



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Teacher Page: God's Promises and Our Faith

Joshua 4:14-24 (English Standard Version)

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Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using Joshua 4:14-24 in the English Standard Version as the reading text. New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy , which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes

Pronunciation Practice: The student can read along with the Scripture audio to practice English pronunciation with the teacher's help. The teacher may pause the audio after each verse or sentence so the student can repeat difficult words and phrases.

Lesson Resources: Scripture Text: Joshua 4:14-24 ESV - Scripture Audio: Joshua 4:14-24 ESV

The student may read along with the audio while the teacher pauses for pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

- Theme: God's faithfulness, Joshua's leadership, the crossing of the Jordan, remembering God's mighty works, teaching the next generation, and reverence for the LORD.
- English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, discussion, speaking practice, sequencing events, and writing.
- Outcome: The student can describe how Israel completed the crossing of the Jordan and explain why the twelve stones were to help future generations and all peoples know what the LORD had done.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while they study the ESV Scripture text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust the activities to fit the students' ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two or three warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses from Joshua 4:14-24 to study and read aloud.
3. Ask students what their assigned verses say and what those verses mean.
4. Ask a student to place the main events in order and summarize the passage in simple English.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along in the ESV text.
6. Review the vocabulary and practice the pronunciation of difficult words and phrases.
7. Use the comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one short writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ What object helps you remember an important person or event?
- ☐ Why do families tell children stories about the past?
- ☐ How can keeping a promise build trust?
- ☐ What can people learn from remembering what God has done?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
exalted	Raised to a position of honor, respect, or importance.	Whom did the LORD exalt in the sight of Israel?
stood in awe	Felt deep wonder, respect, or reverent fear.	Why did the people stand in awe of Joshua?
testimony	A witness or reminder of God's truth and covenant.	What were the priests carrying?
overflowed	Flowed over the normal edges or banks.	What did the Jordan do after the priests came out?
encamped	Set up a temporary place to stay.	Where did the Israelites encamp?
set up	Placed or arranged something so it would stand as a sign.	What did Joshua set up at Gilgal?
times to come	The future; days or generations that will come later.	Who would ask about the stones in times to come?
mighty	Very powerful and able to accomplish great things.	What were all peoples to learn about the hand of the LORD?

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ Whom did the LORD exalt in the sight of all Israel?
- ☐ How did the Israelites respond to Joshua?
- ☐ What did the LORD command the priests to do?
- ☐ What happened when the priests' feet were lifted onto dry ground?
- ☐ On what day did the people come up out of the Jordan?
- ☐ Where did the Israelites encamp?
- ☐ What did Joshua set up at Gilgal?
- ☐ What question would the children ask in times to come?
- ☐ What two bodies of water did the LORD dry up for His people?
- ☐ What two purposes for the miracle are given in verse 24?

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ How did the crossing of the Jordan confirm Joshua's leadership before Israel?
- ☐ Why did Joshua act immediately when the LORD told him to command the priests?
- ☐ What does the return of the Jordan's waters show about God's control over creation?
- ☐ Why were twelve stones a helpful way to preserve the memory of God's work?
- ☐ Why should parents and teachers be prepared to answer children's questions about faith?
- ☐ How was the crossing of the Jordan connected to the earlier crossing of the Red Sea?
- ☐ Why did God want all the peoples of the earth to know that His hand is mighty?
- ☐ What does it mean to fear the LORD your God forever?
- ☐ How can remembering God's faithfulness strengthen our faith and obedience today?

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture

Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- ☐ Retell Joshua 4:14-24 in your own words.
- ☐ Describe what happened when the priests came up out of the Jordan.
- ☐ Explain the purpose of the twelve stones at Gilgal.
- ☐ Compare the crossing of the Jordan with the crossing of the Red Sea.
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: Why is it important to remember God's mighty works?
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: How can one generation teach faith to the next?
- ☐ Describe an object, place, or tradition that helps your family remember an important event.
- ☐ Explain how God's fulfilled promises can encourage faith today.

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a one- or two-word answer, invite a fuller response: "Can you tell me more?" "Why do you think that?" "Can you explain that another way?" or "Can you give an example?" Correct gently, and model the complete sentence when needed.

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- ☐ Option A: Summarize the crossing of the Jordan in 6-8 sentences.
- ☐ Option B: Write a paragraph explaining what the twelve stones meant.
- ☐ Option C: Write about an event that your family or community wants future generations to remember.
- ☐ Option D: Write five sentences using these words or phrases: exalted, stood in awe, encamped, mighty, and times to come.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up: The LORD completed Israel's crossing of the Jordan exactly as He had promised. When the priests came up onto dry ground, the river returned to its place. Joshua set up twelve stones at Gilgal so future generations would ask what they meant and learn how God had brought Israel across on dry ground. God wanted all peoples to know that His hand is mighty and His people to fear Him forever.

Remember: "Faith does more than remember what God has done; faith teaches the next generation to trust who He is."

Final Question: What can you do to help someone else remember God's faithfulness and trust His promises?