

***Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School: Lessons for Preschool – Kindergarten***

**Lesson 2.24: ISRAEL CROSSES THE JORDAN INTO CANAAN — Josh. 3 and 4**

**TEACHER PREPARATION**

Read over Joshua 3 and 4.

**WORSHIP CIRCLE**

**STORY AND DISCUSSION**

The children of Israel were a big group of people whom the Lord was taking care of. The Lord wanted to lead them to a land called Canaan, and He had promised that He would give that land to them.

Finally they came to the edge of Canaan. Now it was time for the children of Israel to go into the land. Their leader was Joshua, a man who really believed in the Lord, and did as He said.

Joshua led the children of Israel to a river next to the land of Canaan. The river was called the Jordan River. After they had camped next to the Jordan River for three days, the Lord told them what to do next. He said that the priests should pick up the ark. Does anyone know what the ark was? (Show a picture of the ark.) The ark was a very special box, covered all over with gold. It had two golden cherubim on the top. Cherubim look like angels with wings. It had two long poles on the sides to carry it with. Inside the ark was something very special — the Ten Commandments, written on two tablets of stone. These were like the Word for the children of Israel. On these two pieces of stone were written the Lord's rules for how people should live if they want to be happy and come into heaven some day.

So the Lord said that the priests should pick up the holy ark and walk with it into the waters of the river Jordan. And do you know what happened when their feet touched the water? The waters split apart! The water on the higher side of the river piled up into a heap and stopped flowing. And the water on the lower side flowed away down the river and was gone. So all that was left in front of the priests was nice, dry ground to walk across. Now the priests and the rest of the children of Israel could walk right across the Jordan into the land of Canaan without getting wet! The Lord had performed a miracle, an amazing thing.

After the children of Israel had crossed over the Jordan River, the Lord told Joshua to choose twelve men. Each of these men was told to go back into the dried up Jordan River, pick up a stone, and carry it on his shoulder to the place where they would sleep that night. Later, in a place called Gilgal, they made those twelve stones into a pile to help them remember the time that the Lord stopped the Jordan river from flowing, so the children of Israel could cross safely over into Canaan.

Joshua set up another pile, too. He went down into the middle of the place where the Jordan River had flowed, and he picked up twelve more stones and built a pile, right there in the middle of the Jordan. When he was finished, and he and all the other children of Israel were out of the

way, the Lord made the Jordan River start flowing again. And there, under the water, stood the pile of twelve stones that Joshua had set up, to help everyone remember the miracle that the Lord had done.

### **RECITATION**

Now we will say something from this story in the Lord's Word. I will say a part, and then you say it after me.

Then Joshua set up  
twelve stones  
in the midst of the Jordan,...  
and they are there  
to this day.

### **PROJECT**

#### **Ahead of time:**

1. Make some playdough, using the following recipe:

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour           | 2 cups water                       |
| 1 cup salt             | 2 Tbls. oil                        |
| 4 tsp. cream of tartar | 2 tsp. food coloring (if you want) |

Combine flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a saucepan. Mix liquids and gradually stir them into dry ingredients. When mixture is smooth, cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until a ball forms. Remove from heat and knead until smooth.

2. Cut for each child a square of poster board to set up their pile of stones on. Write "The Memorial Stones" at the bottom of each square.
3. Gather for each child twelve small stones or pebbles in a plastic bag.

#### **Doing the project:**

1. Explain that they are going to make a pile of twelve stones just like Joshua and the children of Israel did. Tell them this pile was called a memorial pile — that means, to help them remember.
2. Explain that they will use playdough to hold the stones together, and give them each a portion of playdough.
3. Have them form a mound of playdough on their square of poster board. Then have them press the twelve stones all over the mound.
4. Afterwards, they can color a picture from the story.

**The Lord Performs A Miracle,  
And The Children Of Israel Cross The Jordan Safely.**

