

12 **Thank** WEEK **God**



Preschool Key Verse

God's mighty hand cares
for you (adapted from
1 Peter 5:6-7).

Leading Kids in Journaling

1. Have kids find the week's Key Verse and talk about what it means.
2. Help children read, write, and draw in their journals.
3. Share prayer needs and praises. (Track these on page 29.)
4. Pray together.
5. Collect the journals, and write a note to each child.

Elementary Key Verse

"Give thanks to the Lord, call
on his name; make known
among the nations what he has
done" (1 Chronicles 16:8).



The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua 3:1-4:24

Bible Background for Leader Enrichment

Parts of this story seem like a rerun of the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea 40 years earlier. Remember, however, that apart from Joshua and Caleb, all the people crossing the Jordan River were no older than children when Israel crossed the Red Sea. This totally new experience must have reminded them of the stories their parents had told them about the miracle of crossing the Red Sea.

Notice that the Jordan River was not just a trickling stream—it was at "flood stage." In the area of Jericho, it would have been 10 to 12 feet deep, and the current quite strong.

The Israelites built a stone memorial with the rocks taken from the center of the Jordan River. The memorial would remind people of the wonders God had done for the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land, and the 12 stones together would remind them of the 12 tribes joined together as one nation.

The last verse of today's passage, Joshua 4:24, tells us why God dried up the Jordan for the people to cross: "so that all the peoples



of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God." God wanted his people to fear him—to give him the worship and service he deserved. Remembering what God had done would give them encouragement and faith when they faced the difficulties of conquering this new land.

The 1 Thing: As we grow in relationship with Christ, we become more Christ-like. We can testify that we have been renewed and delivered from our different lives of the past.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Reread Joshua 4:24. Note the public display of power that God left as a reminder of his love and power. In times of darkness, it is often helpful to rest in the truth of what we have experienced in the past. Encounters with our Savior remind us that he is with us. Sharing these experiences with others can give hope to the hopeless and bring glory to the work God has done in you. Identify five people to whom you will

testify of God's power in your life this week. After you share, watch how God's power in you affects the people you share with.

Discovery Center Questions

Preschool

Play-It: Where Is the Special Rock?

Played a guessing game.

- Have you ever lost something and then found it again? Tell about it.
- What would you say to thank someone who found something you lost?
- How can you thank God for all the good things he does for you?
- * How do you think God feels when we thank him?

Make-It: Rocks for Remembering

Decorated rocks to express their thankfulness.

- Have you ever brought something back from a trip to remind you of the fun you had? Tell about it.
- Where will you keep your rock to help you remember to thank God for the good things he does?
- What are things you can thank God for?
- * Why do you think it's important that we thank God for the things he does for us?

Learn-It: What a Powerful God!

Experienced the Bible story.

- Joshua and his friends thanked God. Why did they thank God?
- Let's thank God for being with us wherever we go. What are some other things we can be thankful for?
- * When has God helped you most? Did you remember to thank him?

Snack-It Café: A Pudding Divided

Made bowls of pudding to remind them of the Bible story.

- When God stopped the Jordan River, the Israelites were thankful. What are you thankful for that God has done for you?
- When are you most likely to thank God?
- When is it hard for you to thank God?
- * Why do you think God wants us to thank him?

Elementary

Games: Cross the River

Helped one another across a "river."

- How were you thankful for those carrying you?
- What's something for which you're thankful to God?
- * How do you feel when someone forgets to thank you? How do you think God feels when we don't thank him?

Games: Fast Thanks

Identified people and things they're thankful for.

- Are you more thankful for people or for things? Why?
- How can you thank God for all he has given you?
- * Why do you think God gives us so many things? Explain.

Surprise Station: Remember When

Thanked God for what he has done for them.

- What did you thank God for?
- How is your box like the 12 stones the Israelites put by the banks of the Jordan River?
- Why is it important to remember we're thankful to God?
- * How can we show God we're thankful to him?

Projects-With-a-Purpose: School Kits

Assembled school kits to serve those in need.

- What's one thing for which you feel thankful right now?
- If you could actually hand this kit to the child who will receive it, what would you say? Why?
- How does giving this kit to another child show the thanks we feel toward God?
- * What are other things we can do for others to show our thanks to God?

Music & Memory: 1 Chronicles 16:8

Learned a verse.

- How can kids make known to the nations what God has done? to the neighborhood? to their families?
- How can you show God you're thankful for all he has done?
- * What does it mean to call on God's name? Why is that important?

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Connect With Kids

Say something positive to each child today.
Be sincere and tactful.

You are a wonderful shepherd.

Thank you for leading your flock of lambs to God!