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| ***Title:*** | ***Enter the Land--Enter His Rest*** |
| **Goal/Objective:** | Compare Israel entering the Promised Land with our being placed in Christ. |
| **Scripture Passages:** | Joshua 1:1-2, Hebrews 1:1-2, Joshua 1:10-12, Joshua 2:1, Joshua 2:24, Joshua 3:9-16, 1Corinthians 1:30a, Hebrews 4:3  [**click here for Scriptures**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/pages/EnterLandRestScriptures.htm) |
| **Materials:** | Coloring page of the crossing of the Jordan, crayons, markers, tape, piece of blue paper (or plain paper that the students color blue)  [**click here for Coloring Page**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/gifs/EnterLandRestColor.gif) |
| **Introduction:** | We will read about Israel entering the Promised Land and see how it is like us being placed in Christ. |
| **Development Activities:** | Read Joshua 1:1-2 and Hebrews 1:1-2  Moses, the man who talked to the people on behalf of God, is dead. The name “Joshua” and the name “Jesus” are the same Hebrew word. In this story, Joshua represents Jesus. The Israelites had followed Moses all those years in the wilderness. Moses is now dead, and the Lord is sending Joshua and all the people into the land. Joshua is the one who will bring the Israelites into the Promised Land. Jesus is the One who brings us into Himself/His rest.  Read Joshua 1:10-11 and 2:1  Notice that the plan to enter the land was announced before the spies were sent to check things out. Ask the students how this is different from when the spies went out the first time (40 years ago).  Read Joshua 2:24  These spies do not look at themselves as the ones able to take the land. They announce the truth that the Lord as already accomplished it—not even them trusting that He can or will but realizing that He already has!  Read the excerpts from Joshua 3:9-16 and 1Cor 1:30a, and Hebrews 4:3  God brought Israel into the Promised Land and God has given us a place in Christ! We who believe enter in to the rest |
| **Practice:** | Have the students color the coloring page for crossing the Jordan. Have them color the portion of the Jordan between the town “Adam” and the Dead Sea as dry ground. Tape the blue paper so that the taped edge is at “Adam” and the rest of the paper lies over the river. As they are coloring, have them label (or you can provide stickers for them to put on the page) the town “Adam” and “The Dead Sea”.  The Lord miraculously brought Israel into the Promised Land. He moved the water back from the town called “Adam” to the end of its flow in the Salt Sea (or Dead Sea). This is symbolic of how the Lord has miraculously made a way past sin (the Old Adam’s nature is to sin) and death (the result of sin) and placed us in Christ. Just as this was done for the Israelites in a manner in which it was obvious that they were not to go back over the Jordan, we are placed in Christ not to be removed from there. |
| **Checking for Understanding:** | Have the students use their coloring page with roll-up Jordan to tell how God brought Israel into the Promised Land. Ask the students:  Joshua’s name is the same Hebrew word for someone else’s name. What is that other name? *Jesus*  In this story, who does Joshua represent? *Jesus*  Joshua brought the Israelites into the Promised Land. Where does Jesus bring us? *Into Christ*  By whose strength, were the Israelites brought into the Promised Land? *God’s*  By whose strength are we placed in Christ? *God’s* |
| **Extended Lesson:** | Discuss the portion in Joshua where they remove twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan and place 12 stones in the Jordan. (Joshua 4:1-9). This is a memorial and a reminder to us that we are buried with Christ and the life that we have is Christ. We are not he same (2Cor. 5:17) creature in Christ that we were before.  Alternate craft (especially if there is a fellowship time afterward where the kids can explain their edible lesson:  Possible scene could be created with Dirt Dessert (half of the recipe made with vanilla wafers or graham crackers for the wilderness side and the other half made with oreo cookies for the Promised Land side) Jello (made ahead of time) blue for the Jordan River and red for the Dead Sea, fruit roll-up for the crossing of the Jordan, gummy bears for the Israelites, candy rocks for the stones in the Jordan and in the Promised Land, (if you don’t mind being slightly morbid (and it’s close to Halloween when they are available), you can put the sweet tart skulls and bones in the “sand” of the wilderness side to represent the Israelites that fell in the wilderness). Use a toothpick with a sign to mark the town of “Adam” and another to mark the “Dead Sea”. |