

Virtual Sunday School Lesson

The Promised Land (Joshua 3/4)



Bible Verses (NIV):

Joshua 3: 1-6; 14-17

Early in the morning Joshua rose and set out from Shittim with all the Israelites, and they came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing over. At the end of three days the officers went through the camp and commanded the people, 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, a distance of about two thousand cubits; do not come any nearer to it.' Then Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.' To the priests Joshua said, 'Take up the Ark of the Covenant, and pass on in front of the people.' So they took up the Ark of the Covenant and went in front of the people.

When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing towards the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Joshua 4: 1-7

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua: 'Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, "Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight." ' Then Joshua summoned the twelve men from the Israelites, whom he had appointed, one from each tribe. Joshua said to them, 'Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites, so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, "What do those stones mean to you?" then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever.'

Activity: It's a Party!!!

Theme: God delivers on his promises

Supplies: party supplies, food that contains milk and honey (can be as simple as a glass of milk with honey on bread.

Lesson:

Let's have a party!!

Forty years ago God promised to deliver his people to the promised land, the land of milk and honey. It's been a long, tough journey, but the people knew that God was always with them.

Moses had pass on and the new leader was Joshua. The people came to the Jordan river and God told them that, on the other side, was the promised land.

To cross, Joshua told the priests to step into the Jordan River with the ark of the covenant. Just like the Red Sea, the Jordan River parted and let the people cross. Joshua told a representative from each of the twelve tribes to collect a stone from the river floor and stack them on the shoreline, as a memorial. Then the priests crossed and the river returned to its former flow.

The people of God spent much of their time complaining and doubting, but God was always faithful and kept his promise.

Now... let's have a party.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father; thank you for keeping your promises, in the time of Joshua you delivered your people to the promised land, in our time you promised to send your son, Jesus, to forgive our sins and deliver us to your promised kingdom... Amen

Video: Saddleback Kids: Crossing the Jordan <https://youtu.be/FVDU4XnbolI>

Joshua leads the people to the Jordan River and the Promised land.

Duration: 2:32

Video: VeggieTales Fan: Promised Land <https://youtu.be/YEpLxGla5R0>

Musical from Veggie Tales Joshua and the Big Wall

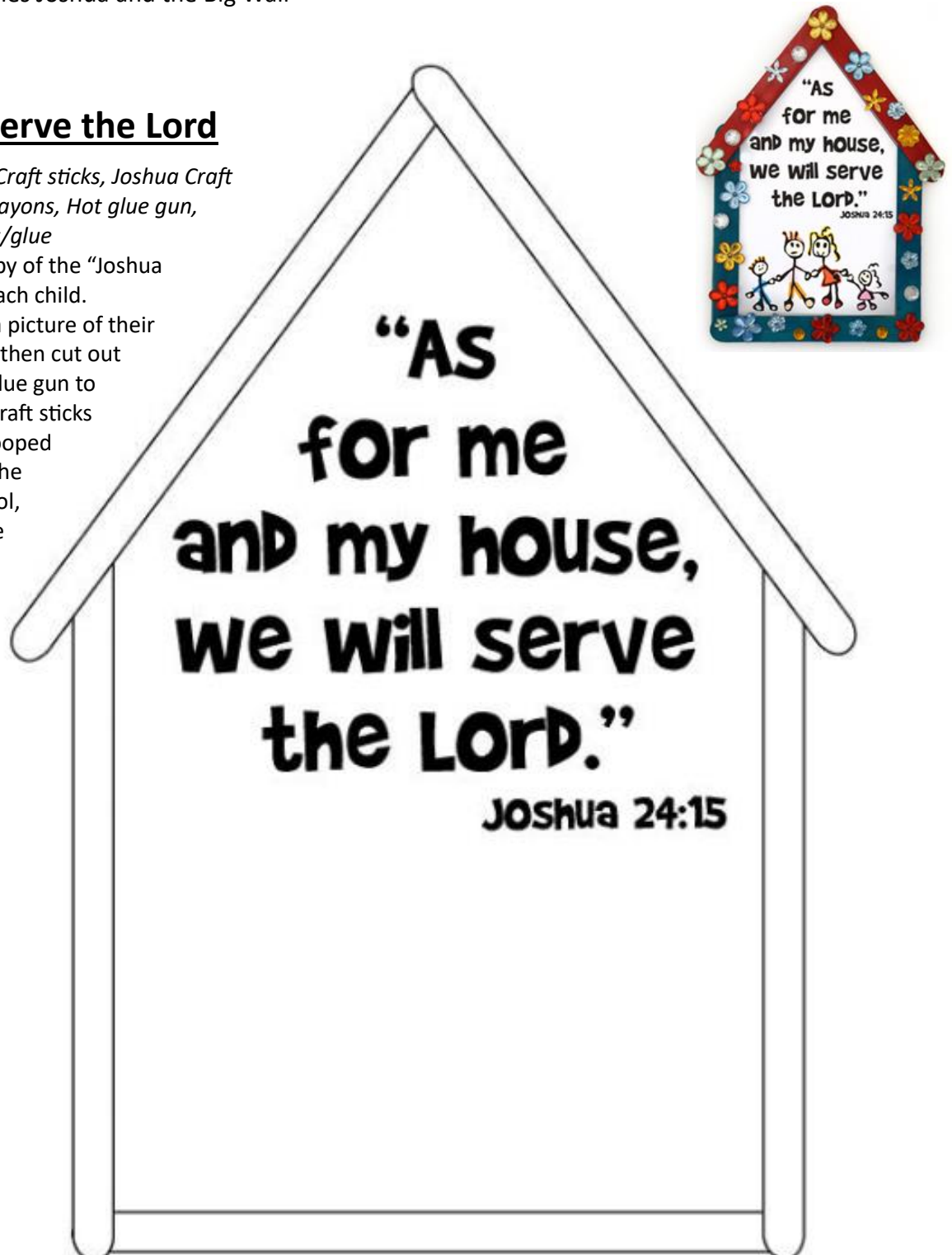
Duration: 1:40

Craft: We will serve the Lord

Supplies: Colored Wood Craft sticks, Joshua Craft stick pattern, markers/crayons, Hot glue gun, ribbon/yarn, decorations/glue

Directions: Print off a copy of the "Joshua Craft Stick Pattern" for each child.

Have the children draw a picture of their family inside the frame, then cut out the shape. Use the hot glue gun to attached colored wood craft sticks to the edges; placing a looped piece of ribbon/yarn at the top. When the glue is cool, let the children decorate the sticks with what ever decorations you have available and glue





God's People Crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

