



# UNIT 8: SESSION 1

## ACTIVITY

### PRETEND TO BE RIVER ANIMALS

TELL THE KIDS THAT YOU WILL CALL OUT THE NAME OF AN ANIMAL, AND THEY MUST PLAY OUT BEING THAT ANIMAL. BE PREPARED TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO ACT OUT EACH ANIMAL. USE THE FOLLOWING ANIMALS:

TURTLE	OTTER
CROCODILE	FISH
CATFISH	DRAGONFLY
DUCK	FROG
CRAYFISH	BAT
SNAIL	SNAKE

SAY • ALL OF THESE ANIMALS CAN BE FOUND AT A RIVER. A RIVER IS A BODY OF WATER THAT MOVES. THE WATER IN A RIVER GOES TO AN OCEAN, A LAKE, OR ANOTHER RIVER. IN TODAY'S BIBLE STORY, JOSHUA LED THE ISRAELITES TO THE EDGE OF THE JORDAN RIVER. THEY HAD TO CROSS THE RIVER TO GET TO THE LAND GOD PROMISED THEM. LISTEN TO OUR BIBLE STORY TO HEAR SOMETHING AMAZING THAT GOD DID!

## PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

PLACE THE KEY PASSAGE MARKER AT DEUTERONOMY 31:8. INVITE A CHILD TO OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO THE KEY PASSAGE. READ THE KEY PASSAGE ALOUD. CREATE MOTIONS FOR KIDS TO USE AS THEY SAY THE KEY PASSAGE. USE THE KEY PASSAGE SONG VIDEO FOR INSPIRATION.

SAY • OUR KEY PASSAGE SAYS "THE LORD WILL BE WITH YOU." GOD WAS WITH JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES AS THEY WENT INTO THE PROMISED LAND. GOD IS WITH US TOO!

## BIBLE STORY

### CROSSING THE JORDAN – JOSHUA 1–4

JOSHUA WAS THE NEW LEADER OF ISRAEL. HE HAD LED THE ISRAELITES TO THE EDGE OF THE JORDAN RIVER. GOD HAD PROMISED ABRAHAM THAT HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD LIVE IN CANAAN (KAY NUHN). THE ONLY THING KEEPING THE ISRAELITES FROM THE LAND GOD PROMISED TO THEM WAS THE JORDAN RIVER. THEY HAD TO CROSS THE RIVER.

JOSHUA SAID TO ALL THE PEOPLE, "GET READY. TOMORROW WE ARE GOING TO CROSS THE RIVER." THE RIVER WAS DEEP AND WIDE. THE ISRAELITES NEEDED HELP CROSSING THE RIVER. GOD WAS GOING TO HELP THEM.

GOD GAVE JOSHUA AND THE OTHER LEADERS SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CROSSING THE RIVER. THEY DID EVERYTHING GOD TOLD THEM TO DO. SOME OF THE MEN CARRIED THE ARK OF GOD AHEAD OF THE PEOPLE. THE ARK REMINDED THEM THAT GOD WAS WITH THEM.

THE MEN CARRYING THE ARK WALKED TO THE EDGE OF THE RIVER. JOSHUA SAID, "LISTEN. GOD IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING GREAT. WHEN THESE MEN CARRY THE ARK OF GOD INTO THE RIVER, GOD WILL STOP THE WATER IN THE RIVER." THE PEOPLE WATCHED. THE MEN CARRYING THE ARK TOOK A STEP INTO THE RIVER. GOD MADE THE WATER STOP! SO ALL OF THE ISRAELITES CROSSED THE RIVER SAFELY ON DRY GROUND.

GOD TOLD JOSHUA, "TELL THE PEOPLE TO PICK UP 12 STONES FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER WHERE THE MEN ARE STANDING WITH THE ARK. THEY SHOULD CARRY THE STONES WITH THEM AND PUT THEM DOWN WHERE THEY SPEND THE NIGHT TONIGHT."

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR THE STONES. HE WANTED THEM TO BE A MEMORIAL. A MEMORIAL IS SOMETHING THAT HELPS PEOPLE REMEMBER A PERSON OR SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED. THE PEOPLE WOULD SEE THE STONES AND REMEMBER THAT GOD HELPED THEM CROSS THE RIVER. IN THE FUTURE, WHEN CHILDREN SAW THE STONES AND SAID, "WHAT ARE THESE STONES?" THE PEOPLE COULD TELL THEIR CHILDREN THAT GOD STOPPED THE WATER SO THEY COULD CROSS THE RIVER. THE ISRAELITES DID EXACTLY WHAT GOD TOLD THEM TO DO. THEY PICKED UP 12 STONES AND MADE A MEMORIAL. THE MEN WITH THE ARK CROSSED THE RIVER, AND THE WATER BEGAN TO FLOW AGAIN. THE RIVER WAS WIDE AND DEEP LIKE IT WAS BEFORE. AT LAST, GOD'S PEOPLE WERE IN THE PROMISED LAND!

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** MOSES WAS A GOOD LEADER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE. NO ONE ELSE WAS LIKE MOSES—UNTIL JESUS CAME. THE BIBLE SAYS JESUS IS GREATER THAN MOSES. HE ALONE IS OUR PERFECT LEADER. JESUS DIED AND CAME BACK TO LIFE SO THAT MOSES AND EVERY BELIEVER CAN ENTER THE PROMISED LAND OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

## QUESTIONS/REVIEW

WHO LED THE ISRAELITES TO THE JORDAN RIVER? (JOSHUA)

WHAT REMIND THE PEOPLE THAT GOD WAS WITH THEM? (THE ARK OF GOD)

DID GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE TO SWIM ACROSS THE JORDAN RIVER? (NO, GOD STOPPED THE WATER AND THEY WALKED.)

WHY DID GOD TELL THE PEOPLE TO PICK UP 12 STONES FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER? (SO THEY WOULD REMEMBER THAT GOD HELPED THEM CROSS THE RIVER)

**HOW CAN WE GLORIFY GOD? WE CAN GLORIFY GOD BY LOVING HIM AND OBEYING HIM.**