



Promised Land: Crossing the Jordan River

Lesson Aim: To know we can be strong, brave leaders.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Sends

THE WORD

Bible Story: Joshua 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18

What He Has Done: God sent His people across the Jordan River into the promised land.

THE WAY - BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Unit 9: The God Who Sends			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	God Sends Manna, Exodus 16:2-5, 11-16, 32	God sent manna so His people would survive in the wilderness.	To know God sends us what we need.
44	The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17	God sent the Ten Commandments.	To honor our fathers and mothers.
45	The Wilderness: Joshua and Caleb, Deuteronomy 1:21-36	God sends Joshua and Caleb to spy on the new land.	To know we can trust God with our fears.
46	Promised Land: Crossing the Jordan River, Joshua 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18	God sent His people across the Jordan River into the promised land.	To know we can be strong, brave leaders.
47	Joshua and Jericho, Joshua 6:1-20	God sent Joshua and His people to take over the city of Jericho.	To see we can trust God's plan.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Proverbs 29:25. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the brave leaders You give us. Embolden the children to answer Your call on their lives to be courageous leaders. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Strong and Brave: This week, our focus is on being strong and brave leaders. Take opportunities during class to allow the children to take the lead, whether it's leading the class to the tables, leading in a game, or saying a prayer. Let them know they have done a good job. Remind them that we can be strong and brave leaders because we know God is always with us. He will help us be strong and brave.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 20	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a stone, river, water, or fish
		Coloring Center: Crossing the Jordan River	Coloring pages of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Remember the Miracle	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block Center: Make a Way	Blocks and toy people (or have the children use their fingers for people)
		Activity Center: In the River	Bubbles
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Here Am I" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Children, Obey Your Parents" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "I Am with You" "I Can Do All Things" "I Will Remember" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 9, Lesson 46
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Joshua 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Joshua 1:6 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, twelve stones in a bag
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Crossing on Dry Ground	Sturdy standard-size blue paper, sturdy brown and gray paper, shiny blue paper, two foot stickers or pictures of feet, label, glue or glue sticks
		Game: Crossing the Jordan	Six feet or more of blue banner paper (or a blue bed sheet or blanket), 12 small stones (or 12 chunks of foam or crumbled gray/brown paper), large box for the golden ark, optional: paint box gold or cover in gold paper
		Game: Follow Joshua	None, optional: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Here Am I"
		Snack: Safe Across the River	A stone-shaped (round) snack like vanilla wafers
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9 Lesson 46
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Joshua 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18	None
	Up to 10	Game: Here Am I!	None
	Up to 10	Game: Send Me!	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Here Am I"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about being strong and brave

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who sends **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker or stamp of a stone, river, water, or fish. **Let this sticker (or stamp) remind you of a river (or what's found in a river).** **Today, we will learn how brave Joshua led God's people across the Jordan River.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, crayons

DO

Children color their pictures while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

When God asked the people to travel to a new land, God helped them to be strong and brave. When they came to a mighty river, they were strong and brave because they knew God was with them. When do you have to be strong and brave? (Children respond.) Who can help you be strong and brave? (Children respond.) We can be strong and brave wherever God leads us because we know God is always with us.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: REMEMBER THE MIRACLE

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children create the twelve stones God told the people to pile by the river's edge with the play-dough while discussing today's lesson.

TALK ABOUT

What do we call something only God can do? (A miracle.) Do you remember when God parted the Red Sea so His people, the Israelites, could safely cross on dry land? (Children respond.) Today, we will hear how God separated the waters of the Jordan River so His people could cross into the land He had promised them. God asked the people to pile twelve stones by the river's edge to remember His miracle. Can you count to twelve with me? 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12! Let's make a pile of twelve stones so we can remember God's miracles.

THE WELCOME *continued ...*

BLOCK CENTER: MAKE A WAY

SUPPLIES

Blocks and toy people (or have the children use their fingers for people)

DO

The children create a long river using blocks.

TALK ABOUT

God sent His people on a long trip to the new land He had promised them. On the way, they came to a mighty river that was too long and too wide to cross. God caused the waters to separate so the people could cross on dry ground. Can you use the blocks to make a long and mighty river? Then, let's pretend these toy people (or your fingers) are the Israelites. Can you separate the waters so the people can safely cross?

ACTIVITY CENTER: IN THE RIVER

SUPPLIES

Bubbles

DO

Blow bubbles for the children while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

What do you find in a river? (Bubbles, fish, boats, swimmers, etc.) In today's story, God's people needed to cross a big, big river to get to the land God had promised them. God sent a way for His people to safely cross the river.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

"Here am I. Send me!"	Palms up, hands circle close to the body at waist level. (I) Point to self. (send) Left hand facing down, the fingertips of the right hand flick outward from the back of the right hand.
Isaiah 6:8	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who sends **THE WORSHIP**

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Today, we sing praises to God for helping us to be strong and brave. Let's pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for helping us be strong and brave. We know You are always with us. Amen.**



Wherever we go, He is watching over us. Sing: "I Am with You."

Even when you are afraid, God will help you to be strong and brave. We can do all things through Him! Let's sing about that as we give our offering. Sing: "I Can Do All Things" while collecting the offering.



I am thankful for the friends God sends us. Let's see how our friends Delbert and Lello are doing today. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 9, Lesson 46.



God sent Joshua to lead His people across the Jordan River. He helped him to be a strong and brave leader. God will help you be strong and brave like Joshua. God sends us to love others and tell them about Jesus. He wants us to say, "Here am I. Send me!" Practice the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.

**"Here
am I.
Send me!"**

Palms up, hands circle close to the body at waist level.

(I) Point to self.

(send) Left hand facing down, the fingertips of the right hand flick outward from the back of the right hand.

Isaiah 6:8

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "Here Am I."



God sends His people to the promised land

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Joshua 1:6, picture of the Bible story, twelve stones in a bag

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Shake the bag. **What do you think I have in this bag?** (Children respond.) Take the twelve stones out of the bag. **Let's count these stones together: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12.**

Today, we will hear how God sent Joshua to lead the people into that new land. Something amazing happened on the way and the people used twelve BIG stones to remember the miracle. Do you remember what a miracle is? (Something only God can do.) **Let's find out what that miracle was.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Joshua 1:6.



WATCH THE WORD: JOSHUA 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **The Lord told Joshua, "Be strong and brave.**
- **I am making you the leader of my people today.**
- **Lead them to the Jordan River and say,**
- **'We are crossing over to the promised land today!'"**
- **The priest went first with the ark of gold;**
- **They put their feet in the water as they were told.**
- **Right away the Jordan River stopped its flow,**
- **Then the water piled up, and Joshua said, "Go!"**
- **All the people walked across as dry as ever,**
- **While the ark stayed in the middle of the dried-up river!**
- **Then the Lord told Joshua to choose 12 men.**
- **"Get stones from the middle of the river," He said.**
- **They piled up stones by the river's edge**
- **To remind us of this story so no one would forget**
- **How the Lord made Joshua strong and brave**
- **And He stopped the Jordan River from flowing that day.**

What did God say to Joshua when He made him leader? ("Be strong and brave.") Who will help you be strong and brave like Joshua? (God.)



Be strong and brave

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: CROSSING ON DRY GROUND

Purpose: To remember how God stopped the river from flowing when the ark was carried across the Jordan River.

Supplies: Sturdy standard-size blue paper, sturdy brown and gray paper, shiny blue paper, two foot stickers or pictures of feet, label, glue or glue sticks

Prepare: Fold the standard-size sturdy blue paper into thirds as if folding a letter into an envelope. Then fold the two outer segments in half with the edges of the paper facing outward down the middle to create "sides" to the water. From shiny blue paper, cut two 2-inch x 9-inch strips. From sturdy brown paper, cut a 3-inch x 9-inch strip. From sturdy gray paper, create a cutout of a pile of twelve stones. On a label, print:

Crossing the Jordan River

Joshua 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18

What was the name of the strong and brave leader who led God's people across the river? (Joshua.) **What was the name of the river?** (Jordan River.)

Directions:

1. For water, glue a shiny blue paper strip to the outside fold of each side of the sturdy blue paper.
2. For dry land, glue the strip of brown paper down the middle of the sturdy blue paper.
3. Attach the two foot stickers to the middle of the brown paper strip.
4. Attach the cutout of the twelve stones to the far end of the brown paper strip.
5. Attach the label to the close end of the brown paper strip.

Craft Discussion:

- Show children how to close the folds of paper so the water is touching and then open the sides so the water is parted and the dry land can be seen.
- **What was the name of the strong and brave leader who led God's people across the Jordan River?** (Joshua.)
- **Take your craft home and tell everyone the story of strong and brave Joshua leading God's people across the Jordan River. Don't forget the part about the water parting and the people walking on dry ground!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: CROSSING THE JORDAN

Purpose: To act out the story to help the children visualize and remember the miracle of God parting the Jordan River.

Supplies: Six feet or more of blue banner paper (or a blue bed sheet or blanket) for the Jordan River, 12 small stones (or 12 chunks of foam or crumbled gray/brown paper), large box for the golden ark, optional: paint box gold or cover in gold paper

Directions:

1. Lay the blue banner paper on the floor to represent the Jordan River.
2. Set the twelve "stones" in the middle of the banner paper.
3. Assign the following roles:
 - Joshua (Can be a boy or a girl)
 - Several stone collectors
 - Two priests to carry the ark
 - Remaining children to be God's people
1. Retell the Bible Story pausing after each phrase to help the children act it out. You may summarize the Bible Story or repeat the story poem located in THE WORD.
 - Have the children approach the river (banner paper).
 - Have the priests carry the ark and step in (next to) the river.
 - Show the water parting by pulling the banner paper to the side.
 - Have the priests lead the children in walking across on dry ground.
 - Have the stone collectors gather the stones and pile them next to the banner paper.

GAME: FOLLOW JOSHUA

Purpose: Children play "Follow the Leader" to help them identify with strong and brave leaders like Joshua.

Supplies: None, optional: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Here Am I"

Teacher Tip: To create a fun atmosphere, play "Here Am I" as the children follow Joshua.

Directions:

1. Choose a child (boy or girl) to be Joshua.
2. Have the other children line up behind Joshua.
3. Joshua moves around the room as the children follow in line and imitate Joshua's exact movements.
4. Give each child a turn being Joshua.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SAFE ACROSS THE RIVER

Purpose: To know God will help us be strong and brave leaders.

Snack Suggestion: A stone-shaped (round) snack like vanilla wafers

What did Joshua pile on the shore to remember this miracle? (Stones.) **Our snack reminds me of the stones Joshua piled on the shore.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **In today's lesson, God's people were going to a new place. Did God help Joshua and the people to be strong and brave?** (Yes.) **It can be scary to go to a new place. Will God help you to be strong and brave?** (Yes.)
 - **Why did God stop the Jordan River?** (So everyone could cross the river on dry land.) **What did the people pile on the shore to remember this miracle?** (12 stones.)
 - **Whenever you see a stone, remember God's miracle at the Jordan River and remember that God can help you be a strong and brave leader like Joshua.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Here	Palms up, hands circle close to the body at waist level.
am I.	(I) Point to self.
Send me!"	(send) Left hand facing down, the fingertips of the right hand flick outward from the back of the right hand.
Isaiah 6:8	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JOSHUA 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **The Lord told Joshua, "Be strong and brave.** (Show muscles.)
- **I am making you the leader of my people today.** (Point to someone.)
- **Lead them to the Jordan River and say,** (March in place.)
- **'We are crossing over to the promised land today!'"** (Point to land in the distance.)
- **The priest went first with the ark of gold;** (Raise index finger for number one.)
- **They put their feet in the water as they were told.** (Pretend to dip foot in water.)
- **Right away the Jordan River stopped its flow,** (Make stop signal with palm.)
- **Then the water piled up, and Joshua said, "Go!"** (Point to land in the distance.)

- **All the people walked across as dry as ever,** (March in place.)
- **While the ark stayed in the middle of the dried-up river!** (Palms up holding box.)
- **Then the Lord told Joshua to choose 12 men.** (Point, as if choosing.)
- **"Get stones from the middle of the river," He said.** (Make river waves with hand.)
- **They piled up stones by the river's edge** (Move fist over fist, as if piling stones.)
- **To remind us of this story so no one would forget** (Point to mind.)
- **How the Lord made Joshua strong and brave** (Show muscles.)
- **And He stopped the Jordan River from flowing that day.** (Make stop signal with palm.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

GAME: HERE AM I!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Our Bible Memory Verse says, **"Here am I. Send me!"** God sends us to love others and tell them about Jesus. He wants us to say, **"Here am I. Send me!"** I'm going to walk around the circle. When I stop, I'm going to point to one of you. If it's you, I want you to jump up and say, **"Here am I. Send me!"** Demonstrate by pointing to one of the helpers or a child in the circle and having them jump up and say, **"Here am I. Send me!"**

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. As you walk around the outside of the circle, say, **"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?'"**
3. Stop and point to one of the children in the circle.
4. The child jumps up and shouts, **"Here am I. Send me!"**
5. Repeat steps 2-4, giving each child to jump up and say the Bible Memory Verse.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: SEND ME!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Here Am I"

Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse song together as we march around the room. When you hear the words, "Here am I, send me," I want you to stop where you are and we're going to do two motions. Demonstrate the motions and have the children practice them with you.

"Here am I," Hold hands in front of you at waist level, palms up.

"Send me." Point thumb or pointer finger to self.

Directions:

1. Choose a child as the leader. The other children line up behind the leader.
2. As you begin the music, instruct the leader to lead the other children around the room.
I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"
I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?"
3. When you hear "Here am I, send me. Here am I, send me. Here am I, send me. Here am I, send me." lead the children in stopping and doing the motions.
4. The children begin marching again. Repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. This is a short song (1:10). Play it several times, allowing each child a turn as the leader.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about being strong and brave.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 9, Lesson 46: Promised Land: Crossing the Jordan River

PONDER! God sent His people across the Jordan River into the promised land (Joshua 1:6-9; 3:15-17; 4:4-9, 17-18). What did God tell Joshua? ("Be strong and brave.") Will God help you to be strong and brave? (Yes!)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for sending Your miracles. Help us to be strong and brave leaders like Joshua. Amen."

PLAY! Enjoy a family game of "Follow the Leader" to practice being a strong and brave leader.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Here	Palms up, hands circle close to the body at waist level.
am I.	(I) Point to self.
Send me!"	(send) Left hand facing down, the fingertips of the right hand flick outward from the back of the right hand.
Isaiah 6:8	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.