

The Lord in the midst. Ask what was the sign of God's presence with the Israelites. Tell that the priests that bore the ark stood still in the middle of the river until the people had passed over. This gave the people courage. Tell story of little girl on the ocean in a storm, who was not afraid because her father was on the ship. The people looked at the waters heaped up on either side, but they were not afraid, as long as they saw the ark in the middle of the river, for this was a sign of God's presence.

In the promised land. When all the people were safely over the river, then Joshua called the priests to come up out of the river. You know their part was to obey Joshua. Whom did Joshua obey? Yes, the Lord. In obeying Joshua they obeyed the Lord.

As soon as the priests touched the dry land on the shore, the waters of Jordan rolled back, and now there was a deep, wide river again! But all the Israelites were in Canaan. How happy they were! God had been very good to them, and now they felt sure he would help them to fight the heathen in Canaan. They knew God wanted them to be there, or he would never have made this wonderful path for them.

The memorial stones. When the people of Israel were crossing Jordan, there were twelve men whom Joshua asked to stay behind. He asked them to cross after the other people, and each man was to pick up a large stone that lay in the river bed, where the priests stood, and carry it over into Canaan.

What was this for? Joshua wanted the people to remember God. He knew that in years to come people would see this heap of stones, and ask why they were there. And some one would tell them that these stones were taken from the dry path which God made in the river Jordan for his people to walk upon. This would bring God to mind, and make people honor him.

Do we remember God? A little girl was very ill. Her father gave her a gold piece. When she was well again she asked her papa if she might give it to God, to show how she thanked him for making her well. This was her memorial stone. Has God ever helped you? Can you not set up some kind of a stone, to show that you remember God?

Lesson Word Pictures.

"One—two—three—" Somebody is counting the twelve strange stones pitched in Gilgal. It is a child to whom all the world is only a great wonder-book, and but a few of its pages has he turned over; and these stones, what are they for, the twelve that he can count? He asks his grandfather, the gray-haired Reuben. And the old man tells the story, so strange, so full of marvel!

"Come up to this hill-top, little Joseph! There, sit down and look toward Jericho. Trace the flow of the

Jordan, silver in the sunlight. One day your ancestors and all of Israel's mighty host came to the river's rim. A great pilgrim-people, we had been traveling toward this land of promise, and across our way like a wall stretched Jordan's flood. O, how could we get over the river! But the word of the Lord came that as the priests bearing the ark went forward the river would fall backward. And the word of the Lord came true, and there in the midst of Jordan's bed stood the bearers of the ark. O, how the people hurried over! How the mother seized the children by the hand and flew rather than walked! How the flocks were hurried up and went bleating over the river-bed! All the while the ark stirred not. The word of the Lord had come, too, that twelve stones should be taken from the river-bed and carried across. I was to bear a stone. Seizing and lifting it, I was carrying it away. I looked below me. As far as I could see down the river the people were crossing, hurrying, almost running, sometimes. I thought, what if Jordan should roll its waters down upon me as I bore away that stone! What if the river held back somewhere, should suddenly plunge down upon the people! I looked up the river-bed, though, and I saw the priests patiently standing. I could make out the holy ark. Then I took heart. I lifted and pressed on with new courage. On this, the other side, we waited, all that bare the stones and all the people that had crossed. At last there were only a score crossing, then five, then two, finally only one! All up and down the Jordan there was not a soul crossing. Then the priests slowly, solemnly lifted the ark and bore it across the deserted river-bed, for all Israel had clean gone over Jordan. We waited to see what would happen next. Some one said, 'What if the river should not come back by its old channel? What if it flowed somewhere else, carrying death with it?' How curiously, eagerly we looked up the valley! Then some one shouted, 'Here it comes!' How we stood on tip-toe and strained our sight to catch the first glimpse of the coming of the water. See, there it was, one advancing, frothing wave! Jordan had turned! Soon we could see its waves racing with one another, all rushing one way, tumbling, foaming, a confused heap, all plunging down the river bed, a current deepening and widening, flowing over all the flats and into all the hollows, swelling fuller and fuller until at last between us and the other side ran the strong, swift river just as it had run before! We wondered if our crossing had been all a dream. No, the stones at our feet, the stones still stained with the ooze of the Jordan, told us it was no dream. Over Jordan Israel had gone. We came up out of Jordan the tenth day of the first month, and here in Gilgal we set down the stones which silently tell the story of the crossing. They have been here to this day—that one there was the one I brought—and all tell how God led his people over Jordan even as he led them through the Red Sea."

With an awe in his face the child laid his hand on the memorial stone that his gray-haired grandfather had brought up out of the bed of Jordan.

B. C. 1451.]

LESSON IV. THE FALL OF JERICHO.

[Oct. 28.

Josh. 6. 1-16.

[Commit to memory verses 15, 16.]



1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

2 And the Lord said unto Joshua, a. See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor.

3 And ye shall compass the city,

all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down