

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Twelve - Crossing the Jordan

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

Israel's story continued with Joshua leading the people after Moses died. Yet, the story seems oddly familiar, because it is about the same God who continues to rescue the people more than it is about the humans He works through. Help the kids see that God is the hero, not Moses or Joshua.

- **Big Idea:** God's rescue plan for His people continues... and we are welcomed into it.

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Crossing Over**

Take the parachute cloth outside and have the kids around it in a circle shake and wave it up and down. As it goes up, have a kid run underneath across to the other side. Keep taking turns so every kid gets a chance.

Sing Together

Story - from Joshua 1

After a long time of wandering in the wilderness, Moses passed away. But he wrote down the first 5 books of the bible before he died. These were written as Moses would go up the mountain and speak with God. God told him what to write and also what commands to write down for the people to follow.

After the death of Moses, God's servant, God spoke to Joshua, Moses' assistant:

"Moses my servant is dead. Now, get going. Cross this Jordan River, you and all the people, to the country I'm giving you. I'm giving you every square inch of the land you set your foot on—just as I promised Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon east to the Great River, the Euphrates River and then west to the Great Sea. It's all yours. All your life, no one will be able to hold out against you. In the same way I was with Moses, I'll be with you. I won't give up on you; I won't leave you. Have strength! Have courage! You are going to lead this people to inherit the land that I promised to give their ancestors. Give it everything you have, heart and soul. Make sure you carry out the Revelation that Moses commanded you, every bit of it. Don't get off track, either left or right, but keep straight on My path. And don't for a minute let this Book of Instruction, My words to you, be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed. Haven't I commanded you to have strength and courage? Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. The Lord, your God, is with you every step you take."

God then used Joshua to complete what He started with Moses. Just like he parted the sea before when He saved them from the Egyptians, once again God parted the waters of the Jordan River so that the Israelites could cross safely. Joshua led them into the land God promised and when enemies came against them, the Israelites would become afraid. But Joshua would remind them of God's promise and they would be victorious. Some people from the nations of their enemies would actually see how the God of Israel was the most powerful God, so they would turn to trust in Him and help the Israelites. People like Rahab, who hid two Israelites to protect them. Her family was saved and brought into the family of Israel and loved by God.

This was God's plan all along. Not just to save Israel, but to save Israel so that they would spread the good news of God and His kingdom so that other nations would come to worship the true God as well.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- God continued His rescue plan from Moses to Joshua, from one generation to another. Do you think He is still working His rescue plan for you today?
- How has God ultimately rescued us?
- It would have been scary to cross over where water used to be rushing through, but God brought them safely to the other side. What has God brought us safely through to the other side by Jesus? *[we pass through death into life]*

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, thank You for saving Your people and for letting us be one of those people. Amen!
- **Craft:**
Use the maze attached as an activity. Kids can also color it when they've finished the maze. Talk about how the maze represents God's people learning to follow God's words and His ways.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

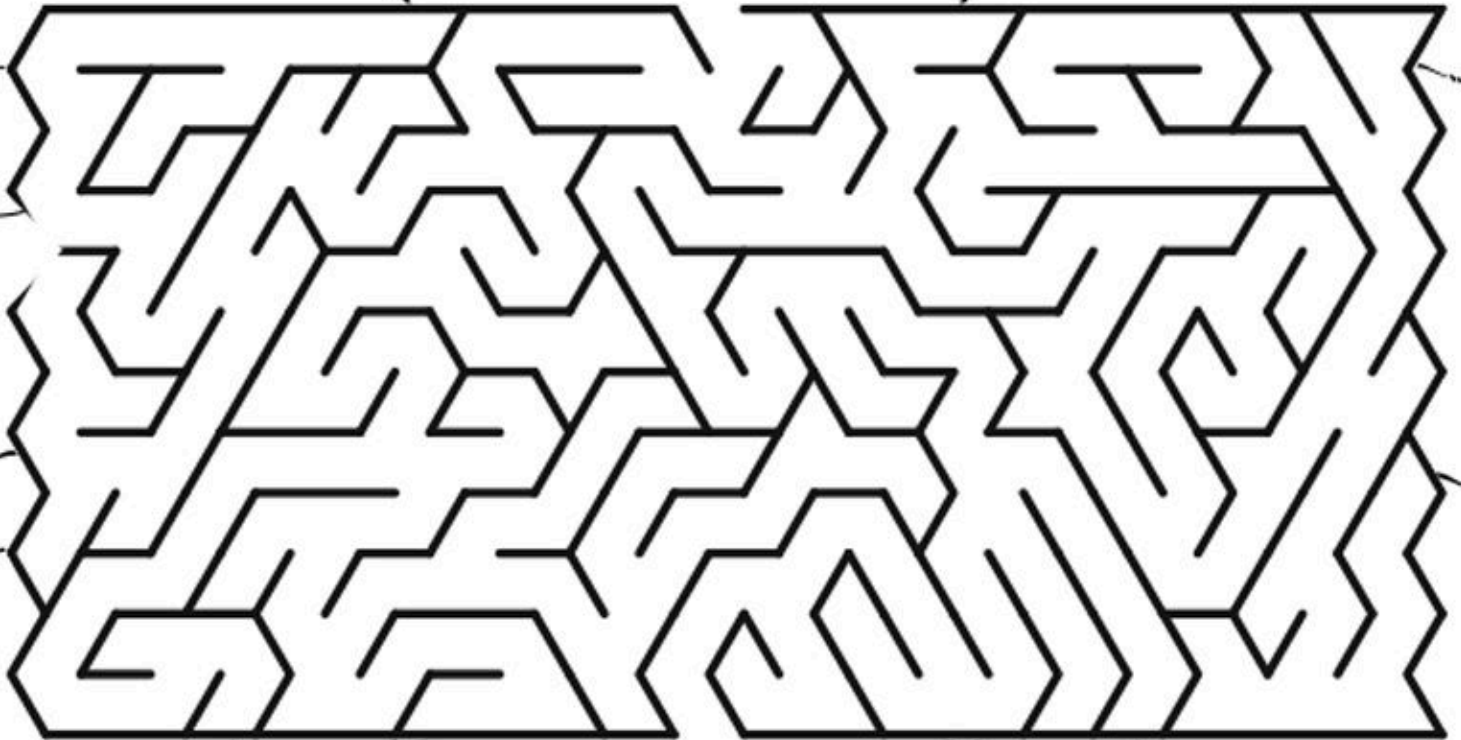
This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. Ask the Lord who in your life needs to see how good God is. Spend some time praying for that person. Spend some time hanging out with that person and asking them about their life. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can share God's love with them.

JOSHUA & THE JORDAN RIVER

Guide the priests safely across the Jordan River



START



FINISH