

PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

JORDAN RIVER

The Jordan River is the site of some of the most important redemptive and theological moments in the Bible.

In Genesis 12 and 15, God made a promise to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. God promised that Abraham and his family would one day receive the land of Canaan. Hundreds of years later, after 400 years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the wilderness, the Israelites finally reached the edge of that Promised Land. In Joshua 3, God did a miracle. As the priests stood in the Jordan River holding the Ark of the Covenant, the water stopped flowing, and the people crossed over on dry ground. The Israelites crossed into the land God had promised to give them, leaving behind a life of slavery and stepping into a new life of freedom and promise with God.

The Jordan River was also a place where God showed His power through the prophets. The prophet Elijah struck the river with his cloak, and the water parted so he could cross (2 Kings 2:6–14). A Syrian army commander named Naaman was healed from leprosy after washing in the Jordan (2 Kings 5:1–14). The prophet Elisha even made a heavy iron axe head float on the water of the Jordan (2 Kings 6:1–7).

In the New Testament, the Jordan River became a place of repentance and new beginnings. John the Baptist preached and baptized beside the river, calling people to turn back to God because God's kingdom was coming (Matthew 3:2). It was in the Jordan River that Jesus was baptized, marking the beginning of His public ministry and showing His obedience to God (Matthew 3:13–17).

For thousands of years, people have traveled to the Jordan River to pray, be baptized, and remember their commitment to God. Even today, believers are baptized there as an expression of their faith and commitment to God (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

The Jordan River flows between Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. It begins on Mount Hermon, runs through the Sea of Galilee, and ends at the Dead Sea. Mount Hermon is an important source of water for the Jordan River. Psalm 133 uses the dew of Hermon as a picture of the blessing that comes when God's people live together in unity.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FOR THE TEACHER

Description:

Students will complete a crossword puzzle using clues based on key Bible events connected to the Jordan River.

Resources Needed:

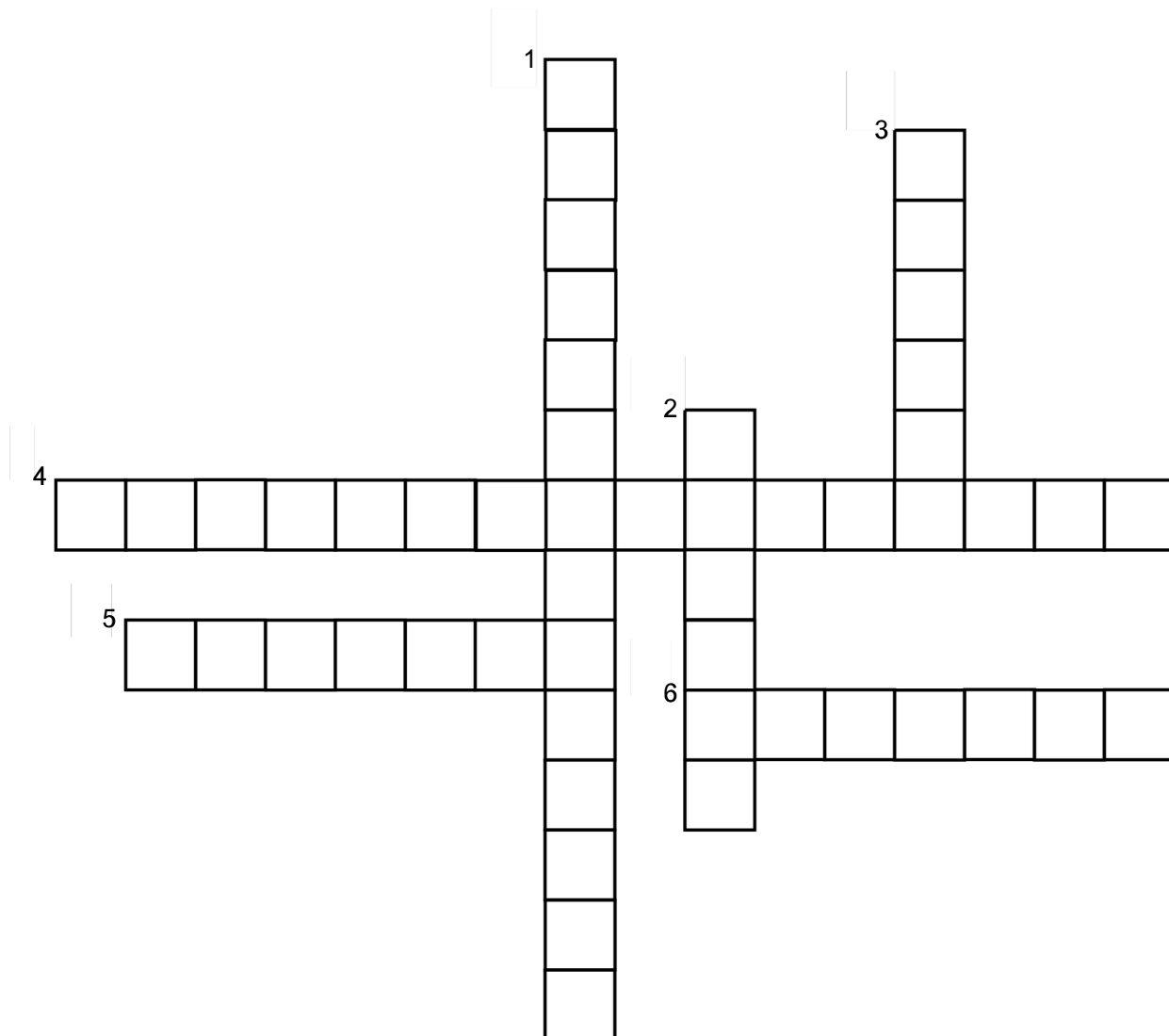
- One printed crossword puzzle per student
- One pencil per student
- Bibles

Instructions:

- Print and distribute one crossword puzzle to each student.
- Students will fill in the crossword by answering the clues using what they learned about the Jordan River from the Bible lesson.
- Students must read the clues carefully.
 - Clues are divided into Across and Down.
 - Each box holds one letter.
 - Students should write neatly so that letters fit in the boxes.
- Students may work alone or in groups.
- Students may use the Bible and discuss the answers.
- Remind students that answers cross each other, and correct letters will help solve other clues.
- Once the students have completed the activity, use the answer key to check their answers.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE STUDENT WORKSHEET



Down:

1. The leader who baptized people in the Jordan and called them to repent
2. The general healed of leprosy after washing in the Jordan
3. The river where Jesus was baptized

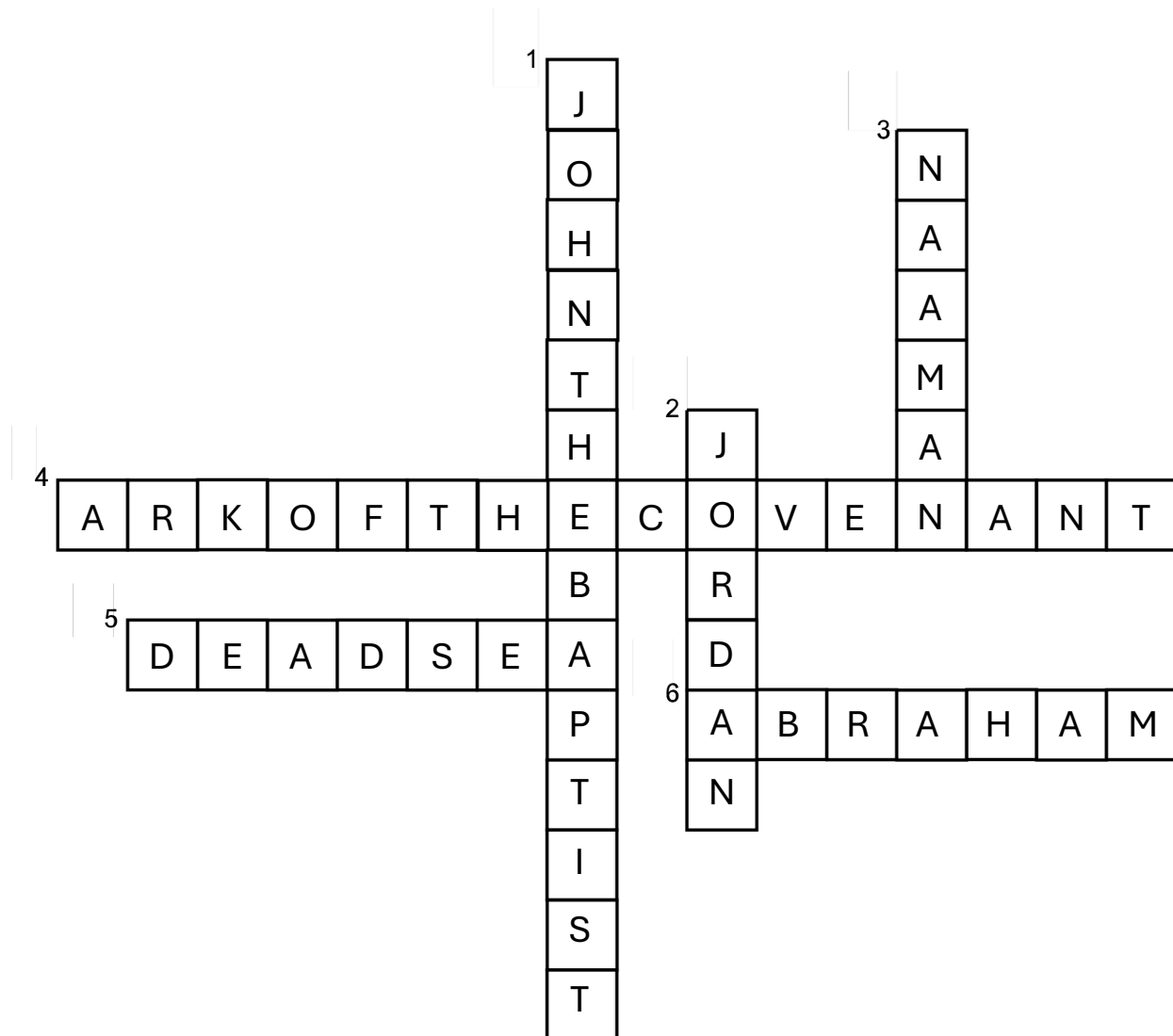
Across:

4. What the priests carried into the Jordan River
5. The final body of water where the Jordan River ends
6. The father of the Jewish people who received God's promise

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER KEY



Down:

1. The leader who baptized people in the Jordan and called them to repent [JOHN THE BAPTIST](#)
2. The general healed of leprosy after washing in the Jordan [NAAMAN](#)
3. The river where Jesus was baptized [JORDAN](#)

Across:

4. What the priests carried into the Jordan River [ARK OF THE COVENANT](#)
5. The final body of water where the Jordan River ends [DEAD SEA](#)
6. The father of the Jewish people who received God's promise [ABRAHAM](#)