

God Stopped the Jordan River (Joshua 3–4)



Dear families,

The children of Israel often gave in to worry and bitterness. Their attitude revealed deeper heart issues: their belief that God had failed to take care of them and would fail in the future. It was in the 40 years of wandering in the desert that God showed them over and over that He was worthy of their trust. Yet they still did not trust Him.

When God provided supernatural food for them to eat, they craved the food of Egypt. (Num. 11:4-6) When they first encountered the inhabitants of Canaan, they were filled with fear because they didn't trust that God would be with them. (Num. 13:33) God went out of His way to deliver His people, protect them, and provide for them. He showed He is all-powerful and trustworthy.

Read Moses' words in Deuteronomy 6:20-24. Moses implored the Israelites to remember what God had done and testify to their children of His faithfulness. God had brought them out of Egypt to keep His covenant with Abraham. He gave them instructions for their good.

Meditate on Moses' proclamation: "We were slaves in Egypt, but God, by his grace, set us free." This truth is particularly helpful for us when we face difficulties and periods of anxiety. We can have peace in the present by looking backward in gratitude and forward with hope. When we look back at our lives and the millions of ways God has provided and protected us, our hearts should be filled with gratitude. Based on God's character as revealed in Scripture and in our

lives, we can look forward with hope, knowing that God, who has preserved us, will continue to do so until He comes to bring us home.

As you get ready to teach, prepare your heart by reminding yourself of God's faithfulness. Tell the kids in your group how God has shown Himself worthy of your trust. They too can put their hope in a God who never fails.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **2 & 3 year olds:** God was with His people as they went into the promised land. He showed His power so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him.
- **4 year olds & Kindergarten:** God was with Joshua and the Israelites as they went into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.
- **Grade 1-6:** God went ahead of Joshua and the Israelites into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **2 & 3 year olds:** What is the Bible? The Bible is God's words to us.
- **4 year olds & Kindergarten:** What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word.
- **Grade 1-6:** What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit and it's also the verse we are trying to memorize!



**Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path.**

Psalm 119:105

**** Next week:** The Bible Helps Us Live for God (2 Timothy 3)