

of twelve men to set up a memorial (see ch. 4 : 1-9) of the crossing ; and the description of how the safe crossing of the river was to be accomplished.

3. *The march of the people to the Jordan*, v. 14. The questions should make to stand out vividly the picture of the great host moving slowly from the camp to the river, preceded by the priests bearing the ark. What faith it must have taken for the people to believe that a way would really be made for them through the swollen river.

4. *The priests' advance into the river*, v. 15. How foolish this must have looked ! But it was another proof of confidence in God, and He never disappoints those who trust Him.

5. *The dividing of the waters*, v. 16. Ques-

tion out the description in this verse—the piling up of the waters far above where the Israelites were to cross and their running away far below towards the Dead Sea. Make clear the connection between v. 16 and vs. 14, 15. It is only when we obey God implicitly and without question, that His help comes to us.

6. *The safe passage*, v. 17. The quiet confidence of the priests, standing still on the river bed, sure that the waters would not come down to overwhelm them, and the complete fulfilment of the divine promise are the concluding points in the wonderful story of the Lesson.

The great teaching of the Lesson is how faith in God banishes all fear.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON VII.]

If we revisit for a moment the spot where we stood last week on a high cliff at the Moab side of Jordan, and look again across the river, we shall notice a place on the opposite bank where there is an opening in the waterside fringe of trees and bushes, showing a little space of bare ground. To-day we will take our stand on that bare part of the western bank and look back across the stream. The map marks our position by means of a small V with the number 43 attached to its apex.

The ground under our feet at the western (Canaanite) side of the river has been trampled by many feet. Several Arabs—maybe remote descendants of Esau or of

Ishmael—are before us on the river bank, their long, baggy robes and cloth head-coverings seeming very suggestive of the Oriental clothing worn centuries ago. These modern Arabs are watching a Christian clergyman while he administers the rite of baptism, but their attitude is merely that of curiosity, not of deep interest. Imagine with what awe and eagerness the Israelites who had safely reached this side of Jordan, watched the crossing of their kinsmen and the building of the memorial cairn of stones !

Use a stereograph entitled, *Baptizing in the Jordan*.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

God's faithfulness is a challenge to our fidelity. v. 7.

Trust grows strong by testing. v. 8.

It is by waiting upon God that we are prepared to work for God. v. 9.

With God promise is always followed by performance. v. 10.

Where God leads it is always safe for us to follow. v. 11.

Faith counts that already accomplished which God has undertaken. v. 12.

Divine promises are accompanied by human conditions. v. 13.

No difficulties can defeat the purposes of God. v. 15.

The God who framed nature's laws can also control them. v. 16.

What God has commanded us it is always possible for us to do. v. 17.

Something to Look Up

1. Another time the waters of the Jordan parted to let two people pass over. Read about the miracle.

2. Where is it written that even the wind and the sea obey the voice of Jesus ?