

Preschool Activity Suggestions

Unit 8, Session 1: Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 1-4

1. Pretend to be river animals (before the Bible Story): Tell your preschooler that you will call out the name of an animal, and they must pretend to be that animal. Here are examples of some animals: turtle, otter, crocodile, fish, catfish, dragonfly, duck, frog, snake, bat, snail. Explain to your preschooler that all these animals can be found at a river. In today's Bible story, Joshua led the Israelites to the edge of the Jordan River. They had to cross the river to get to the land God promised them. Tell them that in today's Bible story they will hear about something amazing that God did!

2. Memorize Scripture: This is our 1st of 3 weeks practicing **Deuteronomy 31:8**. You may want to use this song to help your children memorize a shorter version of this verse: <https://youtu.be/qaMqeYkgQ4Q>. Here is the full verse put to song <https://youtu.be/tCWg4xTrV7k>.

As you practice the verse this week with your child, you may also want to break up the whole verse into different sections. Write each section on a notecard or piece of paper. For example, write "It is the Lord who goes before you" and "He will be with you" on different notecards, and so on. Don't forget to write the reference as well. Scramble the notecards up and help your child order the verse correctly. Have a Bible open to the verse to help your child put the verse in the correct order. Practice repeating the verse as you order the cards.

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.
Deuteronomy 31:8

3. Hop the big picture question: Use painter's tape or chalk to make five squares in a line on the floor. Write one word of the big picture question on the top line of each square. Use a paper wad to serve as a stone. Direct your child to toss the "stone" on one of the squares. Then guide them to hop through the squares and pick up the stone while you say each word of the big picture question. Then lead your child in saying the answer. *How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.* Joshua and the Israelites believed God and obeyed the special instructions He gave them to cross the river. Everyone got to see how amazing and powerful God is as He stopped the water. God was glorified! When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin. Jesus glorifies God more than anyone!

4. Discuss the Bible Story:

Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who led the Israelites to the Jordan River? (Joshua)
2. What reminds the people that God was with them? (the ark of God)
3. Did God's people have to swim across the Jordan River? (No, God stopped the water and they walked.)
4. Why did God tell the people to pick up 12 stones from the middle of the river? (so they would remember that God helped them cross the river)
5. How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.