

Overview of October Segment 2 lessons



UNIT THEME: Bible History

This month the lessons are about Bible history. The focus is on what happened in the life of the Children of Israel as they traveled from the Red Sea into the wilderness to the crossing of the Jordan.

When God freed His people from slavery in Egypt, He didn't bring them straight into the Promised Land. The journey was to prepare them for a new life in Canaan—a land which was said to be prosperous—flowing with milk and honey. Their lack of belief in God's word and promises brought forth the wrath of God. He cursed them with forty years of wilderness wandering until the unbelieving generation died off, never stepping foot in the Promised Land.

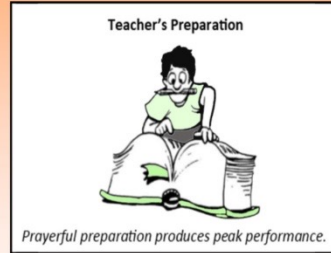
As they wandered through the desert, God revealed Himself to them more than ever before. Each of these stories is filled with miracles. In the wilderness God was present, and in the desert, He made Himself known.

It is hoped that these lessons will stir and strengthen your own faith in God and will inspire your student to develop a relationship with a God who is faithful to his promises.

October Segment 2 Lessons

- 1st Sunday Lessons from the early Journey (God's response to murmuring)
- 2nd Sunday Lessons at the Wilderness of Sinai (God's response to Idolatry)
- 3rd Sunday Lessons at Kadesh Barnea (God's response to rebellion)
- 4th Sunday Lessons at Jordan (God's response to obedience)

LESSON
Teens
October - 1st Sunday



1st Sunday.... Lessons at Jordon (God's response to obedience)

Topic: Lessons at Jordon (God's response to obedience)

Main Text: Joshua 3-4

Central focus: When are obedient to God's instructions He will take care of any obstructions.

Golden Text: Isaiah 43:2 (NIV) - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Specific Objective/Learning Outcome

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge (What will students know?)

- The Golden Text
- What is obedience
- The Jordon
- Crossing the Jordon

Psychomotor Domain - Skills (What will students do?)

Learn the Golden Text

Affective Domain- Attitudes (What will students feel /experience?)

Today we should feel determined to obey God.

Teacher's Inspiration

As you prepare to teach your students, may you be inspired by the following:



(Photo: Jordan River north of Sea of Galilee. Courtesy of the [Pictorial Library of Bible Lands](#))

The Jordan River usually flowed a hundred feet wide at the place across from Jericho where Israel crossed over into Canaan after the Exodus (Joshua 3:14–4:23). But because the Israelites crossed at flood stage, the river surged much wider and deeper.

When the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the Jordan, the water ceased its flow 16 miles upstream.

This left a stretch of dry land some 20 miles wide for the nation to cross *en masse*, perhaps several thousand abreast.

Joshua compared the miracle of the parting of the Jordan River with the miraculous parting of the Red Sea (Joshua 4:23). He linked the power of God that allowed them to enter Canaan with the power that freed them from Egypt.

This was a critical comparison. Why? The same grace that redeemed them from bondage led them home.



OPENING ACTIVITIES

Welcome Greet each child

Devotion: Foster the Holy Spirit's Presence: Song –Prayer

Topic: Lessons at Jordon (God's response to obedience)

Main Text: Joshua 3-4

Central focus: When are obedient to God's instructions He will take care of any obstructions.

Golden Text: Isaiah 43:2 (NIV) - When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Learn present Golden Text:

Memorization activity:

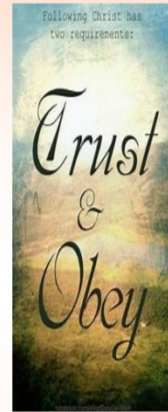
Read it	Record/write it	Recite it
Register/hear it	Rehearse it	Relate/share it

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

The Imaginative Learner

Why do I need to know this lesson?



The lesson today wraps up a period of history in the life of the children of Israel as they journeyed from the Red Sea into the wilderness and unto Canaan. Today we focus on the lessons from Jordan — God’s response to obedience

The crossing of the Jordan River was a key event in Israel’s history. Just as crossing the Red Sea changed Israel’s standing from slavery to freedom, passing through the Jordan into the Promised Land, transformed Israel from a wandering horde into an established nation.

Can you think back and remember a day you waited for a long time with great anticipation and excitement? Most of us can. As a child, Christmas and birthdays were such days. Later it may be your graduation day, or your wedding day.

Depending on the nature of the day and what it might hold, such a time might also bring about a certain amount of anxiety because of the challenge you might face. For months, weeks, and days you waited, and then finally, the day arrived. Can you imagine the anticipation and excitement the children of Israel faced as they stood before the River Jordan the evening before they were to cross over into the land?

The earlier generation had failed to enter because of unbelief and the new generation had waited a long time, for some it was close to forty years. Joshua and Caleb, who were now about eighty years old, had waited even longer. But now, Joshua tells the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you” (3:5).

To the people, the river seemed like an insurmountable obstacle. But all they needed to do is to obey God’s instructions.

The story is told of a recently licensed pilot who was flying his private plane on a cloudy day. He was not very experienced in instrument landing. When the control tower was to bring him in, he began to get panicky. Then a stern voice came over the radio, “You just obey instructions, we’ll take care of the obstructions.”

Obedience to instructions is All God expected of the Children of Israel.

This lesson is very important for you to know as it makes the point that just as obedience was all that God required of the Children of Israel, that’s just all that he is expecting of us today. When we are obedient to God’s instructions He will take care of any obstructions.

The topics to be covered are:

- What is obedience
- The Jordan
- Crossing the Jordan

BODY

The Analytic Learner

What do I need to know?

- **What is Obedience**

Obedience is defined as “dutiful or submissive compliance to the commands of one in authority.”

⇒ “**Dutiful**” means it is our obligation to obey God, just as Jesus fulfilled His duty to the Father by dying on the cross for our sin.

⇒ “**Submissive**” indicates that we yield our wills to God’s.

⇒ “**Commands**” speaks of the Scriptures in which God has clearly delineated His instructions.

⇒ The “**one in authority**” is God Himself, whose authority is total and unequivocal. For the Christian, obedience means complying with everything God has commanded. It is our duty to do so. Having said that, it is important to remember that our obedience to God is not *solely* a matter of duty. We obey Him because we love Him (John 14:23).

Ref. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-obedience.html>

The Jordan

If you’ve ever been to the Holy Land, you know the Jordan River is not particularly impressive.

The Jordan River is a 156-mile-long river that flows north to south from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, and so crooked that a man does not know which side of it he is on half the time. It lies on the eastern border of modern-day Israel and the western borders of both Syria and Jordan.



During most of the year, it is only 100 feet wide and 5-10 feet deep. But during harvest season in ancient times, the water stretched perhaps a mile across and 40 feet deep in places.

This miracle happened during the spring when the snowmelt from Mount Hermon and other mountains raises the level of the river.



When Jeremiah wrote about the Jordan River, he mentions the “thickets of Jordan” (Jeremiah 12:5), referring to the tangled growth of the willow and the tamarisk that formed an almost impenetrable barrier. During harvest season, the river plain became a vast marsh. You’ve got a raging current in the middle of the river, and then you have water that spreads out for nearly a mile, encompassing the thickets and creating an impassable barrier.

That’s the situation Joshua faced as he contemplated the crossing. There was no human strategy that would get the people to the western side of the river. But if they did not cross somehow, the Promised Land would forever remain out of their reach.

All they needed to do was to follow God’s instructions and He would take care of the obstructions.

BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?



• Instructions for Crossing of the Jordan (3-4)

After wandering in the desert 40 years, the Israelites finally approached the boundary of the Promised Land near Shittim. Their great leader Moses had died, and God had transferred power to Moses' successor, Joshua. Now they needed to be obedient to Joshua in order to cross Jordan.

* Obedience to the instruction to wait

When they got to the Jordan they camped there for three days. God made his people wait in order to teach them that if he doesn't come through for them, they will never make it on their own. Waiting time is never wasted time if you are waiting on the Lord. As they waited the Lord provided them with instructions for the crossing. This crossing was only going to be possible by obeying the instructions given to them by God.

* Obedience to the Instruction re Consecration (5)

The first instruction was that the people were to consecrate themselves. To consecrate means to set apart as holy.

Joshua ordered the people to consecrate themselves by washing themselves, and their clothes and they obeyed.

* Obedience to the instructions to Carry the Ark 3:6-17

The next day, the Israelites were assembled a half mile behind the ark of the covenant as was the instruction. [The ark is more important than anything else in the story. It was a chest with a gold top called the Mercy Seat. The ark contained the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod that budded, and a pot of manna. It represented the gracious presence of God with his people.]

⇒ The Lord instructed Joshua to keep a distance of 2000 cubits (about a half-mile) between the people and the ark. This emphasizes the holiness of God. If Israel truly wanted God's guidance, the people must learn to treat the Lord with respect.

⇒ He told the Levite priests to carry the ark to the Jordan River, which was swollen and treacherous, overflowing its banks with snowmelt from Mount Hermon. When they came to the brink of the Jordan they are to stand still in Jordan. (vs 8b)

As soon as the priests waded in with the ark, the water stopped flowing and piled in a heap, 20 miles north near the village of Adam. It was also cut off to the south. While the priests waited with the ark in the middle of the river, the entire nation crossed over on dry ground.

Once everyone had crossed, the priests with the ark came out of the riverbed. As soon as they were safe on dry land, the waters of the Jordan rushed in.

The people camped that night at Gilgal, about two miles away from Jericho. Joshua took the 12 stones they had brought and stacked them into a memorial. He told the nation it was a sign to all the nations of the earth that the Lord God had parted the waters of the Jordan, just as he had parted the Red Sea in Egypt.

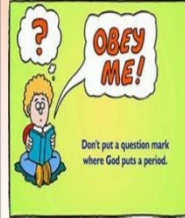
Because of their obedience to God's instructions, God took care of the obstructions.

BODY

The Dynamic Learner

What can I do with what I have learnt?

(Application)



This miracle happened after the Children of Israel obeyed, not before.

If the priests had not stepped into the raging torrent, no one would have crossed that day. Only after they obeyed did the water back up in a heap.

If there were over 2 million people, it would take hours to get everyone across. The miracle lasted until every single Jew crossed the river. No one was left behind.

The miracle lasted as long as it was needed, and not one second longer.

Is there a Jordan / difficult situation in your life now? [Consider each of the following cases and share in what way there may be an obstacle.

- ⇒ Obstacles in your education
- ⇒ Obstacles in Home
- ⇒ Obstacles in Health
- ⇒ Obstacles in your spiritual life

Is there a word from the Lord (In your Bible) concerning each obstacle?

As you consider the obstacle be reminded that when we are obedient to God's instructions He will take care of any obstructions. That's what Joshua and the children of Israel experienced as they crossed the Jordan

CONCLUSION

The lesson today wraps up a period of history in the life of the children of Israel as they journeyed from the Red Sea into the wilderness and unto Canaan. Today we focus on the lessons from Jordan — God's response to obedience.

After wandering in the desert 40 years, the Israelites finally approached the boundary of the Promised Land, on the banks of the Jordan. The river which would have been possible at other times of the year was not passable as the Jordan River, which was swollen and treacherous, overflowing its banks with snowmelt from Mount Hermon. But as they obeyed and followed the various instructions, the obstructions were dealt with.

The instruction was that the people were to consecrate themselves; Carry the Ark by observing the distance between themselves and the ark of the covenant; the Levite priests were to carry the ark to the Jordan River; When they come to the brink of the Jordan they stood still in Jordan.

As soon as the priests waded in with the ark, the water stopped flowing and piled in a heap. While the priests waited with the ark in the middle of the river, the entire nation crossed over on dry ground.

Once everyone had crossed, the priests with the ark came out of the riverbed. As soon as they were safe on dry land, the waters of the Jordan rushed in.

Because of their obedience to God's instructions, God took care of the obstruction of the Jordan

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Cognitive Domain— Knowledge...

1. What instructions were the children of Israel given in order to cross the Jordan [The instruction was that the people were to consecrate themselves; Carry the Ark by observing the distance between themselves and the ark of the covenant; the Levite priests were to carry the ark to the Jordan River; When they came to the brink of the Jordan they stood still in Jordan.]
2. Who was the leader of the children of Israel at the crossing of the Jordan? [Joshua]
3. Why would we consider the crossing of the Jordan as a miracle? [At the time of the crossing the river was impassable. However God allowed everyone to cross over on dry ground and no sooner had they crossed the water came back together.]

ACTIVITY

Psychomotor Domain – Skills... (What the students should do to reinforce what they have learnt.)

Recite Golden Text _____

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Affective Domain- Attitudes - (What the students should feel /experience.)

How does today's lesson make you feel?

What attitude or behavior does it make you want to change?

Today we should feel determined to obey God.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to experience this feeling and to change any attitude or behavior that this lesson features as being displeasing to Him.

Prayer

ACTIVITY

Arrange the following information from #1– to Tell the Story of how the Children of Israel got across the Jordan river

SNIPPETS OF THE STORY	NUMBER
Joshua : “Get ready. Tomorrow God will do amazing things!”	
All of God’s people walked across the river. Their feet didn’t even get muddy!	
Joshua said, “Follow God’s leaders!”	
“God’s people stacked up the stones they had taken from the riverbed. Whenever the people saw those stones, they remembered how God had helped them cross the river. They told how God had made the water stand up like a wall.	
The priests stepped out of the riverbed last. And then, WHOOSH! The water came rushing back!	
Something amazing happened! The water stopped rushing by! All the water stopped far away from where the people were standing. The people could see the water. It was standing up in a big wall!	
The people got ready. But then they looked at the river. The water moved fast. It looked scary! No one could swim across that fast river! How would they cross the river and get to the new land? God had told Joshua just what to do. When it was time to cross the river	
God did this!” the people shouted. “We can walk across! Thank You, God!”	
The leaders, called priests, came to the edge of that rushing river. The priests’ feet touched the water.	
As they walked across, each family leader picked up a big stone from the riverbed.	
God’s people were glad! They were almost to their new land. They were camped by a river. Their new land was on the other side of that river. Joshua was their leader. He told the people God’s instructions.	

Prayer
Next lesson

ACTIVITY (Solution)

Arrange the following information from #1– to Tell the Story of how the Children of Israel got across the Jordan river

SEQUENCE OF THE STORY	
God's people were glad! They were almost to their new land. They were camped by a river. Their new land was on the other side of that river. Joshua was their leader. He told the people God's instructions.	
Joshua : "Get ready. Tomorrow God will do amazing things!"	
The people got ready. But then they looked at the river. The water moved fast. It looked scary! No one could swim across that fast river! How would they cross the river and get to the new land? God had told Joshua just what to do. When it was time to cross the river.	
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Prayer
Next lesson

Resource material: Maps illustrating of the Crossing





Keep safe