

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Crossing the Jordan.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Joshua 3–4

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of Joshua and the Israelites crossing the river Jordan which reminds us that God can make a way even when things seem impossible.

Just like Joshua encouraged the Israelites to collect stones to help them remember God’s goodness to them help us to share the stories of what you have done in our own lives with others.

We pray for all those going through challenging times who cannot see a way through. Would you be their guide and comfort.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How do you think the Israelites carrying the Ark of the Covenant felt when they stepped into the water? What differences and similarities can you find with this river crossing and the time when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea with Moses?

The Israelites had crossed the Red Sea with Moses but nobody from that generation was left, they must have felt nervous when Joshua told them to just walk into the water. When they crossed the Red Sea they saw the water part before them, but this time they had to have faith and take their first step before God parted the water.

A question for children to ask adults

What is a story of something that God has done in your past that you can pass on to me?

Just like the Israelites stories from their own past gave them the faith to see miracles when entering the promised land our own stories can encourage expectation in the next generation.

Family Activity 1

You will need: Paint and Brushes or felt tip pens

Pick a few of the rocks that you have collected. Wash them and then leave them to dry.

Once your rocks are dry; paint or draw a design on them. You could write an encouraging word or Bible reference on them, or just do a pattern that you like.

Once your rocks are ready release them back into the wild for somebody else to find! Pray that whoever finds your rock will be blessed and encouraged.





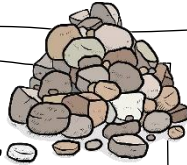
A verse to remember

Psalm 145 v 4

**Parents will tell their children what you have done.
They will retell your mighty acts.**

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Passing through Challenges together



Just as the Israelites built a pile of rocks to remind them of how God had looked after them.; why not start your own rock collection in your home?

When something good happens to your family during lockdown or you do something fun together write it on a rock as a reminder.

On days when you are struggling as a family you could go back and remember a better day and say thank you to God as you remember. Just like the Israelites we can hold onto God's promise that he has good plans for our future and that there will be better days ahead.

Family Activity 2

You will need: A piece of string or a line on the floor

Draw or create a line on the floor or use one which naturally appears in your house or garden.

Play a game of 'river – bank'. Decide which side of the line is the river, the other side is the bank. One person is the leader, they must call out either river or bank. Everybody else should jump over the line to the correct side.

Begin by simply alternating between river and bank but then make it trickier. Speed up the calls or repeat river or bank to see if you can trick people into jumping to the wrong side.

Rocks prayer hunt

Go on a search around your garden or on your daily walk, collect some rocks and then sort them and match them to these simple prayers together.

Your **ROUNDEST** Rock

Dear God, we pray for everybody around the world affected by this pandemic. Help those in the world's poorest countries, protect them through this difficult time.



Your **BIGGEST** Rock

Dear God, we pray for the leaders and government of our country as they make difficult decisions and work to keep us all safe.



Your **SMALLEST** Rock

Dear God, we pray for all the children who are not able to go to their school, help them to learn and have fun in their homes.



Your **PLAINEST** Rock

Dear God, we pray for all those who may go unnoticed but who are doing essential work – our delivery drivers, rubbish collectors and many more working in our community.



A **MULTICOLOURED** Rock

Dear God, thank you for all the colourful rainbows that have appeared in windows. We pray for all those living on our street that they would not feel lonely but would feel connected and loved during lockdown.



Your most **SQUARE** Rock

Dear God, we pray for all those keyworkers working in our hospitals and shops, thank you to all those who are working to keep us safe.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Colouring page by children's book author & illustrator Elizabeth O. Dulemba – learn more about Elizabeth's books and find more colouring pages at www.dulemba.com

Psalm 145 v 4

Parents will tell their children
what you have done. They will
retell your mighty acts.



PUZZLE SHEET

Can you find away through the maze and into the Promised land?



Can you find the twelve stones on the page one for each of the tribes of Israel.



Can you find the names of the tribes of Israel in the word search?

There are 13 names as Ephraim and Manasseh were the two half-tribes descended from Joseph.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Reuben | Zebulan |
| Simeon | Gad |
| Naphtali | Benjamin |
| Issachar | Judah |
| Asher | Manasseh |
| Dan | Ephraim |
| | Levi |

u y j o m n c d c m g n a v m
 r r u f i a h u f g e b q t l
 l s d r a p k t o b e a y o w
 i u a a r h x f u n j r x n n
 f p h u h t x e j s i m e o n
 p v z b p a r a m l i j n t t
 q a n n e l m h e s s a n a m
 d p s b a i q v h n u x b r g
 c a b h n l i f m f h u y i s
 n c g k e m u s h l m k f z i
 s b p h o r k b x r y c p j w
 o x t c b f r v e n a w s o x
 m f m e w y y f t z n n o n s
 s c v l d h g n z v r h r r j
 n a d t z c q s y z t i q r v

Rearrange the letters hidden on the page to spell out the name of the river that the Israelites crossed.

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