

# 12

WEEK

# What a Powerful God!

Preschoolers will see how the Israelites thanked God for stopping the river so they could cross. Children will think about ways they, too, can thank God.


Bible  Point

## Thank God

*Joshua 3:1–4:24*

The Israelites needed to cross the Jordan River. Joshua told the priests to stand in the river. As their feet touched the water, it parted and the people walked across on dry land.

## 1 SAY

Today we'll learn how the Israelites used rocks to remember to  thank God. God helped them get across the Jordan River, so they took rocks from the Jordan as reminders of his goodness. Each time they looked at the rocks, the Israelites remembered to thank God.

Let's pretend we're camping by a river. Sit down and get cozy so we can hear the story from the Bible, and let's see if we can imagine how the Israelites *must* have felt inside.

## You Will Need

- Learn-It Essentials\*
- 5 to 7 rolled-up newspapers\*
- several sheets of red and yellow tissue paper\*
- several large sheets of butcher paper\*
- safety scissors\*
- at least 1 small rock per child\*

\*reuse each rotation

## 2 DO



**1** Have children help you create a "campfire" in your story area. Play track 25 on the preschool quarterly CD during this activity.



**2** Create a river by the campsite using butcher paper. Place the rocks under the paper.



## 3 BIBLE STORY

When you read the story below, be sure to show children your Bible. It's important that children know this story is found in God's Word.

**SAY** God picked Joshua to lead his people into Canaan. In today's story, Joshua and his people camped beside the Jordan River, just as we're pretending to do now.

In the morning, Joshua and the rest of God's people followed the priests, who were very important men, to the river.



**3** When indicated in the story, cut the river in half. Have children pull out the rocks.

(Lead children to the river.) Then say:

The priests carried a wooden box that held the Ten Commandments. The priests walked into the river. The water in the river stopped flowing! (Cut the paper river in half.) "Wow!" said all the people. "God must be very powerful to stop a river!" Have everyone say, "Wow!"

Then Joshua chose 12 men to go into the river to bring back a stone. (Send each child into the river to get a rock.) Then Joshua told the priests to come out of the riverbed. As soon as their feet touched the shore, the Jordan River started flowing again.

Joshua and the people carried the 12 stones to Canaan. Then Joshua said, "Set down the stones. We will leave them here so everyone will always remember to thank God for taking good care of his people." Have children make a pile with their rocks and then say, "Thank you, God!"

**4** When indicated in the story, have children put the rocks in a pile.

## 4 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- Why did Joshua and his friends thank God?
- Let's thank God for being with us wherever we go. What are some other things we can be thankful for?