

September 13, 2026

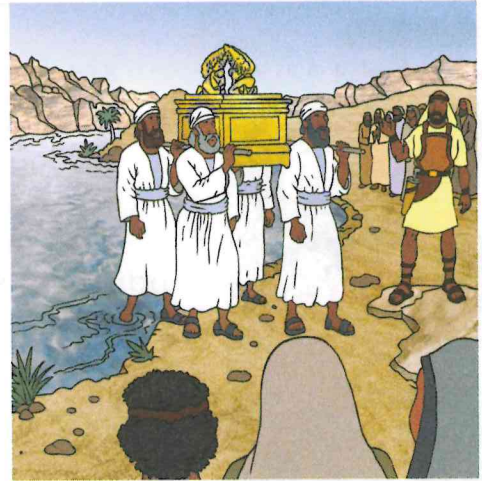
LESSON
2

Stones and Zones

God performed a miracle and held back the flooding waters of the Jordan River, so that Joshua and the Israelites were able to cross the Jordan River on dry land. God commanded Joshua to have one leader from each tribe select a stone from the middle of the dry Jordan riverbed. They were to build a monument with the twelve stones. The people obeyed Joshua's instructions. And the Lord (God) exalted and praised Joshua before all the people. The people were amazed by Joshua and respected him throughout his life, just as they had respected Moses.

Meanwhile, the priests remained standing in the middle of the dry Jordan riverbed carrying the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Law of God. Then, the Lord (God) told Joshua to command that the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant come out of the riverbed. As soon as they stepped onto the riverbank, the Jordan River began flooding as before.

Joshua encouraged the people to tell their children—whenever they asked about the meaning of the stones—that the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.



Lesson Scripture:
Joshua 4:14-18, 21-22

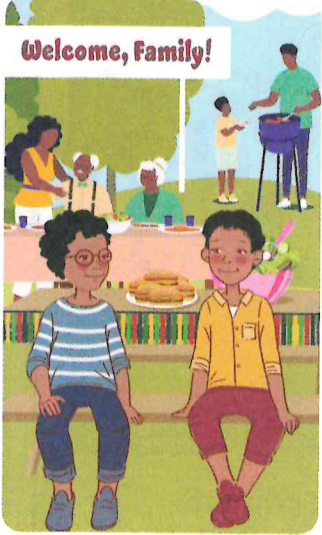
Key Verses

[Joshua] said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'" (Joshua 4:21-22)



Reasons to Be Thankful

Welcome, Family!



After school, Anthony and Eli's dad said, "Your mom and I have some news about a trip."

Smiling, Anthony asked, "Where are we going?"

Eli asked, "Are we going to the beach? I love the beach!"

Their mom said, "It's my family reunion. We're having it at a park near your great-grandmother's home."

As his smile faded, Anthony asked, "Why do we need to hear all the family stories? May I stay home?"

Eli said, "I love Grandma's stories. Her stories remind me of the reasons why I should be thankful for my family. I'm excited to go!"

Their dad said, "Yes, Anthony. You must go, and I hope you'll learn some reasons to be thankful for our family, too."

That night, Anthony's dad said, "Anthony, you and Eli do not see our family often. I hope you both learn to appreciate the gift of family from God. Just listen to the great stories and history that are shared."

Anthony said, "I'll try to listen and learn."

Eli said, "When you listen, you'll learn many reasons to say, 'Thank You, God.'"



Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab

Tell family and friends about God's blessings!



Hello, all! Ruby here. I love family reunions. I get to see my cousins, whom I don't see that often, because we live far apart. Anthony did not want to attend his family reunion, but Dad hoped he would learn that family is a gift from God. Listening to family helps us learn about our history and discover more about ourselves.

What are some things for which you are thankful? Here's your assignment: Every day, take a moment to thank God for your family, school, home, and friends. Consider the reasons for why you are thankful, list them, and we will share about our gratitude with our class during the next session.

Fill in the Blanks

Use words from the Word Box to fill in the blanks of the sentences related to the lesson.

Word Box
Dry
God
Jordan River
Joshua
Moses
Priests
Stone

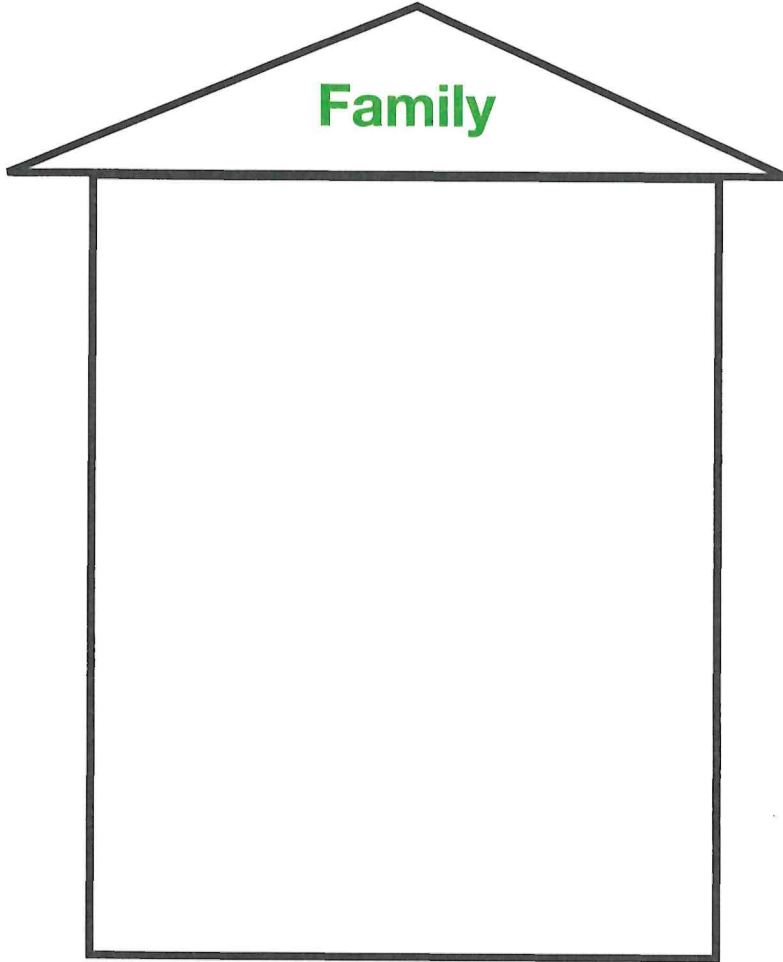
1. The Israelites crossed the _____.
2. Each tribe of Israel picked up a _____.
3. _____ wanted the Israelites to tell their children about the stone.
4. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, the ground was _____.
5. The _____ carried the Ark of the Covenant.
6. Joshua told the Israelites everything that _____ had commanded.
7. The Israelites respected Joshua like they respected _____.



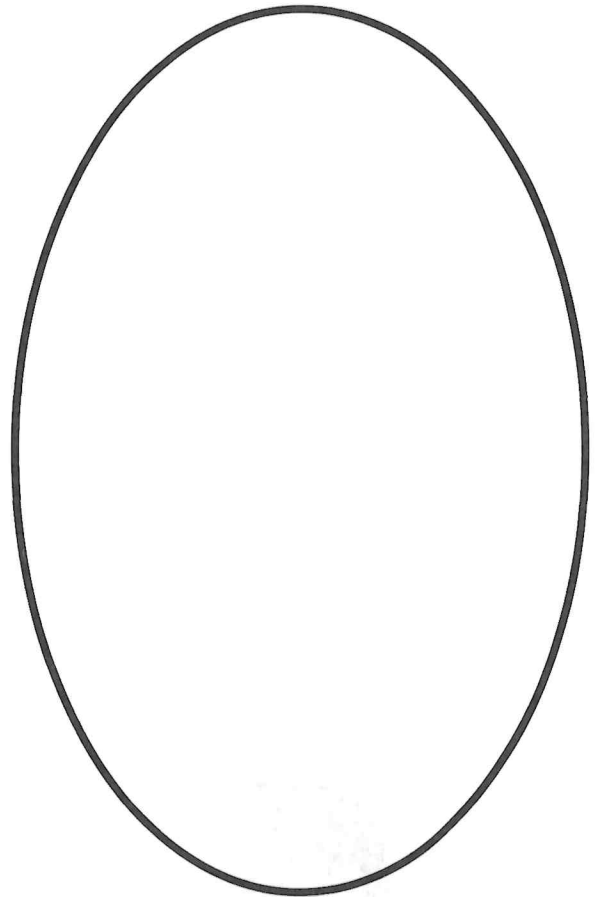
Reasons to Give Thanks

The Israelites in today's lesson had many reasons to be thankful. God had rescued them again and fulfilled His promise. God has also blessed us. For this activity, write or draw pictures in the shapes below of family members, friends, and other persons or things for which you are thankful to God.

Family



Friends



You Name It!

