

Fall Quarter: September • October • November 2026

EXPLORERS

FAITH

Bible Studies



MIDDLE ELEMENTARY

Grades 2-3



SUNDAY SCHOOL
PUBLISHING BOARD
Equipping Today's Church to Serve

September 6, 2026

LESSON

1



Strength in Obedience

Moses, a servant of God, was the leader of the Israelites. After Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites. God told Joshua that He would lead the Israelites across the Jordan River and give them the land that God had promised Moses. God would give them every place their feet touched.

The land God would give the Israelites was vast, extending from the desert to Lebanon, the Euphrates River, the Hittite country, and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. God would be with Joshua as He was with Moses. God would never leave Joshua, and no one could stand against him.

God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, and to obey the laws that Moses had given them. God told Joshua to remember and do everything that God commanded. Joshua was to think about God's instructions or laws. Joshua should not be afraid because God would be with him wherever he went.

Joshua directed the people to gather all their belongings. In three days, they would cross the Jordan River, and God would give them the land they had been promised.



Lesson Scripture:
Joshua 1:1-11

Key Verse

[The Lord said to Joshua,] "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)



You're a Leader

Book Report



At school, Mr. Keaton said, "Patrick and Stella, I need to talk to you for a few minutes during break. I need your help."

On the playground, Patrick and Stella rushed over to Mr. Keaton.

Patrick asked, "What can we do to help?"

Mr. Keaton replied, "You two are great students, and I want each of you to be a class leader. Would you like to be my class leaders?"

Smiling, Patrick said, "Yes."

"I don't know if I can," Stella responded.

After Mr. Keaton spoke with Patrick and Stella, he said, "Go play. Talk to your parents and let me know if you want to be a class leader."

As they went to play on the swings, Patrick said, "Stella, you're already a great leader."

Stella said, "I just don't know."

After school, when Stella saw her dad, she said, "Dad, Mr. Keaton wants me to be a class leader. I don't know if I can."

Stella's dad said, "God is always with you. You are strong, and I know you will be a great leader. You need to know that you can do it."



Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab



Hello, all! Ruby here. My favorite verse is John 14:15: "If you love me, keep my commands." I love God, and I want to obey Him in the lab, at home, and at school. When God called Joshua, God knew that Joshua was strong and obedient. God wants us to be strong, courageous, and obedient as well.

What do you think God would do if we read and obeyed His Word? Do you believe that God would be with us like He was with Joshua and Stella? This week, read and obey God's Word. Then, next week, tell us about your experience.

True or False?

Look at the sentences below. On each line, write **T** if the statement is true, or **F** if it is *false* (not true). Then, on the lines below, rewrite any false statements to make them true.

- _____ 1. God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites.
- _____ 2. In four days, the Israelites would cross the Jordan River.
- _____ 3. God told Joshua to be strong and very courageous.
- _____ 4. God would be with Joshua wherever he went.
- _____ 5. God did not want Joshua to obey Him.



Obeying God

Read the sentences that are related to the lesson. Then, circle the pictures and sentences that show how Joshua obeyed God. Cross out any pictures that are not correct.



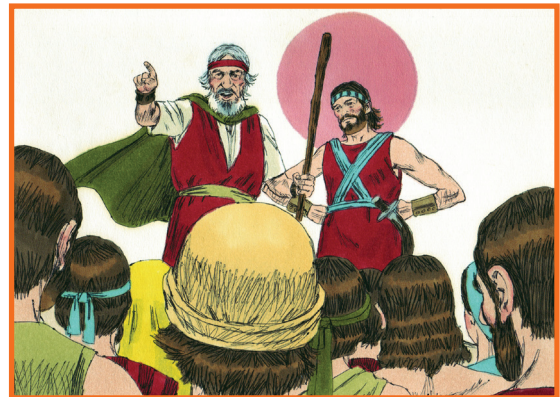
1. Joshua read God's Word.



2. Joshua led the Israelites.



3. Joshua listened to God.



4. Joshua told the Israelites to gather their things.



5. Joshua turned away and disobeyed God.

September 13, 2026

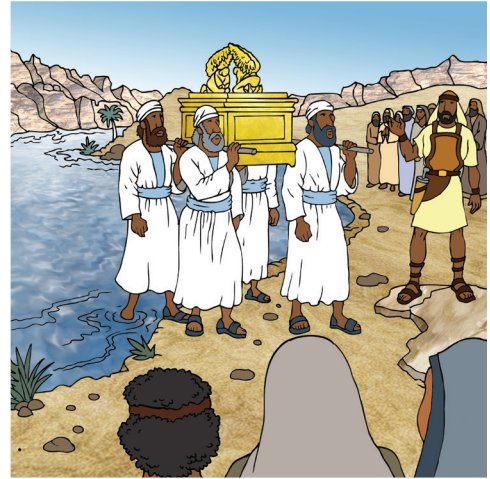
LESSON
2

Stones and Zones

God performed a miracle and held back the flooding waters of the Jordan River, so that Joshua and the Israelites were able to cross the Jordan River on dry land. God commanded Joshua to have one leader from each tribe select a stone from the middle of the dry Jordan riverbed. They were to build a monument with the twelve stones. The people obeyed Joshua's instructions. And the Lord (God) exalted and praised Joshua before all the people. The people were amazed by Joshua and respected him throughout his life, just as they had respected Moses.

Meanwhile, the priests remained standing in the middle of the dry Jordan riverbed carrying the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Law of God. Then, the Lord (God) told Joshua to command that the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant come out of the riverbed. As soon as they stepped onto the riverbank, the Jordan River began flooding as before.

Joshua encouraged the people to tell their children—whenever they asked about the meaning of the stones—that the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.



Lesson Scripture:
Joshua 4:14-18, 21-22

Key Verses

[Joshua] said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground!'" (Joshua 4:21-22)



Reasons to Be Thankful

Welcome, Family!



After school, Anthony and Eli's dad said, "Your mom and I have some news about a trip."

Smiling, Anthony asked, "Where are we going?"

Eli asked, "Are we going to the beach? I love the beach!"

Their mom said, "It's my family reunion. We're having it at a park near your great-grandmother's home."

As his smile faded, Anthony asked, "Why do we need to hear all the family stories? May I stay home?"

Eli said, "I love Grandma's stories. Her stories remind me of the reasons why I should be thankful for my family. I'm excited to go!"

Their dad said, "Yes, Anthony. You must go, and I hope you'll learn some reasons to be thankful for our family, too."

That night, Anthony's dad said, "Anthony, you and Eli do not see our family often. I hope you both learn to appreciate the gift of family from God. Just listen to the great stories and history that are shared."

Anthony said, "I'll try to listen and learn."

Eli said, "When you listen, you'll learn many reasons to say, 'Thank You, God.'"



Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab

Tell family
and friends
about God's
blessings!



Hello, all! Ruby here. I love family reunions. I get to see my cousins, whom I don't see that often, because we live far apart. Anthony did not want to attend his family reunion, but Dad hoped he would learn that family is a gift from God. Listening to family helps us learn about our history and discover more about ourselves.

What are some things for which you are thankful? Here's your assignment: Every day, take a moment to thank God for your family, school, home, and friends. Consider the reasons for why you are thankful, list them, and we will share about our gratitude with our class during the next session.

Fill in the Blanks

Use words from the Word Box to fill in the blanks of the sentences related to the lesson.

Word Box

Dry

God

Jordan River

Joshua

Moses

Priests

Stone

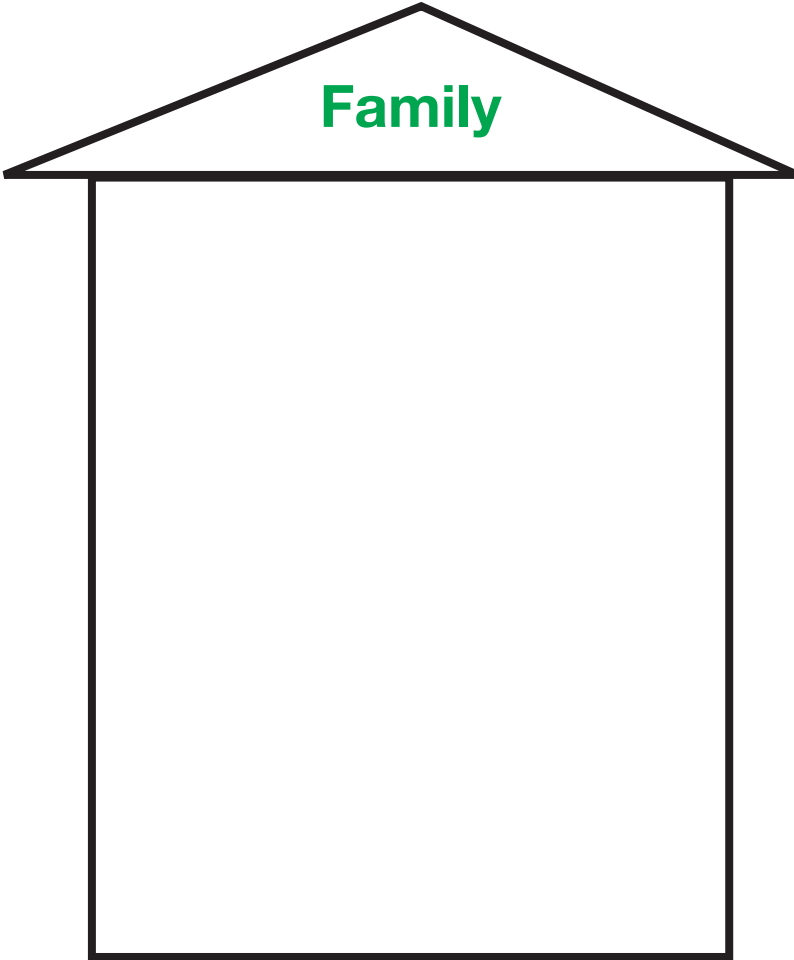
1. The Israelites crossed the _____.
2. Each tribe of Israel picked up a _____.
3. _____ wanted the Israelites to tell their children about the stone.
4. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, the ground was _____.
5. The _____ carried the Ark of the Covenant.
6. Joshua told the Israelites everything that _____ had commanded.
7. The Israelites respected Joshua like they respected _____.



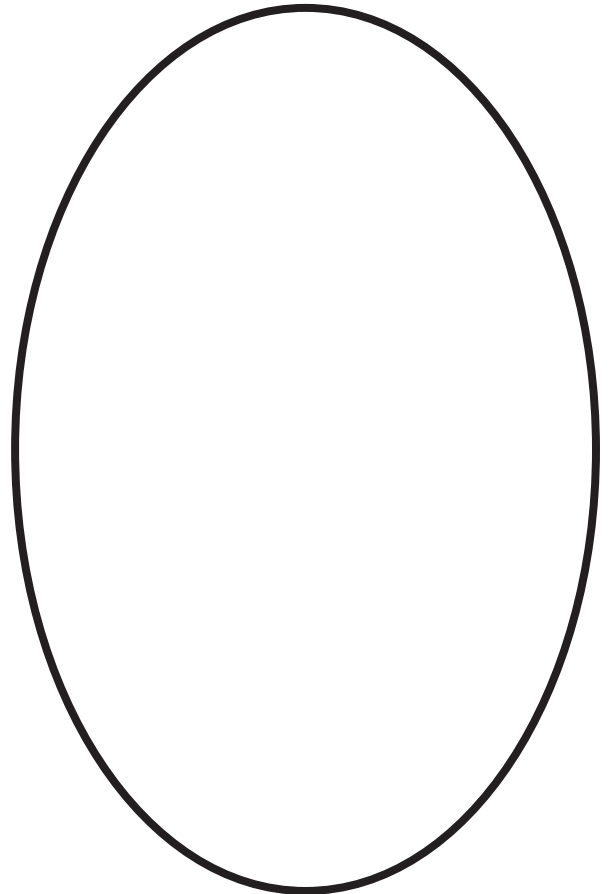
Reasons to Give Thanks

The Israelites in today's lesson had many reasons to be thankful. God had rescued them again and fulfilled His promise. God has also blessed us. For this activity, write or draw pictures in the shapes below of family members, friends, and other persons or things for which you are thankful to God.

Family



Friends



You Name It!

