September 13, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:
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Class Leader:
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
We need to remember what God has done for us and tell others about it.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Father, You're sovereign over all creation. We praise You because Your goodness doesn't change, and You're always with us.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
I will mention the lovingkindness of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.
(Isaiah 63:7 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", April 17, 2023)

Fall Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

NEXT WEEK

Unit 1: From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People

Joshua Fights For God

Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

Israel Remembers God's Deeds
Joshua 4:14-24

Lesson Background and Introduction

Following the death of Moses and his generation, a change in Israelite leadership occurred (see Numbers 27:12-23).

Important events take place between the text for last week's lesson (Joshua 1:1-11) and the text of this week's study. Before entering the land of Canaan, Joshua sent spies to explore the land in general and the city of Jericho in particular (2:1). The lives of these spies were saved by Rahab, a Canaanite woman in Jericho (2:2-22). When the spies returned to Joshua, they reported that Israelite victory in the land was certain (2:24).

Having received the positive news, Joshua led the people from Shittim to the Jordan River, about five miles west, where they camped for three days (Joshua 3:1-2). We might wonder why there is a need to camp for this time after a (perhaps) three-hour walk. One possible answer to that question considers the sheer number of people involved. An earlier census indicates that there were more than 600,000, counting only men aged twenty and older (Numbers 26:2, 51). That number could easily have been tripled or more by adding women and children. Time is required to communicate with and coordinate everything for so many people (Joshua 3:1-6).

What followed was the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River. Every miracle was intended to highlight the presence of the Lord with Joshua and the Israelites (Joshua 3:7).

Priests carrying the ark went ahead of the people and entered the river. At that moment, the waters upstream stopped flowing, just as Joshua had promised (Joshua 3:14-16). As long as the priests and the ark remained in the riverbed, the Israelites could cross over on dry ground. Joshua then selected twelve men, one from each tribe, and instructed them to each choose a stone from the middle of the temporarily dry riverbed (4:1-3). These stones were arranged in such a way as to serve as a sign or memory device to following generations regarding the Lord's deliverance at that very location (4:6-7).

As today's lesson begins, almost all the Israelites have crossed the Jordan River on dry ground. Those who hadn't completed the crossing, namely, the priests with the Ark of the Covenant, exit last (Joshua 4:10-13).

Key Verses: Joshua 4:21-22

21 Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' 22 then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Remembering God's Provisions (Josh 4:14-18)

Provision of leadership authority (14)

Leadership that can be confirmed by the followers (Acts 17:11)

Leadership that is entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7)

Leadership that is blameless so as to encourage godliness (1 Thess 2:10-12)

Leadership that is faithful because of being given a trust (1 Cor 4:2)

Leadership that has integrity (Titus 2:7-8)

Provision of the Ark of the Covenant (15-16)

An Ark that represents atonement (Exodus 25:16-18)

An Ark that aids in guidance (Josh 3:3-4)

An Ark that will be in heaven (Rev 11:19)

Provision of guidance (17-18)

Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)

Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)

Guidance into insight (Ps 119:99-100)

Guidance into understanding (Ps 119:130)

Guidance into wisdom (Prov 2:6)

Remembering God's Promises (Josh 4:19-24)

Promise of deliverance (19-20)

Deliverance from death (2 Cor 1:9-10)

Deliverance from calamities (Job 5:19-21)

Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)

Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

Deliverance from temptation (1 Cor 10:13)

Deliverance that sometimes brings double blessings (Job 42:10-11)

Promise of answers to questions (21-22)

Promise of answers that must be sought (Matt 7:7-8)

Promise of answers that seek gifts from God (John 4:10)

Promise of answers that are asked in Jesus' name (John 16:24)

Promise of answers for wisdom (James 1:5)

Promise of God's power (23-24)

God's power is majestic (Exodus 15:6-7)

God's power is known (Ps 62:11-12)

God's power is mighty (Ps 147:5)

God's power cannot be turned back (Isa 14:27)