rocks or bags made to look like rocks</li> <li>simple old testament costume for a child and an adult</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	6	Kids make “memory rocks” to remind them of how God has been with them to make an impression in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>same supplies as for Small Group Warm-Up</li> </ul>

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# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies:

- rock for each child
- clay for each group
- a hard surface like cardboard to put the clay on

Begin discussion with:

**Have you ever heard anyone say, “That movie made an impression on me!” or “That person really impressed me!” What do you think they meant? When someone makes an impression on you, it causes you to really think about that person. It’s like making an imprint on your brain!**

**Today we’re going to talk about what it means to have something make an impression on your life. What do you think that means? Let me show you with this clay what I mean when I say “make an impression on your life.”**

For the following object lesson use a small rock and a six-inch square of flattened clay on something firm like the table or a piece of cardboard (this clay could be larger if needed).

**Watch what happens as I take this rock and press it into the clay. It leaves a mark or a print. It changes the way the clay looks, doesn’t it?**

**Just like this rock left a print in the clay, people can leave prints in our lives. They can leave impressions. We always remember these people and they help us become different people because we knew them.**

**I would like to tell you about one person who left a big impression on me. This person...**

Continue by giving a personal account of a parent, a friend, or a mentor who made a positive impression in your life. Explain why that person made an impression on you.

**Now I’m handing you a rock and I want you to think of a parent, a special friend, a teacher, a relative, or a grandparent who left an imprint on your life. This person might have given you a good example to follow, talked to you a lot, or helped you feel good about yourself. As soon as you think of someone, you can raise your hand**

**and tell us a little bit about that person. Then take your rock and make an impression in the clay just like I did.**

Let kids will have the opportunity to share a little bit about themselves and who has left an impression in their lives. Encourage the kids to listen to others as this is a wonderful opportunity for the group to learn more about one another. *(If time is short, divide your group into sets of three or four to help every child have a chance to talk.)*

After all have left an impression in the clay with their rocks, collect the rocks. Mix them up together so the kids are not sure which was the rock they used. Then say:

**All these different kinds of rock impressions are reminders that many different people can leave impressions in our lives. Let's see if we can match the rock with the impression it made.**

After the kids have had some fun with this, set the rocks and clay aside.

**Today we will find out how God made a big impression on the Israelites. They needed to cross the Jordan River to get to the promised land, and God used a spectacular way to get them across. He wanted them to remember that day forever—he wanted to make an impression with every person there.**

**But it didn't stop there! God wants to make an impression on your life today. He wants you to remember how mighty he is and how he rescued you. Our point for today is: *\*Remember what God has done for you. Tell it to others!***

## **Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “What’s With the Rocks?”—Gordy is confused about a pile of rocks he sees. He thinks he might get hurt in a rock fight.

**Dramatic Storytelling:** “The Crossing of the Jordan”—a father retells the story to his son of how the Israelites entered the promised land.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “What’s With the Rocks?”—just as the pillar of rocks on the riverbed of the Jordan were to remind the people of how God delivered them, the cross is a visual reminder to us of how Jesus delivered us from sin and death.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Joshua 3 and 4 in their Bibles.

**How many years had the Israelites wandered in the wilderness?**  
*(Forty years.)*

**Who was still alive from the time the Israelites had left Egypt?**  
*(Joshua and Caleb.)*

**Who did God choose to lead the people?** *(Joshua 1:1-9. Joshua, son of Nun.)*

**Of what did the Ark of the Covenant remind the people?** *(The presence of God, the throne of God, or God the Rescuer.)*

**Who carried the Ark?** *(Joshua 3:6. The priests.)*

**When did the waters part?** *(Joshua 3:15-16. As soon as the priest set foot in the water.)*

**How many stones did they take from the river to set aside as a monument?** *(Joshua 4:2-3. Twelve. They represented the 12 tribes of Israel.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Years later when people saw the stones that had been put together as a monument, how do you think it made them feel as they told their children about what had happened?

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Who has a trophy in his room at home? When you look at it or tell someone about it, how does it make you feel when you remember how you got that trophy?

How is that like the Israelites and their pile of 12 rocks?

### Application Activity:

*The objective behind this application process is to help kids find and see how God has been with them to make an impression in their lives, or in the language of this lesson, "make a print in one's life!" Help kids discover this as you share how you have seen God working in your life.*

Hand the children each a piece of clay and a small rock. Work with a piece of clay and a small rock to make a trophy as you say:

**In the beginning of today's lesson, we used the rock to make an imprint in the clay. This time we are going to use our rock and clay and make a memory rock. A memory rock looks like a trophy. Do you have a trophy that reminds you of a sport you played or a game you won?**

**This memory rock will remind you of something special also. Make it into something that reminds you of a way God has helped you. While you make your memory rock, think of a time that God helped you or took care of you in a special way. Let me tell you about my memory rock and a time God helped me...**



Share your own story of how God has helped you. It need not be a dramatic event, it could be as simple as a way he helps you with the needs of everyday life. Spiritual blessings such as the gift of salvation won by Jesus or the promise of being God's child in baptism also make good memory rock stories.

Let each child take turns sharing his story. At the conclusion, let each child keep his "memory rock." Tell the children they can put it on a dresser at home to remind them of how God has been with them in the past and will be in the future as well. It will also give them an opportunity to share their stories with any other friends or family members who ask about the memory rock.

**We have shared many ways God has made impressions in our lives. Our scripture verse from Joshua 4 says, "The LORD did this so that everyone in the world would know his mighty power and that you would fear the Lord your God every day of your life." This memory rock is for you to *\*remember what God has done for you and tell it to others!***

### Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer asking that God would remind the kids to use these "memory rocks" in sharing the impression God has made on them to other people.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## What's With the Rocks?

### Puppet Presentation

#### Supplies:

- Gordy - with a helmet or construction worker's hat
- one big candy bar
- the Ark of the Covenant (optional, used in Lesson 10)
- blue fabric for waves
- twelve large rocks or bags made to look like rocks
- simple Old Testament costume for a child and an adult

Place 12 large rocks in the middle of the stage. Gordy will enter with some type of helmet or head covering in response to his perception that there will be some type of rock fight.

**Presenter:** Well, kids I hear you were making some big impressions in your small groups. Now we're going to talk about how God made an impression on the Israelites. He wants to make an impression on you, as well. Should we see if Gordy wants to come out and be a part of our learning event today?

*Kids chant:* Gor-dy! Gor-dy! Gor-dy!

*Gordy:* (Appears for a moment.) Hi, kids! Hi, kids! (Ducks down again.)

**Presenter:** Wait a minute, Gordy. Come back here.

*Gordy:* (Doesn't appear.) No way! I'm staying down here where the coast is clear.

**Presenter:** What do you mean, "where the coast is clear"? Gordy, come up here.

*Gordy:* (Looks up timidly.) Okay, but just for a minute.

**Presenter:** Gordy, why are you wearing that ridiculous helmet on your head?

*Gordy:* Can't you tell? It's to keep me from getting rocks on the head.

**Presenter:** Rocks on the head?

Gordy: Sure! I was just noticing that big pile of rocks over there. And everyone was playing with rocks during small group time. It looks like someone is going to have a rock fight!

**Presenter: No one is going to have a rock fight, Gordy.**

Gordy: So I won't get rocks on the head?

**Presenter: No rocks on the head, Gordy...**

Gordy: And I won't get rocks *in* the head?

**Presenter: No one here is going to get rocks *in* the head.**

Gordy: I don't know. It didn't work so good on you...

**Presenter: What didn't work?**

Gordy: Not getting rocks in the head! (*hee, hee, hee...*)

**Presenter: Gordy, are you saying I have rocks in the head?**

Gordy: It's not that bad. And besides if your want to rock n' roll, all you have to do is shake your head! (*Laughs.*)

**Presenter: Gordy, enough with the teasing. These rocks aren't for throwing. They are for... Well, wait a minute. I don't think I'm going to tell you. I think I'll make you guess.**

Gordy: They're rocks for building?

**Presenter: No. (*Shakes head.*)**

Gordy: They're rocks for rock baseball?

**Presenter: No. (*Shakes head.*)**

Gordy: Rock soccer?

**Presenter: No. (*Shakes head.*)**

Gordy: Rock n' roll! I think I hear it every time you shake your head.

**Presenter: Gordy, I think you're going to need some help. I'll tell you what. I'm going to offer this super size candy bar to anyone who can remember what rocks like these were used for after we hear today's Bible event.**

Gordy: Oh, I know! I know!

**Presenter: Gordy, it's not your turn to answer.**

Gordy: It was for rock candy.

**Presenter: Gordy, first I'm going to tell the entire Bible event. Then I'll choose someone who can tell me what these rock are reminders for.**

Gordy: I know! I know!

**Presenter: Gordy, it's not time to tell now.**

Gordy: They're rocks that came out of your head! (*Laughs.*)

**Presenter: Gordy, go back and listen while we re-enact the story of the crossing of the Jordan River and what these rocks came to mean.**

Gordy: Okay!

## **The Crossing of the Jordan**

### Dramatic Storytelling

*Props: Twelve large rocks (real or made out of papier maché) are placed on the stage. Next to the rocks is a strip of blue plastic tablecloth representing the Jordan River.*

*A costumed character will tell the Bible event after a young boy in period costume asks a simple question. Since the dialogue is told as a story rather than being memorized verbatim, the child can ask questions or make comments as the story unfolds.*

Both characters walk onstage to the rocks.

**Boy: *Father, what is the meaning of these 12 stones stacked by the Jordan River?***

**Father: You were too little to remember, my son. These rocks are here to remind us of the mighty miracle God did to bring all of our people to the promised land. Sit and I will tell you the story.**

Joshua, the New Leader

**Father: For 40 years our people wandered through the wilderness because they refused to take the land when they first had a chance. They refused to trust God to give them the victory. For**

**40 years they wandered in the wilderness learning how to trust God. He provided for our people daily with bread and manna, and we learned to trust God.**

**During this time all people who were 20 years and older died. Moses died during this time, too. After 40 years, Joshua and Caleb were the only two still living who had been adults when God brought us out of Egypt. God now appointed Joshua to be the leader.**

**God told Joshua, “Be strong and courageous. You will lead my people into the promised land. You must teach them to obey me. I will give you the victory. I will give you the land.”**

### Instructions on How to Cross

**Father: Crossing this river was no easy thing. You see, the river ran fast and strong in the spring. There was no shallow place to cross or a bridge to walk over. Hundreds of thousands of people had to cross the river. It would take a miracle for the people to safely cross.**

**Joshua knew God was a God of miracles. He had seen the presence of God in the cloud of fire. He had seen God part the Red Sea and hold back the Egyptians while the Israelites passed through on dry land.**

**Now God’s presence would be seen in a different way. God told Joshua the priests were to lead the way as they carried the Ark. Everyone would follow from a distance.**

**God said we would see an amazing thing. And that was true!**

### The Crossing of the Sea

**Father: When the priests came to the river it was flooded. Its waters ran high and were swirling. There was no bridge and there was no shallow place to cross.**

**The Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to be strong and courageous. This day God would be with all the people in a mighty way.**

**God told Joshua what to say. “Priest,” he commanded, “Carry the Ark of the Covenant into the river.”**

**The priests obeyed. The priests stepped into the water and the river shrank back. They walked farther and the water went**

down and seemed to drain away in front of them. The Jordan River had become a stream. When the priests reached the middle, the river was but a trickle of a creek and all its stones were bare.

As the priest stood in the middle holding the Ark of the Covenant, all eyes looked up the river. They saw the water piled upon itself and stopped. It was a mountain of water as if stopped by God's hand.

Joshua continued his command. "Priests, stand still and let the people pass."

Hundreds, no thousands, no hundreds of thousand of people walked across the riverbed past the Ark of the Covenant. They knew they were in the presence of God. They knew God was going with them.

### The Rocks of Remembrance

**Father:** While walking across the riverbed, Joshua commanded that a leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel gather a rock. Twelve men stacked 12 rocks on the bank, marking this place where God led his people into the promised land.

After the stones were gathered, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant were ordered out of the river. At the same moment their feet touched the riverbank, the mighty Jordan River was unleashed, flooding and rushing behind them.

Twelve stones were placed on rock pillars for all to see. These are what you see today so I can tell you and you can tell your children, and they can tell their children. *\*Remember what God has done for you. Tell it to others!*

That same day the manna, the food God provided, stopped appearing. No more did God drop down the bread from heaven, for now the people had the fruit of the promised land. Israel had come home and the people were ready to take their land.

# What's With the Rocks?

## Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Wow! That was a cool, cool story! But what about the candy bar?

**Presenter: What about remembering what the rocks meant?**

Gordy: Oh, that's easy! The rocks reminded the Israelites of how God was with them when they crossed the Jordan River and that God would be with them in the promised land.

**Presenter: Gordy, I was going to ask one of the kids if they knew the answer because I promised a candy bar.**

Gordy: But I answered so I get the candy bar.

**Presenter: How about I give another candy bar to any kid who can tell me what God has done to rescue him from the power of sin so he could be with God forever.**

Gordy: I know! I know!

**Presenter: No, it's the kids' turn.**

Pick a volunteer. The answer is, "*Jesus gave his life for us on the cross.*" Refer to a cross in the room as a way we can remember what God has done for us. Restate the main point: **\*Remember what God has done for you. Tell it to others!** Award the candy bar.

**Presenter: Gordy, would you lead us in prayer?**

Gordy: Okay! Dear God, thank you for being with your people and taking them to the promised land. It was cool how you stopped the water of the Jordan River and had everyone pass by. Help us remember the cool things you do for us today. Especially help us remember about Jesus. Help us tell it to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.