LESSON 3



THE ISRAELITES CROSS THE JORDAN INTO CANAAN

Aim: **To show the children that God expects us to step out in faith so that he can help us overcome our difficulties in his power.**

Scripture Reading: **Joshua 3:1-7**

Memory Verse: **Hebrews 11:1**
Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

If you go to someone else's house and are given some unfamiliar food that you have never eaten before, you just have to trust that the cook has prepared good food. Even if everyone tells you the food is good you will have to taste it yourself to be certain. If you only say you believe them but refuse to put the food into your mouth, you won't be sure that it tastes good. No-one else can do this for you.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Forty years had passed since Moses had sent the 12 explorers into the Promised Land. Moses was dead by now. Joshua was the new leader, and he led his people to the border of the Promised Land, which was the River Jordan (3:1).
2. How were all the Israelites going to cross the river? It was in flood, so the current was strong and there was no bridge. They had many children and animals with them. This was a big problem. God told Joshua how they would overcome this huge difficulty (3:7).
3. The priests of Israel had a special wooden box called the ark of the covenant or the ark of the Lord. It held the stone slabs with the rules of life that God gave to Moses (Ex 25:20-21). The priests had to carry the ark of the covenant into the river. As soon as their feet touched the water's edge, the Lord would open up a pathway for them to cross (3:9-13).
4. Although the river was in full flood, the priests had to step into the water. They could not just stand on the riverbank; they had to step out in faith before the water would stop flowing. Only once they had obeyed God's instructions the obstacle was cleared from their way. Describe what happened (3:14-17).
5. **Show Picture 3.** The priests are standing in the middle of the River Jordan, holding the ark of the covenant. Joshua, the one in yellow clothes, is standing at the river's edge while all the people are crossing the river safely.

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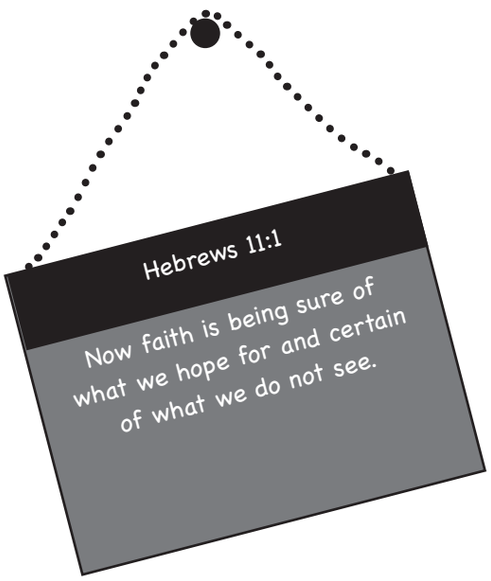


Our Response to the Story

Give the class some examples of when we may have to step out in faith.

For example, when your family moves house you probably have to change schools. Then you need to trust that God will give you good new friends and that your new teacher will be kind when they do things at school that you don't know.

Instil the Memory Verse



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