

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3~4

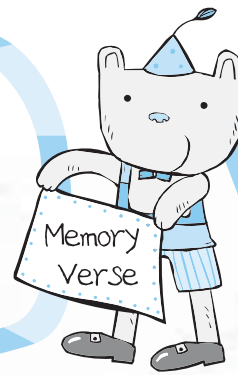
The Israelites finally arrived at the Jordan River after spending 40 years in the wilderness. Now all they had to do was cross the Jordan River and they would be in the promised land of Canaan, the land they were waiting for all this time. But there was one problem: the water of the river was so high it was overflowing its banks! There was no way they'd be able to cross to the land of Canaan. So the people were told, according to the message of God, to do the following:

"People, when you see the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, get up and go after it. The LORD will do wonders among you. Priests, take the ark of the covenant and cross the river before the people. When you reach the edge of the waters of the Jordan, stand still in the river. By this you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites before you."



Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

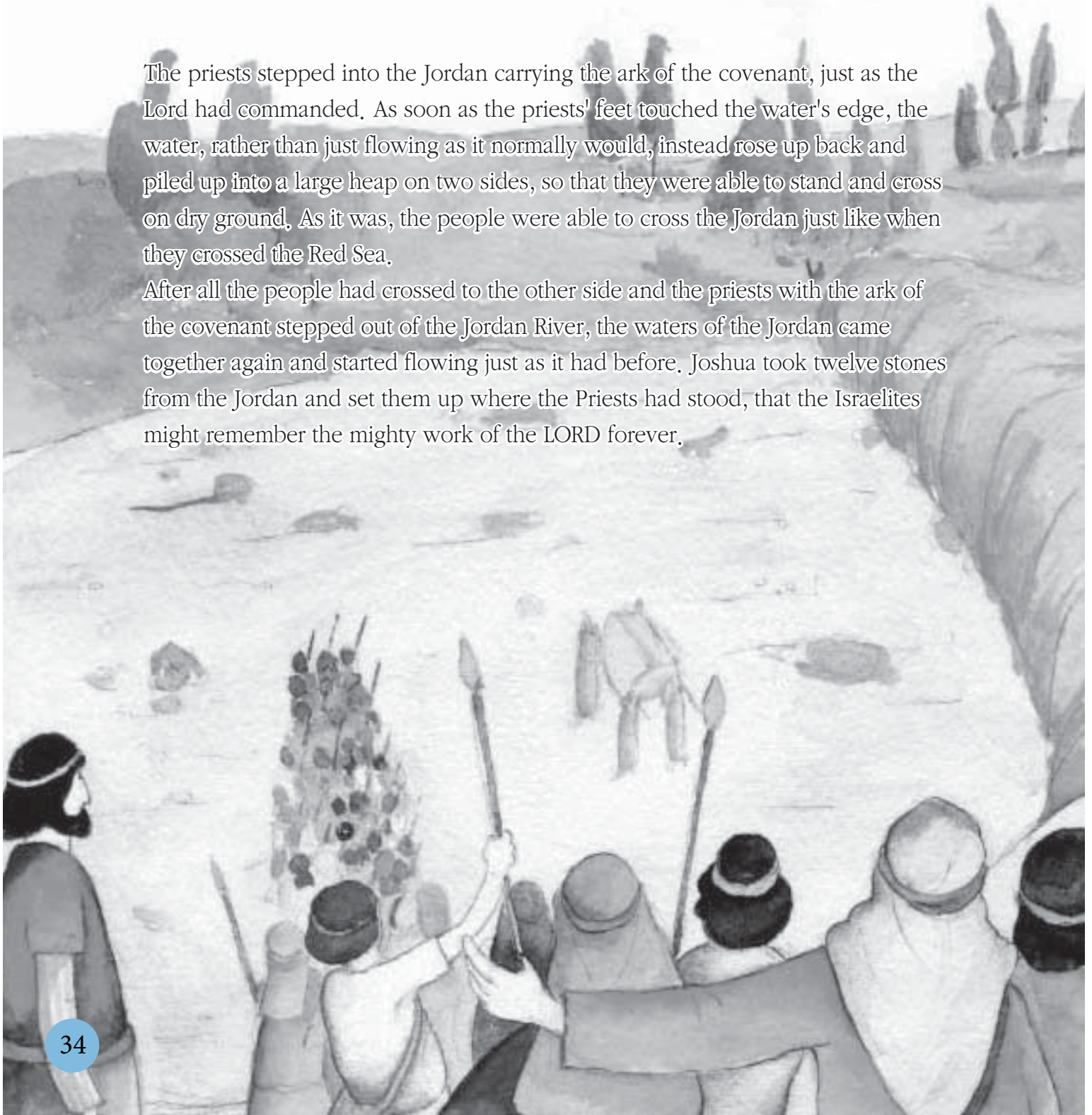
James 2:22



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The priests stepped into the Jordan carrying the ark of the covenant, just as the Lord had commanded. As soon as the priests' feet touched the water's edge, the water, rather than just flowing as it normally would, instead rose up back and piled up into a large heap on two sides, so that they were able to stand and cross on dry ground. As it was, the people were able to cross the Jordan just like when they crossed the Red Sea.

After all the people had crossed to the other side and the priests with the ark of the covenant stepped out of the Jordan River, the waters of the Jordan came together again and started flowing just as it had before. Joshua took twelve stones from the Jordan and set them up where the Priests had stood, that the Israelites might remember the mighty work of the LORD forever.





Today's Study

1. God is With Us

What do you think the Israelites felt after they crossed the Jordan? ()

- ① Ah, so God really is with us!
- ② Well, duh. God did that miracle for us because we're such good people! So what's the big deal? Sheesh.
- ③ If God is really with us like this, conquering the land of Canaan will surely be possible. Let's go!
- ④ Wow! God is so cool! He separated the waters of the Jordan just like when we crossed the Red Sea! some! I love miracles

"And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that _____
, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: (Joshua 3:10)

2. Do as He Commanded

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan, it was overflowing at the banks. What did God promise them? Read Joshua 3:13 and fill in the blank below.

"And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, _____, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap" (Joshua 3:13)

When they reached the Jordan River, what did the priests do?

What happened then?

Even though it seems impossible, when you believe in God's words and follow through with them, His promises come true.



Today's Lesson

Faith and Works

When the Israelites went through with the commandments of God, they were able to see His magnificent wonders. Billy read James chapter 1 and found some comfort in it.

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

“I’m Billy. I’m a student at the local school here. Since I’m a student, I’m doing my very best to study and do all of my homework with my very best effort, and I listen the best in class, just as I think Jesus would do if He were me. But I’m not able to get very good grades in class, as you would expect. But I’m not discouraged over this, because even if my grades are not so good now, God will grant me extra wisdom if and when I need it. All I need to do is keep trying my best with what I can do now, and everything else will be done by God.”



God will help a person like Billy because He believes and trusts in God’s words and tries his best to live and act by them.

Let's Find out



* The Faith of the People

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, the rainy season was about to end. That means there was a lot of water in the Jordan. Because the snow on Mount Hermon, which was beside the Jordan, was melting, there was actually a risk of a sudden flood. But now, it wasn't just one or two people crossing the river. It was a group of more than 2 million people! But Joshua and the people of Israel crossed the Jordan River with faith in God's words. As they saw the priests step into the Jordan River, they were immediately able to see that God was helping them and was crossing the river with them.

Parents

Teacher