

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM

Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 20

Crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3, 4), Jericho (Joshua 6:1-16, 20, 24, 27)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. All power to do what is right is from the Lord alone.
- B. After the Lord gave the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, He exercised His power through the ark that contained the commandments.
- C. Joshua represents truth fighting, and his name means, "Jehovah is my help."
- D. The trumpet of ram's horn represents speaking up for what is right.
- E. The long, hard journey through the wilderness to Canaan represents our journey to our heavenly home.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. After a long journey through the wilderness, the children of Israel came to the land of Canaan. The journey from Egypt to this land that the Lord had promised them took 40 years, but they made it. In today's lesson we find the children of Israel standing by the Jordan River, ready to enter the promised land. But how would they cross the Jordan? It was a big river! And how would they take over the land of Canaan? There were people living there already, and those people would fight with the children of Israel. What would the children of Israel do?
2. Moses died before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan. You know that Joshua was the leader after Moses died. The Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to cross the Jordan with the children of Israel and enter the promised land. He said, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)
3. Then Joshua told the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River. And he sent 2 spies on ahead to check out the land. There was a city called Jericho

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just across the Jordan River. It had walls all around it. But the spies found out that the people of Jericho were afraid of the children of Israel because they had heard of the many victories the Lord had helped them win. And when Joshua heard that Jericho was afraid, he was sure the Lord would help them take the land of Canaan for their own.

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B. Tell/Read the Story

1. See attached retelling of crossing the Jordan and the battle of Jericho (Joshua 3, 4, 6:1-16, 20, 24, 27).

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who was the leader of the children of Israel? (Joshua)
2. Who led the way into the river? (The priests)
3. What were the priests carrying? (The ark)
4. What happened when the priests stepped into the water? (The river stopped flowing.)
5. Where did the priests stand who were carrying the ark? (In the middle of the Jordan)
6. Why did Joshua choose twelve men? (The Lord told him to have one man from each tribe carry a stone out of the Jordan River.)
7. What did Joshua set up in the middle of the Jordan? (Twelve stones from the river bed)
8. What did Joshua set up on the other side of the Jordan? (The twelve stones carried from the river by the twelve men)
9. Why did he set up those stones? (As a reminder of the miracle the Lord did to let them cross the Jordan on dry land)
10. Who were the last people to come up out of the river? (The priests)
11. What happened as soon as they had crossed? (The river flowed again.)
12. Can you think of another time when the Lord made it possible for the children of Israel to cross a body of water on dry land? (When He parted the waters of the Red Sea as they were fleeing from the Egyptians who wanted to enslave them again.)
13. What was the first city they had to conquer? (Jericho)
14. What did the Lord tell them to carry around the city? (The ark)
15. How many priests were to go before the ark? (Seven)
16. What were the seven priests to carry? (Rams' horn trumpets)
17. How many times did they march around the city on the first six days? (Once each day)
18. How many times did they march around it on the seventh day? (Seven times)

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19. What happened when they blew the trumpets and shouted? (The walls fell down flat.)
20. What did they take out of Jericho for the tabernacle? (Silver and gold and vessels of bronze and iron)

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D. Further Ideas

1. When the Lord chose Joshua to be the new leader of the children of Israel, He told him, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." The Lord also told Joshua to obey the law of Moses and think about it day and night. The Lord could help Joshua only if he lived a good life. Joshua did as the Lord commanded him, and he was strong and brave, knowing the Lord would help him.
2. Would you like to be strong and brave like Joshua, winning all your battles? You fight battles against evil every day. Sometimes you fight against someone else, trying to stop them from doing something bad. But usually you are fighting the evil spirits who want to make you do something bad.
3. Is it easy to do the right thing? No, it can be very hard, especially if everyone around you is being bad. But the Lord wants you to be strong and of good courage just like Joshua. And if you try to do the right thing, He will win the battle for you.
4. Who won the battle against Jericho? (The Lord!) Why did He tell Joshua to have the people carry the ark around the city? (To show them how powerful the Word of the Lord is. Remember, the Ten Commandments were in the ark.) If you read the Lord's Word and try to do what is right, you will be strong and brave like Joshua, winning all your battles.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Walls of Jericho," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side 1, 5th song
2. "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho" (You can listen to this song on Fred Penner's album, THE POLKA DOT PONY.)

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B. Activities

1. Reenact crossing the Jordan.

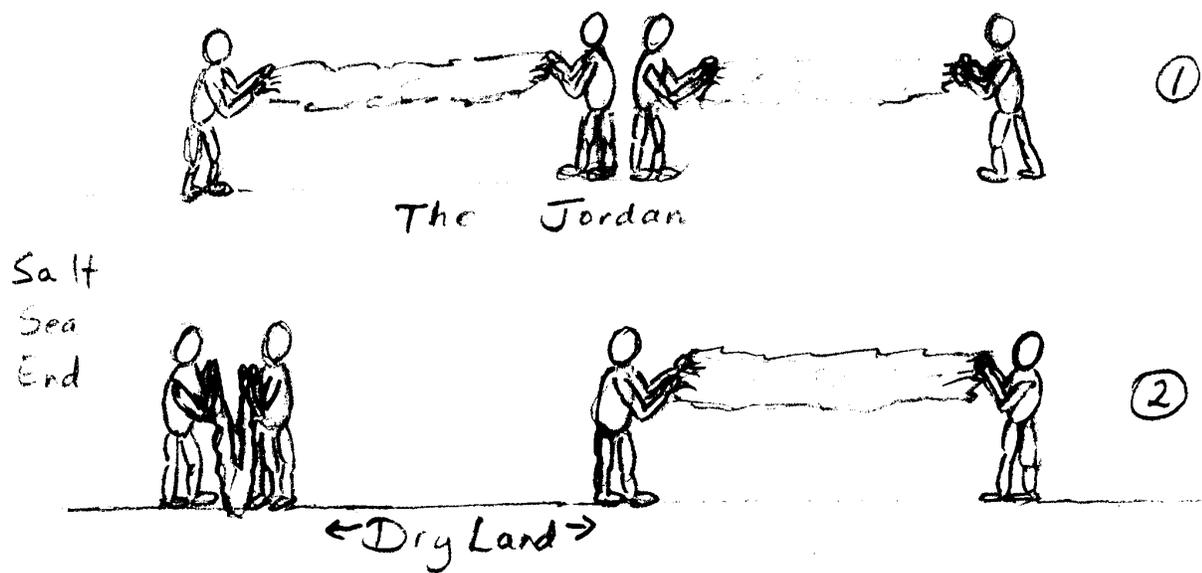
a. Characters: narrator, Joshua, twelve men from each tribe of the Israelites, Children of Israel (some of whom were armed for war), priests carrying ark, four children to hold the Jordan

b. Materials: two long pieces of fabric for the Jordan, 12 stones for the memorial in the Jordan, the ark (see Project 1), shields (see project 2).

c. Reenactment:

1. Narrator reads Joshua 3:14-17. Two children hold each piece of fabric, one at either end, and gently shake. Point out where the Salt Sea (Dead Sea) would be (to the south). When the waters are cut off, a child holding the fabric in the "middle" of the Jordan, walks toward the child standing at the Salt Sea end of the Jordan, making dry land appear.

2. Narrator reads Joshua 4:1-18 with the children acting out the story. When the waters return, the child who walked with the Jordan returns to his or her original place.



3. Reenact the battle of Jericho using blocks to represent the walls of Jericho and paper towel rolls for trumpets.

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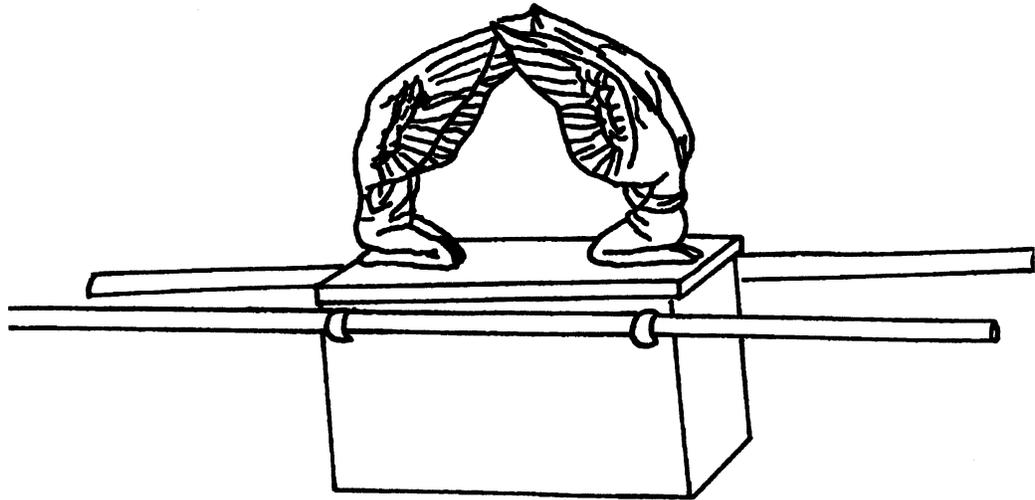
B. Projects

1. Make an ark.

a. Materials: storage box with lid, gold paper or aluminum foil;

cherubim pattern (see attached template);
wrapping paper tubes,
duct tape

b. Procedure: before class, cut cherubim out from poster board, using pattern, and tape cherubim to box lid. During class, cover box and lid with gold paper or aluminum foil. (If using aluminum foil, remind the children that the ark was covered in gold.) Optional: cover wrapping paper tubes with gold paper or foil; paint cherubim gold or silver. Attach cardboard tubes to box with tape, just below lid.



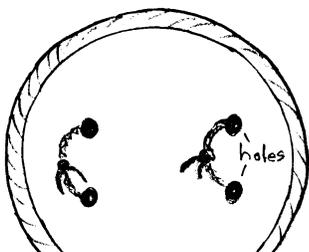
2. Make a shield.

a. Materials: 10 ¼" disposable plastic or thick paper plates, one

per child; pieces of aluminum foil, 24 inches long, one per child;

12" pieces of twine, two per child; ballpoint pen, one per child.

b. Procedure: children place aluminum foil, non-shiny side down, in front of them in the table. Then they place their plates, backside down and centered, on top of the foil. They then wrap the foil around the plate, molding it as closely and smoothly as possible against the backside of the plate (which actually becomes



Back of shield

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the front of the shield), meeting the ends up at the front of the plate (the back of the shield). With a ballpoint pen, the children can draw a picture on the front of their shields. This must be done gently so as not to rip the foil. The teacher then pokes two sets of holes with a ballpoint pen, to the full diameter of the pen, through the plate and the layers of foil (see illustration). The teacher or children thread the twine through the holes and tie them in knots to become armbands (see illustration).

IV. Teaching Aids

A. Illustrations of:

1. Crossing the Jordan
2. Joshua and the battle of Jericho
3. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from the Lord
4. The ark (or a model of the ark)

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 2, "Crossing the Jordan" (Joshua 3, 4), pp. 280-295.
- B. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 2, "The Taking of Jericho" (Joshua 6), pp. 312-326.
- C. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 2, "The Call of Joshua" (Joshua 1), pp. 262-279.

Retelling of Crossing the Jordan and the Battle of Jericho

Joshua rose early in the morning, then he led the people to the Jordan River. Then the priests took up the ark and went before the people. And as the feet of the priests who carried the ark touched the water, the waters of the Jordan River stopped flowing and rose in a heap further up the river. Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all the people crossed over the Jordan on dry ground.

And when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, the Lord told Joshua to take twelve men, one man from every tribe, and command them to take twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan where the priests stood. And Joshua chose twelve men who went into the midst of the Jordan and took up twelve stones from that place.

Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan where the priests stood. And then the priests came out of the Jordan with the ark, and the river flowed once again. And Joshua set up the twelve stones, carried by the twelve men, on the other side of the river Jordan. The stones were to be a reminder of how the Lord dried up the waters so the children of Israel could cross over the Jordan on dry land.

Now the first city they came to was Jericho. Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel. And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war, you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. Then it shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat."

And Joshua did as the Lord said. He sent the people to march around the city of Jericho, first the armed men, then seven priests blowing seven trumpets of rams' horns, then the Ark of the Covenant, and then the rear guard. And Joshua commanded, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

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For six days, the group marched once each day around the city of Jericho, first the armed men, then the seven priests blowing seven trumpets, then the ark, and then the rear guard.

But on the seventh day, they rose early, about the dawning of the day. And they marched around the city seven times. And the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpet, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!"

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. The people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, and they took the city of Jericho. And they saved the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron for the tabernacle of the Lord.

The Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

Cherubim Pattern

1. Cut 2 cherubim and cross pieces from posterboard, using patterns.

2. Attach cherubim to crosspieces and tape both to top of box with masking or duct tape. Cross wing tips and tape together.

Cut on dotted lines.

||| Cut on dotted lines.

