Plan

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| Supplies  Basic Supplies: CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Adventure Video | Pencils | Crayons | Markers | Scissors | Glue | Paper | Blocks or small boxes  Supplies for Extra At-Home Activity: Extra Activity Page |

Before You Teach

The Israelites packed up their tents and set out to cross over the Jordan River. They could see the river was high and overflowing its banks. The priests carried the chest and led the people. Whenever the people moved, this sacred chest went in front of them to remind them God was going before them. Crossing the river may have seemed like an impossible task, but they had faith that God would see them through. When the priests’ feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing and left an area of dry land for the crossing, just like when they were freed from Egypt.

Color Sections (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of the puzzle for each child.

SAY: Color the sections with X’s a dark color and the sections with O’s a light color. You will discover several items the Israelites saw when they crossed the Jordan River.

* Allow them time to color their sections.

ASK: What items did you find when you colored the sections? (God’s chest, the river water standing up straight, and the stone memorial) I wonder what these have to do with today’s story. What do you think?

SAY: God’s chest is the saced box that reminded the Israelites that God was always with them. It contained the tablets with the Ten Commandments, Aaron’s rod, and manna from the desert. The river separating reminds us of the time God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt into the desert, and will happen again in our story today—God will separate the Jordan River so they can finally cross into the land God promised. The stone memorial gets built bythe Israelites as a reminder of God’s mighty acts.

Read the Bible Story

* Find Joshua 3 and 4 in your Bible, or read “Crossing the Jordan” from the Deep Blue Bible Storybook   
  (pp. 97–99).

ASK: How long was it between the time the Israelites’ were freed from Egypt till they entered the promised land? (40 years)

**ASK:** What two great leaders did God choose to lead the Israelites on their journeys? (Moses and Joshua) What important parts did they play as leaders? How do you think the Israelites would have ended up if they hadn’t had these leaders?

See the Bible Story

SAY: The Deep Blue Kids are looking through boxes and sharing pictures of memories they have made together.

* Watch today’s episode here: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/35799-deep-blue-connects-adventure-summer-2020/35802-lessons/114917-communities-remember>

ASK: What is your favorite memory?

Sacred Conversations

SAY: A symbol is a thing that stands for and reminds you of something else.

ASK: Can you think of some symbols in today’s Bible story? (God’s chest was the presence of God with them, contained the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses; stopping the water was a reminder of the miracle God performed at the Reed Sea when God delivered them from slavery in Egypt; the stones were reminders of what God had done for them at the Jordan River)

ASK: Can you name other symbols from our faith? *(cross reminds us of Jesus, dove reminds us of the Holy Spirit, lamb reminds us of Jesus, cup and loaf reminds us of the last supper Jesus had with his friends, rainbow reminds us of God’s promise to Noah and the earth, etc.)*

Blessing

SAY: Before we end today, we are going to share a blessing with each other. Blessings show how special you are to God.

* Go around the room and say the blessing to each child.

SAY: (Person’s name), God loves you. God remembers you. God will always be with you.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for faithfully being with the Israelites and with us. Help us remember you are always with us; in Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Crossing the Jordan River (Extra At-Home Activity)

Print a copy of the extra activity on card stock for each child.

* Give each child a copy of “Crossing the Jordan River”

**SAY**: Follow these directions:

* Cut out Joshua and the family and set them aside.
* Color the picture of the riverbed.
* Use scissors to cut down the dotted line in the middle of the picture.
* Color Joshua and the family.
* Attach wooden craft sticks to the picture of the family.
* Insert the family on the stick through the cut in the picture, and show the family crossing the riverbed from one side of the river to the other by moving the craft stick.

**ASK:** Can you use the picture to tell me the story of the Israelites crossing the river?