



October 6, 2019

Snapshot

Crossing the Jordan: The Promised Land

BIG IDEA:	God wants us to remember all of the great things He has done for us.
BIBLE BASIS:	Joshua 3-4
KEY VERSE:	“Remember the wonderful things he has done. Remember his miracles and how he judged our enemies.” Psalm 105:5 (NirV)

SCHEDULE
SMALL GROUP CONNECT

7–15 minutes
LARGE GROUP LESSON
30–40 minutes

REFLECT AND RESPOND STATIONS
7–15 minutes

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
15–25 minutes

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2.5 Small Group Lesson | Elementary



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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

The birth of our first child was a huge, exciting, scary, unnerving, and momentous occasion. As with all birthing stories, there is always a “story” behind the story. It is rarely, “Well, I went to the hospital and came home with a baby.” Birthing stories usually involve intimate details, timing of phases, sizes of things, roller-coaster emotions, waiting periods, medical terminology, and many mixed reactions. These details are hard to forget, or so I thought. One of my close friends gave me some motherly advice after our daughter’s birth. She said, “Write down all the details of her birth.” I thought to myself, “Why, I will NEVER forget that!” Well, I forgot. I even made a mistake on her birth announcement. Crazy, right?

I imagine that is what the Israelites felt like after escaping from Egypt, surviving in the desert and walking through the Jordan River. “Wow! What an amazing story! I will never forget that!” But, unfortunately, they forgot all too quickly. God tried to help the Israelites remember His provisions and promises by having them build a pile of stones. Whenever they looked upon this pile, they were to be reminded of the incredible journey that God had taken them on.

I have to consciously take time in my life to make reminders of God’s promises and provisions. Sadly, it is not something that comes naturally for me. I get so caught up in my “problem of the moment,” that I forget to take the time to look back and remember. As you think about your current “problem of the moment,” take some time to reminisce on times when God has provided for you and answered your prayers. And remind yourself that He is the same God today and loves you just the same.

Mindy Rausch

GO! Team Member





SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Understanding a Kid's World

One of the best ways to connect with kids is to understand the world they live in. Unfortunately, relying on our memories of being a kid won't cut it. Newsflash: kids don't know who "Captain Caveman" is and your "Speak and Spell" is a technological dinosaur to them. Even if you were a kid just a short while ago, the culture has already shifted considerably. Communicating with kids effectively, whether as a small group leader or a large group teacher, requires you to engage them at *their* level and in *their* world. Don't let the task sound daunting, though—you're surrounded by experts who would be happy to teach you!

Ask the experts: Who's the best person to ask about today's kid culture? (*Warning: obvious answer approaching*) Kids! Ask the kids in your ministry what their favorites are—movies, TV shows, music, board games, video games, apps, toys, etc. Be ready, though. Just like experts in any area, when you get them talking, they might not be able to stop!

Do some research: Who said research has to be boring? Once you know what your kids are watching, playing, and hearing, you should watch it, play it, and listen to it yourself! You'll be surprised how much you learn about kids when you visit their world.

Report your findings immediately: The next time you see the kids, tell them what you listened to, watched, or played. Their faces will most likely light up. You'll be able to reference things that are relevant and interesting to them. Best of all, you'll have an instant connection with them and they'll see you in a whole new light.



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★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

STRIKE A POSE

Say: This is our very last week of “Snapshot.” I want you tell everyone what your favorite pose has been so far. Wait! Actually—I want you to *show* everyone your favorite pose.

Directions: Encourage the kids to take turns showing their favorite “Snapshot” poses. When finished, tell the kids that there’s one last round of poses you want them to do. As a group, have the kids strike the poses listed below. Use a camera or smartphone to take pictures of each pose. When finished, show the snapshots to your group.

- Going down the best rollercoaster ever pose
- Scaredy-pants pose

Question: In our story for today, God tells the Israelites to make an interesting souvenir. Do you have any souvenirs? Tell us about them!

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

STORY QUESTIONS

Directions: During the Large Group program, kids will be asked to turn briefly to their small group and answer the following questions:

For Younger Kids:

1. What was your favorite part of this story?
2. If you saw God hold back the waters of a river, do you think you would ever forget about it? Why or why not?

For Older Kids:

1. What does this story teach you about God?
2. Do you think the Israelites would have forgotten about what God did if He didn’t have them build a reminder?





★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

REMEMBERING GOD MEMORY MATCH (Application Activity)

Say: One of the best ways to remember the cool things God has done in our life is to tell stories about them. That's what we're going to do right now, but we're going to play a memory game while we do it.

Directions: Give each kid in the group 2 blank notecards and a marker. Tell them to think of something really awesome that God has done for them or given to them. Examples might include keeping them safe in a dangerous situation, helping someone they love get better from a sickness, or giving them a loving family. Instruct the kids to write a word or (for younger kids) draw a simple picture that captures what God did for them or gave to them on one of their notecards. When finished, have them write or draw the identical word or picture on the second notecard.

Next, collect all of the cards from the kids and mix them together. Randomly lay the cards face down in a grid on the floor. Use the cards to play a game of memory match. Have the kid next to you turn over two cards. If the cards match, ask which kid created the cards and have them share what awesome thing God did for them. If the cards don't match, turn them back over and have the next kid in the circle turn over two more cards. Continue playing until all cards have been matched and every kid has had a turn sharing their story.

Question: Why is it a good idea to remember what God has done for you?

WORDS AWAY (Bible Memorization Activity)

Directions: Have your small group sit in a circle. After writing the Bible verse on the dry erase board, hold the board up so that your group can see the verse and read it together. Today's verse says:

Older Kids: “Remember the wonderful things he has done. Remember his miracles and how he judged our enemies.” Psalm 105:5 (NirV)

Younger Kids: “Remember the wonderful things he has done.” Psalm 105:5 (NirV)

After reading it one time, have the kid on your right go to the board and tell them to erase one word. Have your group read the verse again, this time reciting the missing word from memory. Keep on calling a kid to the board, allowing each kid to erase one word and then reading/reciting the verse as a group. Continue until all of the words are gone and your group can recite the entire verse.

Question: What are some ways you can remember the wonderful things God has done?

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STICKY ART PRAYERS (Group Prayer Activity)

Setup: Provide one plain white self-adhesive name badge for each kid in the group. Hang a piece of poster board or butcher block paper on a wall in the room. At the top of the board write the words, "I give my PRAISE to God."

Directions: Give each kid in your group a blank name badge sticker. Place some colored markers in the middle of the group. Tell the kids to think of something that is awesome about God or something awesome that God did and draw or write about it on their name badge. When finished, allow the kids to show their prayer art and talk about it. Next, lead your group in a closing prayer. Encourage the kids to praise God and tell Him He's awesome. Finally, when the prayer is over, lead the kids to the poster board sign that says, "I give my PRAISE to God." Tell them to give their praise to God by removing the sticker and sticking it to the sign. In the end, the kids will have created a visual art collage.

