



## Crossing Jordan

Joshua 2; 3; 4

### Story Context for Leader:

Moses led the people of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years. Just before he died, he reviewed all that God had done for them. He reminded them how to live consistent with God's Law. He told them that someday God would send a Prophet like himself. They should watch for him, and listen to him when he came. Moses then made Joshua the new leader over Israel.

### Bible-Telling Story

#### Instructions

Joshua sent two spies into Canaan. When they came back, they said, "It's true! God has given us the land. The people are afraid of us."

So, Joshua led the people to the Jordan River. He said to them, "Tomorrow, the Lord will do amazing things among you. You will know that God lives with you and plans to fight your enemies for you." He then told them to select 12 men for a special job the next day.

Joshua told the priests, "Take the Ark of God, the Lord of all the earth, and go ahead of the people into the Jordan River." So the priests picked up the Ark of God and moved toward the river, which was at flood stage. They went down into the river until the water touched their feet.

#### Crossing the River

Suddenly the river to the north stopped flowing until it became a wall of water. The water continued flowing toward the south until it was gone. Then the priests walked to the middle of the riverbed and stood there on dry ground. With that, the people started moving across the river.

Joshua told the 12 men, "Each of you pick up a large stone from where the priests are standing. Put it on your shoulder and take it to the other side of the river." Joshua then took another 12 stones and built a monument in the middle of the river, next to where the priests were standing.

When the people had all crossed the river, Joshua said to the priests, "Come out from the middle of the Jordan River." So the priests came up out of the river. Suddenly the wall of water crashed down, and the river became as it was before.

#### Remembering

Joshua then took the people to a place where he built a memorial using the 12 stones. He said to the people, "Future generations will see this monument and ask, 'What do these stones mean?' You are to tell them, 'These stones remind us of the day when God held back the Jordan River so His people could pass over on dry ground.' He did this so all the nations of the earth will know that the hand of God, the Lord of all the earth, is powerful."

The nation of Israel was now in the land that God had promised to them.

**Instructions**

**two fingers – both hands up**  
*two spies – It's true!*

**points up – hand move across palm**  
**shaking both hands**  
*God – given us the land – the people are afraid of us*

**fingers explode**  
*The Lord will do amazing thing among you*

**point up and hand on heart – fist**  
*God lives with you – will fight your enemies for you*

**six fingers twice**  
*12 men for a special job*

**fingertips together – point forward**  
**point down**  
*the Ark of God – moved toward Jordan*  
*water touched their feet*

**Crossing the River**

**palm out**  
**other hand points opposite direction**  
*a wall of water to the north*  
*water continued flowing to the south*

**fingertips together, then move them out**  
**hands move across the front**  
*Art of God to the middle – people crossed over*

**big stone up to shoulder**  
**then down to ground**  
*12 men picked up a large stone*  
*Joshua built monument in river*

**hand wave “come” – sweep hands out**  
*Come out of the river – Wall of waters crashed down*

**Remembering**

**both hands show five fingers and then one**  
**put stone on ground**  
*Joshua built memorial with the 12 stones*

**hand up and out – finger to side of head**  
*future generations will ask why*  
*they remind us of what God did*

**big circle with both hands**  
*all the nations will know ...*

**point up – big circle with other hand fist**  
*God, – the Lord of all the earth – is powerful*