

A Vacation Bible School Curriculum for the Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

Lesson One



the great investigation

the case of the
towering stones



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

	<div>LESSON ONE</div> <div>The Case of the Towering Stones</div>	<div>LESSON TWO</div> <div>The Case of the Hanging Red Cord</div>	<div>LESSON THREE</div> <div>The Case of the Broken Jar</div>	<div>LESSON FOUR</div> <div>The Case of the Missing Grain Bag</div>
MAIN POINT	God loves us and prepares a way for us before we know we need Him	God offers salvation to everyone through His Son, Jesus	When we give our lives to God, He will guide us and teach us	God is always faithful, so we can trust Him
MEMORY VERSE	Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. Acts 10:34-35	Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14	For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5
BIBLE STORY	Joshua and the Israelites cross Jordan River Joshua 1, 3-4	Rahab believes in God Joshua 2:1-24; 6:1-25	Gideon is led by God Judges 6:36-40; 7:1-25	Ruth finds a new home Ruth 1-4
CLUE OF THE DAY	God seeks us.	God saves us.	God leads us.	We can trust God.
THEOLOGICAL FOCUS	Prevenient Grace	Salvation	Sanctification/ Covenant	Ongoing Discipleship
LESSON ICON	 <div>Tower of Stones</div>	 <div>Red Cord</div>	 <div>Broken Jar</div>	 <div>Bag of Grain</div>

WEEK AT A GLANCE

LESSON ONE

The Case of the Towering Stones

LESSON TWO

The Case of the Hanging Red Cord

LESSON THREE

The Case of the Broken Jar

LESSON FOUR

The Case of the Missing Grain Bag



EVIDENCE VAULT

Joshua and the Israelites cross the Jordan River

Rahab believes in God

Gideon is led by God

Ruth finds a new home



INVESTIGATION LAB

Types of Fingerprints, Lifting Fingerprints

Unknown Powder, Evidence Left Behind, Match the Fibers

Unknown Liquids

Investigating Footprints



DISCOVERY SHOP

Detective Case Solving Kit, Handprint

Salvation Bracelet

Gideon's Trumpet

Grain and Seed Mosaic



CONFIDENTIAL CAFÉ

Crossing Jordan Crackers

Jericho's Wall Rice Krispy Square

Gideon's Torch Snack

Boaz's Field Brownie



FIELD ADVENTURES

Hide and Seek Tag, Fingertip Relay

Weaving A Web, Strings Attached

Blindfolded Obstacle Course, Make a Motion

Shoe Shuffle, Hopscotch



DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT

Small empty container, Clear tape, Small paintbrush, Cocoa powder, Index cards

Magnifying glass, Tweezers

No additions

Black crayon, White paper



INTRODUCTION

- 🐾 **Main Point:** God seeks each one of us before we know Him because He loves us.
- 🐾 **Memory Verse:** “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9
- 🐾 **Bible Story:** Joshua and the Israelites cross the Jordan River; Joshua 1, 3-4
- 🐾 **Clue of the Day:** God seeks us.
- 🐾 **Theological Focus:** Prevenient grace

God seeks us long before we even know Him. He loves each one of us and longs to have a relationship with us. During Lesson One, the children will learn that God is seeking them much like God was seeking out the Israelite people and a leader for them. His care and love for the Israelite people is an example of prevenient grace, a first step in God’s plan for each one of us.

God had brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt by sending Moses to them. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, it was time to go into the Promised Land. Moses would not be going with them. After he died, God sought a leader and chose Joshua. The first step into the Promised Land was crossing the Jordan River. God was with His people and provided a way for them to cross the river.

OPENING



SUPPLIES

Lesson One PowerPoint (opening slides and Clue of the Day motions)

Worship music lyrics or slides

Skit props and supplies

WELCOME

Director: Welcome to *The Great Investigation* where we will be tracking down God's plan using our sleuthing skills. This week, we are going to be doing some detective work to solve important cases. I am **(enter your name here)** and I am thrilled to see all of you sleuths here today. Are you ready to track down some clues?

WORSHIP MUSIC

If possible, provide the lyrics through PowerPoint or posted where everyone can see them.

SKIT

SETTING

A detective agency office. Furniture in the room includes office desk and chair, coat rack, extra chair, and a filing cabinet. Typewriter, lamp, and rotary phone are on the desk. A trench coat and fedora-type hat are hanging on a coat rack.



SUPPLIES

File Folder

Print out of "The Case of the Towering Stones"
(Lesson 1, Resource 1)

Print out of "God Seeks Us"
(Lesson 1, Resource 2)

Large dog bowl

Large dog bone

Two pairs of plastic gloves



Fingerprint dusting kit (fingerprint dusting powder or cocoa, brush, plastic container with a handle)

Bloodhound barking sound effect (PowerPoint slide)

Piece of plain paper for the typewriter

Tape or glue

Permanent marker or paint

PREPARATION

1. Glue or tape Resource 1 printout on the file folder or write “The Case of the Towering Stones” on the front of the file folder. Tear off a corner of the file folder to look like a dog bite.
2. Print out Resource 2 or write “God seeks us” on a piece of paper. Tear off a similar corner of the paper to match the file. Place the paper inside the file folder. Put the file folder under the desk with a corner peeking out.
3. Use permanent marker or paint to write “SHERLOCK” on the side of the dog dish. Place the dog dish and the bone where they are visible to both the audience and actors.
4. Place fingerprint dusting powder and paint brush in the plastic container. Place the fingerprint kit and gloves in the filing cabinet (or on a table if no filing cabinet).
5. Cue the bloodhound barking sound effect.
6. Insert the plain piece of paper into the typewriter.

CHARACTERS

Chief Investigator Emery King, Detective Snoop Tracy, Sherlock (unseen bloodhound)

Emery King is wearing slacks and shirt. Snoop Tracy is wearing a bright-colored shirt (Hawaiian or similar) and pants.

DIALOGUE

(Chief Investigator Emery King is sitting behind the desk typing. Detective Snoop Tracy enters the room.)

Snoop: Excuse me. Are you Chief Investigator Emery King?

Emery: *(Looks up from his typing.)* Yes. What do you need?

Snoop: I’m the new investigator, Snoop Tracy. We talked on the phone. The boss sent me over to help with a few cases.

Emery: Ah, yes. Well, come on in. *(He continues to type for a moment then looks up.)* Is it difficult to snoop around while wearing such a . . . hm. . . bright shirt?

Snoop: *(Looks down at his shirt.)* I’ve never thought about it. Um, so I’m new to this. Actually, this is my first case.

Emery: I see. That does not surprise me. *(He continues to type.)*

Snoop: *(Fidgets awkwardly in front of Emery while looking around the room.)* Do I have a desk or somewhere to work?

Emery: *(Stops typing. Looks around the room.)* Pull up a chair by my desk.

Snoop: *(Grabs a chair and places it on the opposite side of the desk from Emery. He looks over at the dog bowl and dog bone for a moment.)* So, who is Sherlock? And where is he. . . or she? A dog? What kind of dog is it?

(Emery looks up from his typing and glares, then goes back to his typing.)

(Snoop continues to look around him. He reaches down and picks up the file under the desk.)

Emery: *(Dramatically pulls the paper out of the typewriter.)* Report is completed. *(He places the paper on the desk.)*

Snoop: There was a file under your desk. It says, "The Case of the Towering Stones."

Emery: Ah ha! I've been looking for that file. Who might have taken it? Under the desk you say? Let me see that.

Emery: *(Retrieves the gloves and pulls them on before reaching for the file folder.)* Any fingerprints? Unfortunately, your prints are all over it. *(Glares at Snoop.)*

Snoop: A piece of evidence? It just looked like a file had fallen off your desk.

Emery: True. Very well then, let's dust it for fingerprints.

(Snoop jumps up, gets the fingerprint dusting kit, and places it on the desk.)

(Emery opens the kit and cautiously sprinkles the dusting powder on the file. He brushes it off using the paint brush.)

Snoop: Definitely fingerprints on the file. I wonder whose they are? Mine? The felon?

Emery: Let's examine these in the lab. *(Pause)* We'll need your prints to compare. Oh, I recall this case involved a tower made of stones! How did the tower appear? Is there any further evidence?

Snoop: What about this corner turned down? What could have made that? It looks like a bite was taken out of it! Was the suspect hungry?

Emery: Something took a bite out of it. *(Looks confused as he examines the bite mark.)*

Snoop: But why? Why would someone take a bite out of a file folder? Why? *(He looks concerned and scratches his head.)* A human? An animal? *(Eyes open wide.)* Like a big, scary wild animal?

(Emery ignores Snoop and opens the file. He looks startled as he pulls the piece of paper out of the file.)

Snoop: What does it say?

Emery: “God seeks us.” That’s strange. This wasn’t in the file last night. It certainly is a clue.

Snoop: God seeks? Is God a detective trailing a suspect? Like pursuing a felon?

Emery: *(Interrupts)* Enough! We need an investigation. We need answers.

(Emery grabs the folder and heads out with Snoop following. As they leave the stage, the sound of a dog barking [cue bloodhound barking] is heard by the audience.)

CLUE OF THE DAY

Director: Every day as we are tracking down God’s plan, we will uncover a Clue of the Day. This clue helps us to understand and remember God’s plan for our lives.

Today our Clue of the Day is “God seeks us.” Please say that with me. *(Pause and repeat it.)* Make sure you listen closely today and when someone asks what the Clue of the Day is, you are going to say... *(Pause for kids to shout the clue.)* God seeks us! Just like Detectives Snoop and Emery are seeking who the fingerprints on the files belong to, God seeks each one of us. He wants us to know that He loves us and wants us to have a relationship with Him.

The Bible says in Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” God loves us so much that He wants to be with us wherever we go. We are that important to Him.

Let’s learn some motions to help us remember today’s clue. Remember, God loves us and wants a relationship with us so... *(do the motions while saying the Clue of the Day)* God seeks us.

God	seeks	us.
<i>(Point to sky)</i>	<i>(Hand on forehead as if to salute, then move head back and forth)</i>	<i>(Point both thumbs to self)</i>

OFFERING

(Tell the children how you will receive the offering and discuss the offering project. See the information provided for the Kids Reaching Kids offering project.)

Okay all you detectives, let’s get searching for more clues as we track down God’s plan. *(Dismiss the children by groups to their scheduled activity rotation. Make sure each group knows where they will be going.)*



ACTIVITY ROTATION

EVIDENCE VAULT

Bible Story: Joshua 1, 3-4

Joshua and the Israelites cross the Jordan River

✓	SUPPLIES	✓	
	Roll of brown shipping paper		Small notebook for each child*
	Blue plastic (tablecloth or roll of blue plastic)		Copy of front of notebook design for each child (Lesson 1, Resource 4)
	12 brown paper lunch bags		Pencil or pen for each child
	Tape (clear or brown)		Glue
	Rectangular treasure chest or box		Yellow police tape (or rope)
	10 copies of footprints (Lesson 1, Resource 5) on brown cardstock		A Bible
	Tent evidence numbers (Lesson 1, Resource 3) printed on yellow cardstock		PowerPoint slides (for Clue of the Day motions)

*Alternative: Staple at least 10 index cards (or paper cut the approximate size of an index card) together to create a notebook.

PREPARATION

- Read all the instructions before the children arrive.
- Designate an area for the evidence scene. This area should be large enough for the children to gather around the edges to examine the scene.
- Make the tent evidence number signs. Copy the pattern onto heavy cardstock. Cut out the signs. Fold in the middle to form a tent that will stand up on its own.
- Prepare the notebooks for the children. Each child will have a notebook and a pencil to draw the evidence scene or write down clues. The design (Resource 4) can be cut out and glued on the notebooks (optional).
- Set up the evidence scene in the designated area. Surround the area with police tape or rope.

EVIDENCE SET UP

Divided Jordan River (Evidence 1 and 2)

- Roll out approximately 6 feet (1.8 m) of the brown shipping paper for a river bottom. Place this on the ground and secure it with tape. Place evidence sign #1 beside it.

- Roll out half the blue plastic on one side of the river bottom for the water. Do the same with the other half. Pull some of the blue plastic up and crunch it together beside the river bottom to look like water standing in place. Place evidence sign #2 beside it.

Treasure Chest/Box (Evidence 3)

- Place the treasure chest along the river bed. Place evidence sign #3 beside it.

Footprints (Evidence 4)

- Cut out the footprints.
- Place footprints going across the river bed. Place evidence sign #4 beside one set of footprints.

Tower of stones (Evidence 5)

- Fill the brown paper lunch bags with left over wadded up shipping paper. Tape the ends closed. Push the ends together to round it out to simulate a stone. Make 12 stones.
- Stack the stones together to make a tower a few feet from the river. Place evidence sign #5 beside it.

STORY

You may use the following script to tell the story.

Say, **Welcome to the Evidence Vault. This is the place where we will examine the evidence that has been collected and solve the Case of the Towering Stones.**

Each of you will have your own notebook to sketch a picture of the evidence scene or write down clues. *(Give out the notebooks and the pencils.)* Make sure you write your name on the front of the notebook. *(If optional detective kits are being created, instruct the children to put the notebooks in their detective kits. See Investigation Lab rotation for more information.)*

I'm going to give you a few moments to look at the evidence. Make sure you don't touch anything. Stay behind the tape/rope. As you look at the evidence, you might be curious about what happened. Feel free to draw or write what you think might have happened in your notepad. Remember the questions to answer to solve the case: Who put the tower of stones here? Why did they put them here?

(Let the children move around the room looking at the evidence. Give them enough time to see each item.)

Let's all take a seat while I go through the evidence and we discover what happened. As we look at the evidence, we'll also look for clues in the Bible. Joshua 1, 3, and 4 may give us some clues. *(Show the children where the book of Joshua is in the Bible.)*

The first piece of evidence is the brown paper. This represents a dry river bottom. Something had to happen to make the water go away and leave the river bottom dry. Does anyone have an idea? *(Let a few of the children give their ideas.)*

The second piece of evidence is the blue plastic, which represents the river. It looks like the river was stopped. This might help us to understand what happened with the first piece of evidence. Does anyone have an observation?

Why do you think the water was stopped so that dry land would appear? (*The children might remember the parting of the Red Sea found in Exodus.*)

God was seeking out a people. They were called the Israelites. A terrible thing happened to them—they had become slaves in Egypt. They had cried out to God, and God had sent a man named Moses to bring them out of Egypt. Once they escaped from Egypt, they were in the desert wilderness for 40 years. God had promised them that He would bring them to a special place. They had some trouble along the way and turned their backs on God. But He didn't give up on them. He kept seeking them.

After 40 years of waiting, it was time to go into the land that God had promised. Their leader, Moses, had died and so God sought another leader. His name was Joshua. God told Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). God had sought out Joshua and would be with him as leader of the Israelites.

Joshua prepared the people to go into the land God had promised, but they had a problem. How would they get across the Jordan River? God had a plan for them. This leads us to evidence #3.

What do you think evidence #3 is? It looks like a treasure box. Why do you think it is in the river bed?

The Israelites had a very special box that was covered in gold. It held some things that reminded them of how God had sought them and how He was working in their lives. It was called the Ark of the Covenant. It was so special that you couldn't touch it. Poles were placed in loops on the sides, and priests carried it by placing the poles on their shoulders.

Joshua told the people to listen to the words of God and then told them what God had said. The Ark of the Covenant would be carried by the priests, and the people would follow it from a distance. When the feet of the priests rested in the water of the Jordan River, the water would quit flowing, creating a path for the people to cross.

Do you think the people did what Joshua told them?

Evidence #4 shows us. There are footprints going across the riverbed. Do you think this means the people followed the priests and crossed the river on dry ground? Yes, it does.

The ark of the covenant was carried by the priests. The people followed. When the priests' feet touched the edge of the water, the flowing water stopped. The priests stood firmly on dry ground while the people passed by onto the other side of the river.

This leads us to the next evidence. Number 5. The towering stones. How many stones are here? (12)

Why do you think they are stacked like this? Do you have a guess? *(Give the children time to share.)*

When the Israelites got safely to the other side of the Jordan River, God told Joshua, "Take twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."

Joshua chose 12 men, one from each tribe, and told them what God had said. He told them these stones would be a reminder so they could tell their children about how the Jordan river stopped flowing and the people crossed on dry land. The men did exactly as Joshua commanded them.

The priests remained standing in the Jordan until all the people had safely crossed the river. Then the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to the other side of the river where the Israelites were. The river started flowing again.

Do you remember what our Clue of the Day is?

God <i>(Point to sky)</i>	seeks <i>(Hand on forehead as if to salute, then move head back and forth)</i>	us. <i>(Point both thumbs to self)</i>
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God was seeking His people the Israelites. There were times they forgot all that He had done for them. God continued seeking them out to bring them to the land He promised. God also was seeking a leader, which He found in Joshua.

God seeks each one of us. He knew us and loved us long before we knew Him. He wants to have a relationship with each of us.

There is a story in the Bible about how a shepherd went to seek out one lost sheep even though he had 99 sheep with him. That one sheep was important to the shepherd. Jesus told this story to show how important each one of us are to Him. Jesus will go and seek us even if we are the only one lost. He loves us so much.

PRAYER

God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for seeking each one of us and wanting a relationship with us. Help us to learn more about You and to be open to hearing from You. Amen.



ACTIVITY ROTATION

INVESTIGATION LAB

There is one group activity with two optional individual activities.

GROUP LAB – TYPES OF FINGERPRINTS



SUPPLIES

	PowerPoint slides (fingerprint types) or printout of the slides
	Drinking glass
	Fingerprint powder or cocoa
	Small paintbrush
	Clear tape
	Index card

PREPARATION

- None

Say, **Welcome to the Investigation Lab.** Today we are going to be doing some experiments with fingerprints.

First let's look at Isaiah 64:8 "Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." God used His hands to create us! How cool is that?! Our hands are important to God (Psalm 24:4).

Today we want to learn about our fingerprints and handprints that God created individually.

Over 100 years ago, in 1901, detectives started using fingerprinting to identify individuals. They could do this because no two people have the same fingerprints. If they had a good fingerprint that identifies a person, it could help solve a case.

Hold up your hand. Look at the prints (swirls and ridges) on the top part of your fingers. Look at the fingerprints of the person sitting next to you. It's hard to see them but we will use some techniques to help you see them better during our experiment time.

Even though each one of us has different fingerprints, God knows each one. He made each of us unique, even our fingerprints.

Not only do we have fingerprints that are unique, but the palms of our hands and the soles of our feet

also have these ridges with a different pattern than other people.

There are different kinds of fingerprints. Let's look at these (*Lesson One PowerPoint slides*).

The first kind of fingerprint is the loop. More than half of people have this fingerprint (65%).

The second kind is the whorl. More than 1/3 of people have this one (35%).

Finally, the third kind is the arch. This one is rarer. Only 5% of people have this one.

Hold up your pointer finger. Can you tell which type of fingerprint you might have on that finger? Lots of people have the same type of pattern; however, within those patterns are differences that are unique. Each finger has different numbers of ridges and different characteristics of the ridges. Remember, no one else has your same fingerprint.

Fingerprints are made by tiny ridges. When you touch something with your fingers, you leave what is called a latent print. These are formed by the oil and sweat on your fingertips. The sweatier you are, the better print you will make. Sometimes the prints can be seen. For instance, have you ever pressed your hand on a cleaned glass door or a window? You can see the handprint. Usually, though, a print cannot be seen with a human eye. You will need help seeing them.

Investigators will lift a print so they can see it by using a special powder.

Let's see if we can lift a print off this drinking glass. I am going to wipe off the glass so no prints are on it. Now, I need a volunteer to come and pick up the glass so a fingerprint is left on it. (*Choose a child to come forward and pick up the glass in such a way that their fingerprints touch the glass.*)

I am going to put some powder on the glass and dust it off lightly. I have to be very gentle when I do this. (*Lightly sprinkle the powder on the glass and gently brush it off with the paintbrush.*)


Next, I am going to place a piece of tape on the fingerprint and lift it off. Then, I will place the tape with the print on a white index card. Can you see the fingerprint? What type of pattern does it have? (*Pass the fingerprint around.*)

Does it make you wonder when you think about all the people in the world having a different fingerprint? It makes seeking out the owner of a fingerprint possible, but it would take a lot of time to do that. Today, detectives use computers to seek out the owner of a fingerprint.

Don't forget the Clue of the Day: God seeks us. He knows each one of us and loves us. He even knows each one of our fingerprints. He knows everything about us.

Our memory verse today is Joshua 1:9. It says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." God is with us even before we knew Him. He knows each one of us.

INDIVIDUAL LAB – LIFTING A FINGERPRINT

	SUPPLIES
	Cocoa powder*
	Clear tape
	Drinking glass
	Small paintbrush
	Index card
	Magnifying glass

*Note: Official fingerprint powder can be ordered online. It tends to be bit messier and more expensive, but works better. Not recommended for younger children.

PREPARATION

- Set up stations with the supplies on the table.
- Have adult or teen lab assistants help at each table.


INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wipe the side of your nose with your thumb (this collects oil).
2. Press your thumb on a drinking glass (or soda pop can).
3. Use the cocoa powder to dust the print lightly.
4. Wipe off excess powder with the brush.
5. Tear off a piece of tape the size of the print.
6. Press the tape down on the print.
7. Lift the tape up and place it on the white card.
8. Look at it with your magnifying glass.

Give each child an opportunity to lift their own print using the method outlined. It may take a few tries to get a good print.

DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT

If the children will be creating a detective kit this week, have them place the items in their kit. If they have not been to the Discovery Shop yet, place the items in a bag to carry until they get there.

	SUPPLIES Each child should have each item
	Any type of bag (for those who have not been to the Discovery Shop)
	Small empty container (for cocoa powder)
	Cocoa powder
	Clear tape
	White index cards
	Small paintbrush

* Note: Official fingerprint powder can be ordered online. It tends to be bit messier and more expensive, but works better. Not recommended for younger children.

PREPARATION

- Fill the containers with cocoa powder. If time permits, the children can do this. It works best to put the cocoa powder in a large bowl and then scoop the cocoa into the individual containers.
- Set up an assembly line for the children to fill their kits or have the items all ready for them in their container/bag.



ACTIVITY ROTATION

DISCOVERY SHOP

DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT

Each day, items will be added to the detective kit during the Investigation Lab. Today, the children will decorate their kit during the craft time. If they have already been to the Investigation Lab, have them place the items given into their container/bag.



SUPPLIES

Any type of container/bag
Permanent markers
Stickers

PREPARATION

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Each child uses the markers and/or stickers to decorate their bag. Make sure they write their name on the bag.

HANDPRINT

Children will make a handprint with the Clue of the Day printed on it.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUPPLIES
	Piece of cardstock or paper for each child
	Scissors for each child (or share)
	Markers or pens

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Each child traces his or her hand on a piece of paper.
- 2. The traced hands are cut out using the scissors.
- 3. Using the pen, draw swirls on each fingertip for fingerprints.
- 4. In the palm of the hand, write "God seeks me."

Option: Use ink pads and make actual fingerprints on the fingers.

DISCUSSION

Say, Today, we have made a craft with our fingerprints/handprints. These creations you have made are a reminder to us that each one of us is uniquely made by God. He loves each one of us.

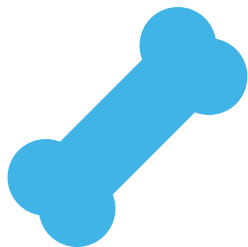
(If time permits, review the Clue of the Day and the memory verse.)

Do you remember the Clue of the Day? Let's say it together with the motions:

God (Point to sky)	seeks (Hand on forehead as if to salute, then move head back and forth)	us. (Point both thumbs to self)
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Let's see if we can remember the memory verse. We'll put a few motions with it to help us.

"Be strong and courageous. (Put hands into a fist and make a motion to show muscles by putting arms out to the side and bending the elbows.)	Do not be afraid; (Give a scary look and then shake head)	do not be discouraged. (Frown and then shake head)
For the LORD your God (Point to sky)	will be with you wherever you go." (Move feet up and down)	Joshua 1:9 (Make a 1 and then a 9 with fingers)



ACTIVITY ROTATION

CONFIDENTIAL CAFÉ

CROSSING JORDAN CRACKERS

The children will make a snack depicting the Israelites crossing the Jordan River. If you do not have these resources, enjoy a snack together that is related to the story and discuss the questions below. Learn today's memory verse.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPLIES For each child:◊	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Graham cracker/rectangular cracker◊	12 raisins or similar size candy◊
Blue frosting/cream cheese◊	Paper plate◊
Blue food coloring (if needed)◊	Lesson One PowerPoint (memory verse motions)
Plastic knife◊	
Teddy Grahams (or other like-sized food, e.g. gummy bears)◊	

Alternative: Use cream cheese/pudding instead of blue frosting. Put a few drops of blue food coloring to change the cream cheese/pudding to blue.

PREPARATION

- Read all instructions before children arrive. If possible, make an example.
- To make snack time easier, create a plate or small bag of supplies for each child before the groups arrive.

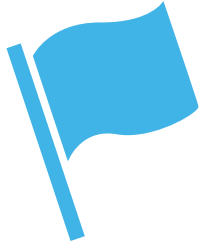
INSTRUCTIONS

If the children have heard the story, review it as you are “building” your snack. For example, discuss how the color blue represents water and ask how water was a part of our story. If not, tell them that they will hear a story later about how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land.

DISCUSSION

You may use the following script.

Say, Today, as we are uncovering clues to solve the Case of the Towering Stones, we are going to make a snack that reminds us of something that happens in the Bible story. Take the cracker and place it in the middle of the plate. This cracker can remind us of the river bed of the Jordan River. Take the knife and put some blue frosting/cream cheese/pudding on either end of the cracker to remind us of the water from the river. Place the Teddy Grahams/gummy bear on the dry river bed. This is just like the Israelites crossing the river. Finally, use the raisins or candies to build a tower to the side of the river.



ACTIVITY ROTATION

FIELD ADVENTURES

HIDE AND SEEK TAG

SUPPLIES

- None

PREPARATION

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose two children to be “it.”
2. Everyone else scatters and hides if possible.
3. The two children who are “it” hold hands and seek out other people.
4. The person they find must join hands with one of them.
5. When another child is caught, the group may remain together or divide into groups of two.
6. Continue this until everyone has been found.


Alternative: If the space is too small to do this activity, then one child can look for the other children and have them sit down until everyone is found.

DISCUSSION

Say, **remember that God is seeking us. He didn’t make us to go through life by ourselves. He wants to have a relationship with us.**

FINGERTIP RELAY – MEMORY VERSE GAME

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

	SUPPLIES
	Two bowls (baskets or other containers)
	2 printouts of memory verse (Lesson 1, Resource 6) or 48 index cards (paper at least 3" by 5" or 75 by 125 mm)

PREPARATION

- Cut out the words to the memory verse or write one word from the memory verse on each index card.
- Place the words in a bowl. Do this again for the other bowl.
- Place the bowls on the opposite side of the room/playing area from the children.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the players into two teams.
2. Run a relay by having each team member run to a bowl, pick up a word using only his or her fingertips, and run back to the team.
3. After all the words have been taken from the bowl, the teammates work together to place the words of the verse in order. They may only use fingertips when arranging the words in order.

CLOSING



SUPPLIES

File folder for The Case of the Towering Stones
(from opening skit)

PowerPoint slides (Clue of the Day and
memory verse motions)

PREPARATION

- None

DIALOGUE

Emery: Welcome back to our detective agency. We've been solving the Case of the Towering Stones. *(Holds up the folder from the opening skit.)* The big question is. . . where did the towering stones come from? Who built them? What are they for?

Snoop: I know! I know! *(Jumps up and down.)*

Emery: Yes, I know you know. But do these detectives-in-training know?

Snoop: I bet they do. They look like they are very sleuthy.

Emery: Sleuthy?

Snoop: Yep. Like they have good hunches. And they are curious and track down the leads. And they inspect the evidence. . .

Emery: I've got it. Let's see if they remember the Clue of the Day. Who knows the Clue of the Day?

(Choose a child to come forward and lead the group in saying the Clue of the Day using the motions.)

God
(Point to sky)

seeks
*(Hand on forehead as if to salute,
then move head back and forth)*

us.
(Point both thumbs to self)

Snoop: Good job, sleuthy investigators.

Emery: *(Rolls his eyes and shakes his head.)* Very good. Now who might know our memory verse today?

(Choose a child to come forward and say the verse. If the child forgets the words, invite everyone to say it together. Thank the child for volunteering.)

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Emery: Now, let’s see if we can solve the Case of the Towering Stones.

Snoop: This is SOOOO exciting!

Emery: Where did the tower of stones come from? *(Choose a child to answer the question.)* Yes, the Israelites built the tower of 12 stones.

Snoop: That was quite a job.

Emery: Why did the Israelites build this tower? *(Choose a child to answer the question.)* Absolutely. Joshua had them build the tower so they would remember what God had done for them.

Emery: God had sought out the Israelites to be His people. He had sought out a leader for them and chose Joshua. Then as they were going into the land God had promised them, He parted the Jordan River so they could cross through on dry ground.

Snoop: And guess what? God is still seeking us today.

Emery: That’s right.

Snoop: Hey, I forgot to ask. What happened with the file folder we sent to the lab? Any fingerprints?

Emery: There was one set of fingerprints. Yours.

Snoop: Oops.

Emery: Oddly, there was also something that looked like a dog paw. Sherlock must have accidentally walked on it when it was on the floor.

Snoop: Too bad no fingerprints were left. How will we catch the felon?

Emery: Hopefully the felon doesn’t show up again.

Snoop: So, what’s the case for tomorrow? What will we solve? Will it be a hard case to solve? Will we need these detectives to help us? They are quite good at investigating.

Emery: We will definitely require help from these detectives. Tomorrow, we will try to solve the Case of the Hanging Red Cord. By doing so, we’ll learn another part of God’s plan for us. See you tomorrow as we continue to track down God’s plan.