

February 16, 2025

## Dear Parents,

This week, we have the opportunity to explore the teachings of **"Crossing the Jordan River"** (Joshua 1; 3-4).

After Moses' death, God called Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous because He would be with him. When the priests carrying the ark of the covenant stepped into the Jordan River, the waters stopped, and the people crossed on dry ground. To remember this miracle, they built a memorial with twelve stones. This event reminds us that just as God made a way for His people, Jesus makes a way for us to be with God forever.

This message will inspire your child to grow in the love and light of Jesus. Reinforce the lesson at home by discussing the following points with your child:

- □ God is Always with Us: God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. How can we trust God when we feel afraid?
- **Remembering What God Has Done:** The Israelites built a memorial of stones. How can we remember and thank God for His blessings?
- □ Jesus Makes a Way for Us: God made a way for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. How does Jesus make a way for us to be with God?

You might consider praying with your child, thanking God for His presence and asking Him to help you trust Him in all things.

Grace and blessings in Christ.

Virginia Agape International Bapti*r*t Church

## **Crossing the Jordan River**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 1; 3-4 KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 24:8 BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.



After the death of Moses, God spoke to Joshua and said, "You will be the new leader of My people. The promises I made to Moses are still going to come true. Get everyone ready to cross the Jordan into the land I promised to your ancestors!

"Be strong and courageous, Joshua. You will lead the people to take the land. Each tribe of Israel will have its own territory. Think about My commands that I gave to Moses day and night, and follow them carefully, and you will have success. Be strong and courageous and do not be afraid or discouraged because I am with you!"

Joshua led the people to the edge of the Jordan River. The land God had promised was just on the other side. After three days of camping by the river, the officers of the army



told all the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord being carried, pack up your things and follow it."

Joshua said, "Get ready, because the Lord is going to do something amazing!" God would reveal His power to show the people God was with their new leader Joshua.

The priests carrying the ark of the covenant stepped into the Jordan River, and as soon as their feet touched the edge of the water, the



Virginia Agape International Baptizt Church

water flowing downstream stood still. The people of God could cross over on dry land!

Once the entire nation crossed the Jordan River, God told Joshua to select twelve men to create something special to remember this important miracle. Joshua chose one man from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. He told them to go back to the middle of the river, where the ark of the covenant was still being held, and to pick up a large stone and bring it back to the shore. They made a large pile out of the rocks.

Joshua said, "When people ask you in the future, 'What do these stones mean?', you will tell them, 'God stopped the Jordan River so that we could cross over into this land He promised us on dry ground.""

When the priests carrying the ark of the covenant fully crossed the river onto the bank, the Jordan River started flowing again. God showed His people and everyone on earth that He is mighty and powerful.

God's presence went before the people, and the waters of the Jordan were stopped. God's people crossed safely into the Promised Land. Jesus went before God on behalf of sinners. All who trust in His life, death, and resurrection are saved from judgment and enter into eternal life.





would encourage them to trust Christ as Savior, to submit to Him, and to live out the Gospel wherever they are.



"Conquering Jericho" (Joshua 2-4; 6)



