

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL BULLETIN NO 19

This week we reach the end of the journey for the Israelites. They had walked around the wilderness for 40 years, learning that God's way is best. All the older generation had died, except Caleb and Joshua. **Read Deuteronomy 34 v 9.**



1) Who was the new leader of the Israelites now Moses had died?

Look up Joshua 1. 2) What was the last barrier to entering the land of Canaan that the people had to cross? (v 2)

3) Were the people ready to obey God this time? (v 16)

Look up Joshua 3. 4) What did God promise would happen when the priests entered the river as the people were to cross over? (v 13)

5) Did God keep His promise? (v 14-17)

6) What do you learn about God from the way He kept His promise?



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Look at Joshua 4 v 9, 19-24. 7) What did Joshua set up to help them remember this miracle? (v 20)

The Israelites were home! Although they faced many battles ahead (which we will learn about another time), they trusted that God would help them.

Our life is like a journey too. We live in this world only for a time. At the end of our journey eternity awaits each one of us.

8) What 'home' do Christians look forward to?

As they face difficulties in this life, they can trust that one day they will be at peace, living with the God they love and serve here for ever and ever. Can you say that? Have you trusted in Jesus to take you to Heaven?

What is Heaven like?

By comparing the wilderness journey with life in Canaan, we can learn how wonderful Heaven is to a Christian after the struggles in life on earth.



1) A permanent home. What had the Israelites been living in all through their journey? What a relief to be able to settle down!

2 Corinthians 5 v 1 compares our body on earth to a tent. One day it will be taken down for the last time. Death for a Christian is like crossing a river and arriving safely in the promised land of Heaven for ever.

2) Fruit to eat. What had the Israelites been eating all through their journey? Now they were in a land where fruit and other food grew easily. When Christians reach Heaven, they will enjoy the wonderful pleasure of being spiritually fruitful - no more sin!



3) Their own land. The Israelites had been 'foreigners' for many, many years. Now they had a place of their own to live. Heaven is a home for those for whom Jesus has died. **Read John 14 v 1-2.** What has Jesus prepared for His people?

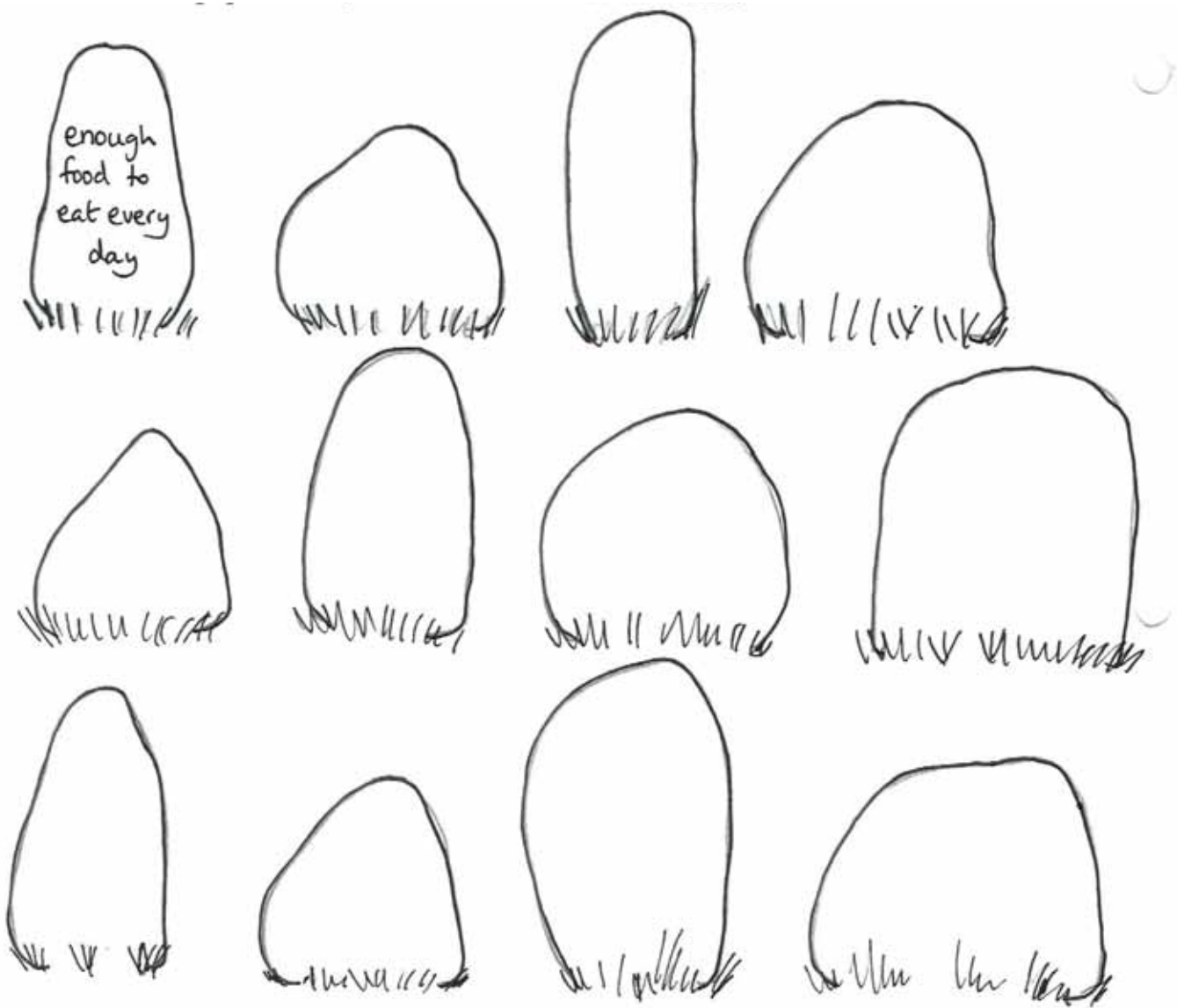


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Other blessings: Heaven is amazing! No more pain; such beauty; the Lord is with His children; they receive new, perfect bodies; all other Christians will be there too.
Will you? Have you trusted in Jesus?

Stones to help them remember

God told Joshua to set up twelve stones in the River Jordan to help the people remember how good God had been to them. They could tell their children about God too. The stones would help the people remember to be thankful to God.

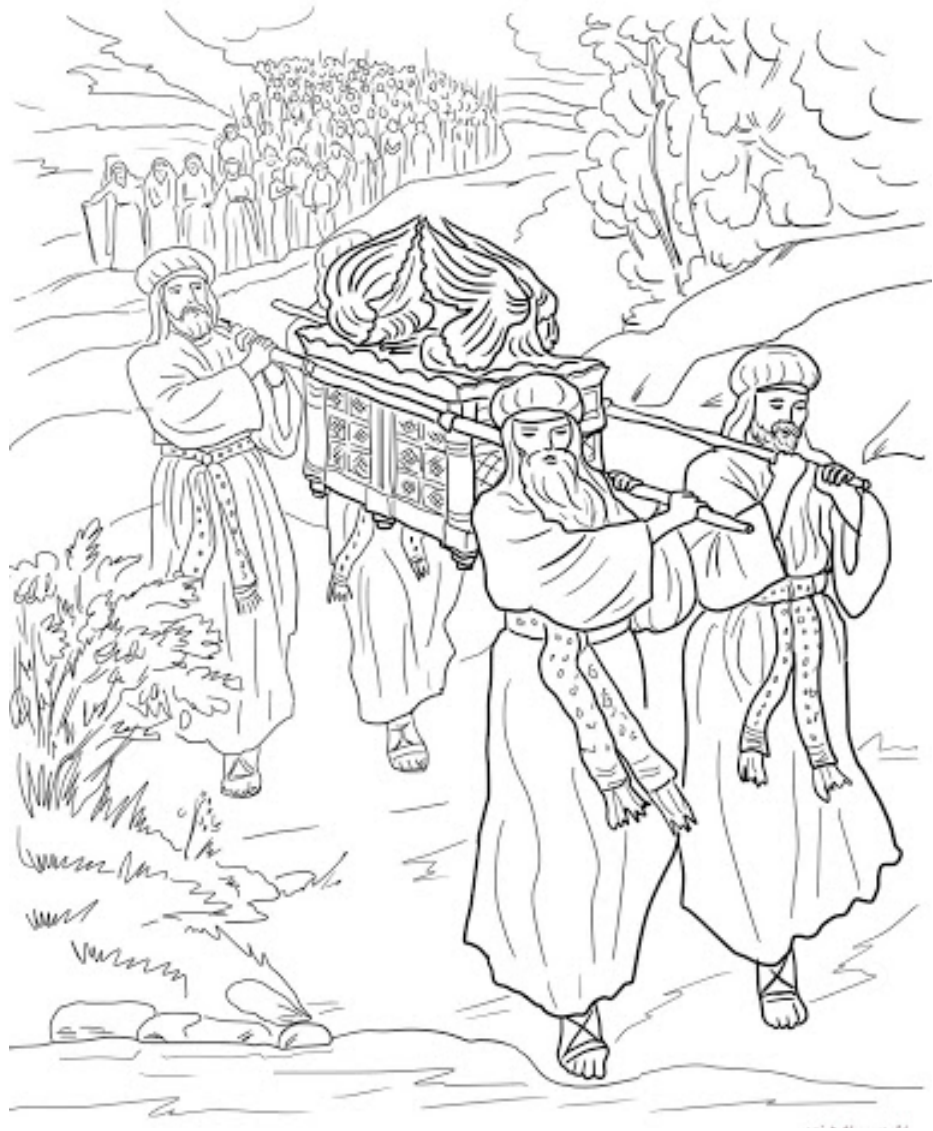
We all have many blessings from God every day. Think of some things you could say Thank You to God for. Write one thing in each stone, and then say Thank You! The first one is done for you.



A verse to memorise:

**“I will remember the works
of the Lord.” Psalm 77 v 11**

For younger ones



Read Joshua 3 v 1-4, 14-17

After 40 years in the desert, all the older Israelites had died - all except Joshua and Caleb, two faithful men. Even Moses had died. God said that Joshua was the new leader.

The people came at last very near the Promised Land which was to be their new home. In front of them was the River Jordan, overflowing its banks. There was no way across. God told Joshua that He would stop the river flowing as soon as the feet of the priests touched the water.

The people trusted God. The priests carried the special Ark from the tabernacle down to the river. As they put their feet into the Jordan, the water stopped flowing! God stopped it! Everyone could cross safely to their new home.

People who trust in Jesus will be taken safely to their new home at the end of their life. They will go to Heaven to live with God.