



Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 1; 3–4 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The Gateway Arch stands 630-feet tall over the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Built in 1963, the arch is made of concrete and steel, and it weighs more than 43 tons! This impressive monument is meant to remember and celebrate the westward expansion of the United States that connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is known as the “Gateway to the West.”

Monuments like the Gateway Arch are meant to help people remember the past and symbolize important events. The practice of building monuments dates back to ancient history and can be seen many times throughout the Bible. After God miraculously stopped the Jordan River for the Israelites to pass through, He gave Joshua specific instructions for building a monument. The Israelites took 12 stones from the middle of the river, and they built a monument to remember what God had done. Whenever someone asked why those stones were there, the Israelites could retell the stories of their strong and mighty God.

Psalm 78:4 says, “...tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed.” Remembering the amazing things God has done helps us trust Him. We can also tell others about His wondrous works—like how He sent Jesus to save us from our sin—so that they might believe in Him.

God’s presence went before the people, and the waters of the Jordan were stopped. God’s people crossed safely into the Promised Land. Jesus went before God on behalf of sinners. All who trust in His life, death, and resurrection are saved from judgment and enter into eternal life.

***Pray:** Lord, we praise You because You have done great things! Help us remember all the amazing things You have done and to share those stories with others to help them know You. Amen.*



Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



**Who is this King of glory? The
LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle.**

Psalm 24:8



Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Praise God for one of His amazing works you've learned about from the Bible. How does remembering God's works teach us more about who He is and what He can do for us?

Evenings

Praise God for one way He helped you today. How can God's help today remind you to trust Him tomorrow? How can sharing the story of God's work in your life help others trust in Him?



Family Activities

For Fun

Make a memorial wall in your home. Use objects, photos, or drawings to help your family remember the amazing things God has done in and through your family. Take time sharing the stories with one another and praising God for His goodness.

To Serve

Visit an elderly church member. As you share a meal or visit together, ask the person to share stories of God's faithfulness in his life. Encourage your kids to ask questions and listen to learn more about who God is and how He displays His power.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

CONQUERING JERICHO



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 2–4; 6 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever participated in a trust fall? This is when a person stands in a chair and falls backward into the arms of a few people waiting to catch them. It can be very scary to trust others to catch you. One way to make a trust fall easier is to select people you know can be trusted to catch you—like your parents or guardians. Falling backward to them is easier because you know they love you and want to protect you.

To enter the land God promised them, the Israelites had to first defeat the city of Jericho. This would not be an ordinary battle. This battle was all about trust. God gave Joshua specific (and very strange) instructions for how to conquer the city.

Joshua sent spies into Jericho to see what it was like. They were housed and protected by a woman named Rahab. In exchange for her kindness, Rahab asked the Israelites to keep her safe when they conquered the city, so the spies promised to keep her and her family safe.

Joshua and the Israelites followed God's instructions by marching around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, the Israelite army marched around the city seven times, and the priests blew their trumpets loudly. As the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell to the ground. The whole city was destroyed, but Rahab and her family were saved.

It can be hard for us to trust God, especially when we don't understand what He is doing. Even in those moments, we can know that God is good and that He is in control. The Israelites and Rahab trusted God would win the battle, and He delivered!

God's people could not bring down Jericho's walls in their own power. They trusted God and were victorious. We cannot defeat sin and death in our own power. When we trust in Jesus, we are saved from sin and death.

***Pray:** Lord, help us trust that You are good and always in control. We know that Your plans will never fail, and we thank you most of all for Your plan to send Jesus so everyone who trusts in Him will be saved! Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to give you guidance as you interact with others, make wise choices, and follow Him. How does God give us instructions for living for Him? Why is it important for us to follow the instructions God gives through the Bible?

Evenings

Praise God for the mercy He showed Rahab through the Israelites and for the mercy He has shown us through Jesus. How has God shown mercy through Jesus? How does it feel to know God loves you and wants to save you from the consequences of sin?



Family Activities

For Fun

Hold a competition to see who in your family can build the sturdiest tower using building blocks or interlocking blocks. Use books or weights to see whose structure can hold the most weight. As you build, discuss why only God could defeat Jericho. Then, read Matthew 1 to find Rahab in Jesus' genealogy. Discuss how God used this event to save Rahab and how she became part of His story to bring Jesus as the Savior we need!

To Serve

As a family, donate to or serve a local organization that supports children in foster care. As a family, commit to praying for foster-care workers and for children to be united with loving families. Thank God for His love through Jesus that makes it possible for anyone who believes to be welcomed into His family and loved forever!



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

ACHAN'S SIN AND THE DEFEAT OF AI



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 7–8 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Opossums are known for “playing dead” when a predator attacks. When threatened, the animal’s body goes limp, its tongue comes out of its mouth, and a pungent odor is released to make it smell like the animal has been dead for a while. Talk about a stinky situation!

The men of Israel suffered, and many died, because Achan did not follow God’s instructions. Once Achan had been punished for his disobedience, God promised Joshua that He would give them victory over the armies of Ai. Joshua and the men pretended to be defeated and ran, but it was a trap. The people of God won the battle and worshipped God.

The story of Joshua and Achan reminds us that we too are in a stinky situation. We are all sinners, and sin has deadly consequences. Our sin must be punished, but Jesus took our place on the cross to pay the price for our sin. As Jesus died, it looked like Satan had won and all hope was lost, but Jesus rose from the grave with victory and forgiveness for all who trust in Him.

Achan disobeyed the command of God, and his punishment was death. We also deserve the punishment of death for our sin. Jesus, God’s sinless Son, was punished in our place for our sin. Those who trust in Him are forever forgiven of their sin.

***Pray:** Thank You, Jesus, for taking our place on the cross and for enduring the punishment of sin that was meant for us. Though our sin made us enemies with God, Your perfect work has brought peace with God for all who trust in Your name. We will worship You because You are the victorious King. Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Praise God for His mercy that is new every morning. Thank Him for being always present and always ready to help you obey His commands. How does the Holy Spirit remind us of God's commands? How does the Holy Spirit help us obey?

Evenings

Ask God to remind you of His forgiveness and mercy provided in Jesus. Ask Him to help you flee from sin and obey Him in the areas where you struggle. How does knowing God's mercy is never-ending help you deal with your failures?



Family Activities

For Fun

Talk about how no sin is hidden. As a family, choose five sins that people often try to hide (lying, being prideful, being jealous, and so forth), and write those sins on index cards. Then have your kids close their eyes as you hide the cards around the room. Hide the cards so they are difficult, but not impossible, for kids to find. As kids find the cards, make the connection to how Achan tried to hide his sin. Though we all try to hide our sin, God sees it and must punish it. However, there is forgiveness for all who believe in Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins.

To Serve

Volunteer to help with the next baptism celebration at your church. Your family could fill the baptistry prior to the service, arrange the supplies and rooms where families will prepare, or make cards for those who are getting baptized. Talk as a family about how baptism is a picture of what Jesus has done to save us. He died for our sin, and He rose again to give us new life in Him.



Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

TAKING THE LAND



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 10–11 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Derek Redmond was ready to run the 400m race at the 1992 Olympic Games. Many thought Derek would win the race. But halfway through the race, Derek fell to the ground with an injured hamstring that made it impossible to run.

Determined to finish, Derek attempted to limp toward the finish line. Just then, Derek's father, Jim, came from the crowd, lifted his son on his shoulder, and helped Derek finish the race. When he needed it the most, Derek's father was there to help!

God had promised victory for the Israelite army. As Joshua and the Israelites fought the five kings' armies, the Lord was with them. And when they needed it the most, God was there to help!

When Joshua prayed, God made the sun stand still and allowed the Israelites to conquer the enemy armies. Like a father who comes to help his children, God fought for His people and gave them the land He had promised.

God fought for Israel, and all their enemies were defeated. Jesus lived a sinless life and defeated our enemies—sin and death—when He died on the cross. If we believe in Him, we receive His righteousness.

Pray: God, we know that You are a loving Father. You love Your children and always want to help them in their time of need. We praise You because You saw our greatest need was salvation and You sent Jesus to be the Savior we needed. Amen.



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Thank God for the people who help you and take care of you. Ask God to help you show appreciation for the ways they serve you today. How has God met your needs through the help of others? How is this a sign of His love for you?

Evenings

Ask God to remind you of His power to do what might seem impossible. What thoughts did you have about God when you read of His miracle that helped Joshua? How does this story show us His power over creation?



Family Activities

For Fun

Take your family on an outing to a place where you can get a good view of the sunset (or sunrise). As you take in the beauty of the changing sun, talk about how God fought for His people by making the sun stand still. Remind your kids that God is in control of everything, and we can find comfort in trusting Him.

To Serve

Guide each family member to come up with a way they can serve another family member this week. It could be making their lunch, doing their chores, cleaning their room, and so forth. Remind each family member that these acts of service for one another are just small reminders of how God loves and helps His people. The greatest example of this is Jesus, who came to serve as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.



Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 23–24 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Here's a quick challenge: make a list of all the different ways people have shown they love and care for your family. This could be through gifts, time, or words of kindness.

When we remember the ways others have shown love to us, it naturally makes our love for them grow. When Joshua came to end of his life, he took time to recall all the ways God had shown love to him and the Israelites. Joshua reminded the Israelites how God had rescued them out of Egypt, brought them across the Red Sea on dry land, and helped them win so many battles! God had shown His faithful love to Israel over and over again.

As they remembered the ways God had shown His love, Joshua urged the people to give thanks by worshiping and obeying God. Their obedience would be a sign that they remembered everything God had done. It would be an act of worship to the God who had shown them such great love!

Joshua reminded the people that God saved them from Egypt and gave them the Promised Land. He told them to worship God alone. Jesus is worthy of all worship because He saves those who trust in Him from sin and gives them eternal life.

***Pray:** God, help us remember all the ways You have shown love to us. When we think of those things, help us respond by loving You with our trust and our obedience. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Thank God for the gifts and talents He has given you. What abilities has God gifted to you? How can those abilities be used to worship Him?

Evenings

Ask God to help you use the gifts and talents He gave you to tell others about Jesus and bring glory to Himself. How can the talents and abilities God gives be used to share the gospel with others? How can we honor God by using our gifts this way?



Family Activities

For Fun

Look through family photo albums with kids. Talk about the seasons or special moments when your family experienced God's loving-kindness. Discuss how remembering His love for us makes our love for Him grow. Encourage kids to worship God with their obedience.

To Serve

Write a card or letter to the individuals God has used to teach you about Him. It could be a Sunday School teacher, pastor, friend, or family member. Thank the person for telling you about God and all the things He has done. Thank them for taking the time to encourage you in the faith.