

UPPER ELEM Flight Plan

November 16th



Lesson	Crossing the Jordan
Bible Passage	Joshua 1-4
Story Point	God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.
Key Passage	Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6
Big Picture Q & A	What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.



Remember the Time

Think about one of your favorite memories. Then answer these questions. After a few minutes, share your answers with a partner.

WHO WAS THERE?	WHAT HAPPENED?	WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?	WHAT DID YOU DO?	WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

The Big One

Describe the answer to the big picture question. (Starts at 3-4)

HOW CAN WE GLORIFY GOD?

A	W	N	E	G	P
A	D	I	O	A	C
C	M	B	F	K	L
D	Y	V	M	R	T
1	2	3	4	5	

leader bible study

Only one geographical barrier separated the Israelites from the promised land of Canaan: the Jordan River. When the Israelites arrived, the Jordan River was flooded due to spring rains and snowmelt. Any other time, the river would have been manageable, but crossing the swollen river would have been as daunting as crossing the Red Sea. (See Josh. 4:23.)

The Israelites had mourned Moses' death for 30 days (Deut. 34:8), but now this new generation looked to Joshua to lead them into the promised land. God had chosen Joshua and promised to be with him. Joshua prepared the people to cross the Jordan River, and they agreed to obey him as they obeyed Moses.

God gave Joshua a promise and a command. First, He promised to go before them and drive out all the people of the land. Then God commanded him to tell the priests to carry the ark of the Lord (a symbol of God's powerful presence) into the waters of the Jordan. Then the waters of the river would be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above would stand in one heap. When this happened, all of Israel would know that God was with Joshua.

All of the people passed over on dry ground. Joshua set up 12 memorial stones as a reminder of God's faithfulness in bringing Israel safely across the Jordan into the promised land.

The Israelites could do nothing apart from God. He was with them, and He was going to fight for them. In John 15:5, Jesus said, "You can do nothing without me."

As you teach kids this week, emphasize that God was still at work with His people. He was going to do even bigger things for the Israelites—saving them from their enemies and one day sending them a Savior. The cross is our reminder of what Jesus has done for us: a miraculous saving we could never do for ourselves.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

November Focus: Conquering the Land



Nov 2nd: Joshua and Caleb *Numbers 13-14*

Story point: Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land.



Nov 9th: Moses' Farewell *Deuteronomy 31-34*

Story Point: Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.



Nov 16th: Crossing the Jordan *Joshua 1-4*

Story Point: God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.



Nov 23rd: Taking the Land *Joshua 10-11; 24*

Story Point: God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to talk about the future. What do they think they might they be doing in a 10 years? How do they feel moving into a unknown future?

Big Picture Question

First, can anyone tell me our big picture question and answer? [*Call on a volunteer.* I'll ask the question, and then you all say the answer together. ***What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.*** Great job. Keep this question and answer in mind as we hear today's Bible story.

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the children to read together Proverbs 3:5-6.

- We disobey God when we trust in ourselves instead of trusting in Him. But as our key passage shows, God's ways are better than our ways. Life works best when we trust God and obey Him.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Using the timeline' point to individual Bible stories as you review where you are.

We've talked about God's people in the wilderness. They had a chance to enter the promised land, but they did not trust God. As a result, they were stuck wandering for 40 years - long enough that all the people who refused to trust God had died. Their children were all grown-ups now, and they were finally ready to enter the promised land. All that stood in their way was the Jordan River. Our story today is called "Crossing the Jordan."

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Joshua 1-4** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

Joshua told the priests to carry the ark into the water. The Bible tells us in Joshua 3:15 that the river was at flood stage. They could have been carried off in the current! But those priests loved God and obeyed Him. Did you notice that God didn't do the miracle until they stepped in the water? **God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.** As soon as their feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing. Not *before* they stepped, but *when* they stepped. One way God received glory through this miracle was by the priests loving and obeying Him! What was true for the Israelites is true for us today. When we love and obey God, He can receive glory no matter where we are!



•Joshua was an amazing leader. He believed God's promise that God would be with him always, no matter where he went. (Joshua 1:9) God went ahead of Joshua and the Israelites into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin. Just like Joshua trusted God's plan, we can trust Jesus to save us.

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 1-4

**STORY POINT: GOD HELD BACK THE JORDAN RIVER
FOR HIS PEOPLE TO CROSS.**

After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, it was time for the remaining people to enter Canaan. God chose Joshua to be the new leader of Israel. God told Joshua, "Be strong and courageous."

Now the only thing keeping the Israelites from the land God promised to them was the Jordan River. The Israelites could never get across on their own, but God was going to help them.

The priests carried the ark of God ahead of the people to the edge of the river. The rest of the Israelites followed behind the ark.

The priests carrying the ark took a step into the river. God made the water stop! The priests stood on dry ground in the middle of the river, and all of the Israelites crossed safely on dry ground.

God told Joshua, "Tell the people to take 12 stones from the middle of the river. Put them down where they spend the night tonight."

God wanted the stones to be a memorial. In the future, people could tell their children that God stopped the water, and everyone would know that God is mighty.

The Israelites did exactly what God told them to do. The priests with the ark crossed the river, and the water began to flow again. At last, God's people were in the promised land!



Christ Connection: God went ahead of Joshua and the Israelites into the promised land. He showed His power to them so they would trust in Him. When Jesus came to earth, He showed His power so people would trust in Him and be saved from sin.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use the table of contents to find Joshua 1–4. Explain that Joshua is not part of the Law. It is the first book in the Old Testament division called History. Review the other books in this division. (Judges–Esther) Lead the group to discuss:

- 1. How do you think Joshua and the Israelites felt as they entered the promised land?** *Guide kids to recall that 40 years earlier, Joshua was one of the spies who scouted out the promised land but the Israelites refused to go in. Prompt kids to consider how they might feel entering a place they've never been and how they feel when someone powerful and loving accompanies them. Point out that God went before His people.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Josh. 1:5.)
- 2. What did the Israelites do to remember what God had done for them? How can we remember what Jesus has done for us?** *Lead kids to retell how the Israelites carried 12 stones from the river bed and set them up as a reminder that the Lord is mighty. Invite kids to share ideas for remembering Jesus. Point out that believers celebrate the Lord's Supper as one way of remembering Jesus.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Tim. 2:8.)
- 3. How can we trust God and move forward even when we feel afraid?** *Help kids identify faith as a necessary means of trusting God in the face of fear. Explain that the Bible says faith is a gift from God, and learning about God through His Word can strengthen our faith. When we see how God has been faithful in the past, we can trust Him with our future.*
(Option: Choose a kid to read 2 Chron. 20:12.)

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Provider -Powerful

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Packing for the Promised Land

Direct the kids to sit in a circle. Instruct the first kid to say his name and say an item he thinks God's people would need to take into the promised land. Encourage kids to be specific. The next kid should repeat the name and item of the first kid, and then add her own. Continue around the circle, adding names and items until everyone has a turn. For an added challenge, require kids to suggest items in alphabetical order (first item begins with A, second item begins with B, and so on).

- God's people had waited a long time, 40 years, for the promised land. God had provided for all their needs during this time. In today's story, we're going to learn how God made a way for them to finally enter in.

Stop the Water!

Place a bucket of water on a large towel or plastic tablecloth. Challenge kids to figure out how to stop water from flowing. Ask a kid to fill a large cup with water from the bucket and pour it back in.

Select another kid to do the same, but instruct her to place her hand in the flow to see if she can stop the water. Though her hand may hold a little water, the rest will overflow and still pour into the bucket. Allow others to try.

Instruct a kid to pour water through a funnel into the bucket. The funnel may slow the water, but it won't stop it. Push cotton balls into the end of the funnel as a plug. Pour water into the funnel. It will hold more water than a hand, but eventually the water will overflow into the bucket.

- Imagine trying to stop a whole river! People can build large structures like a dam to stop water, but with enough water, it would still overflow. In today's Bible story, God did a miracle with water so His people could enter the promised land.

Pretend to be River Animals

God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross. God instructed 12 men to carry large rocks out of the riverbed and build a memorial. The purpose of the memorial was to remind them and future generations about the miracle God performed so they could enter the promised land.

When we get discouraged, it's easy to forget what God has done for us. By looking at those rocks, God gave His people an easy way to remember! Today we're going to make our own memory rocks to remind us what God has done in our own lives.

Ask the kids to share a time in their life when God provided for them or to share something they are thankful to God for. If your group is large, form smaller groups.

Distribute a rock to each kid and guide kids to write a key word or phrase on the rock that reminds them of what they just shared. Allow the kids to decorate their rocks. Recommend they place their rock in a location where they will see it every morning and be reminded of God's faithfulness to them.

Key Passage Activity

Display the key passage poster and read it through with the kids multiple times. Then cover a few of the words using sticky notes or index cards and tape. Read the key passage again, letting the kids fill in the missing words. Each time they succeed in saying the key passage, cover a few more words and repeat it again. Challenge the kids to memorize the verse over the next few weeks.

- Our key passage teaches that God promised to be with His people. Those who trust Jesus for salvation are part of God's family, and Jesus made the same promise to be with us forever. We can be bold and have courage because we have the almighty God with us all the time.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



