

## 6a Communities Remember – Bible Story

The Israelites had been camped by the Jordan River for three days. Joshua told the people, “Get ready. Tomorrow God will do some wonderful things. Watch God’s chest. When the priests carry it, you should follow.”

Early the next day, Joshua told the priests to get God’s chest and start out. God had told Joshua what to do, “Today I’ll start making you great. That way the people will know I’m with you. I’ll be with you as I was with Moses. Tell the priests to take God’s chest to the river. Tell them to stand in the river.”

So Joshua told the people, “Come and listen. Here’s how you’ll know that God is with you. The priests will step into the river with God’s chest. Then the river water will stop flowing. It will stand up like a wall!”

The river was very deep and was overflowing its banks. But the priests stepped into the river just as Joshua said. And just like God had told Joshua, the water stopped flowing and left a dry path for the Israelites to cross over.

The priests stood in the middle of the river holding God’s chest. All of the Israelites crossed the river, walking on dry ground.

Then God told Joshua, “Choose twelve men, one from each of the twelve tribes. Tell them to get twelve rocks from the middle of the riverbed. Carry them with you to where you camp tonight.”

Joshua chose twelve men to get the rocks, and he told them, “Your children will ask what these rocks are for. Then you’ll tell them what happened today.”

The priests stood in the middle of the river until everyone had crossed and the twelve men had collected their rocks. Then God told Joshua, “Tell the priests to come out.”

The priests carried God’s chest to the other side of the river. When they stepped up onto the bank of the river, the water flowed back the way it was before they crossed.

God’s people traveled to Gilgal and camped there. They made an altar with the rocks from the river. That day the people saw that Joshua was a strong and brave leader, who followed God just like Moses.

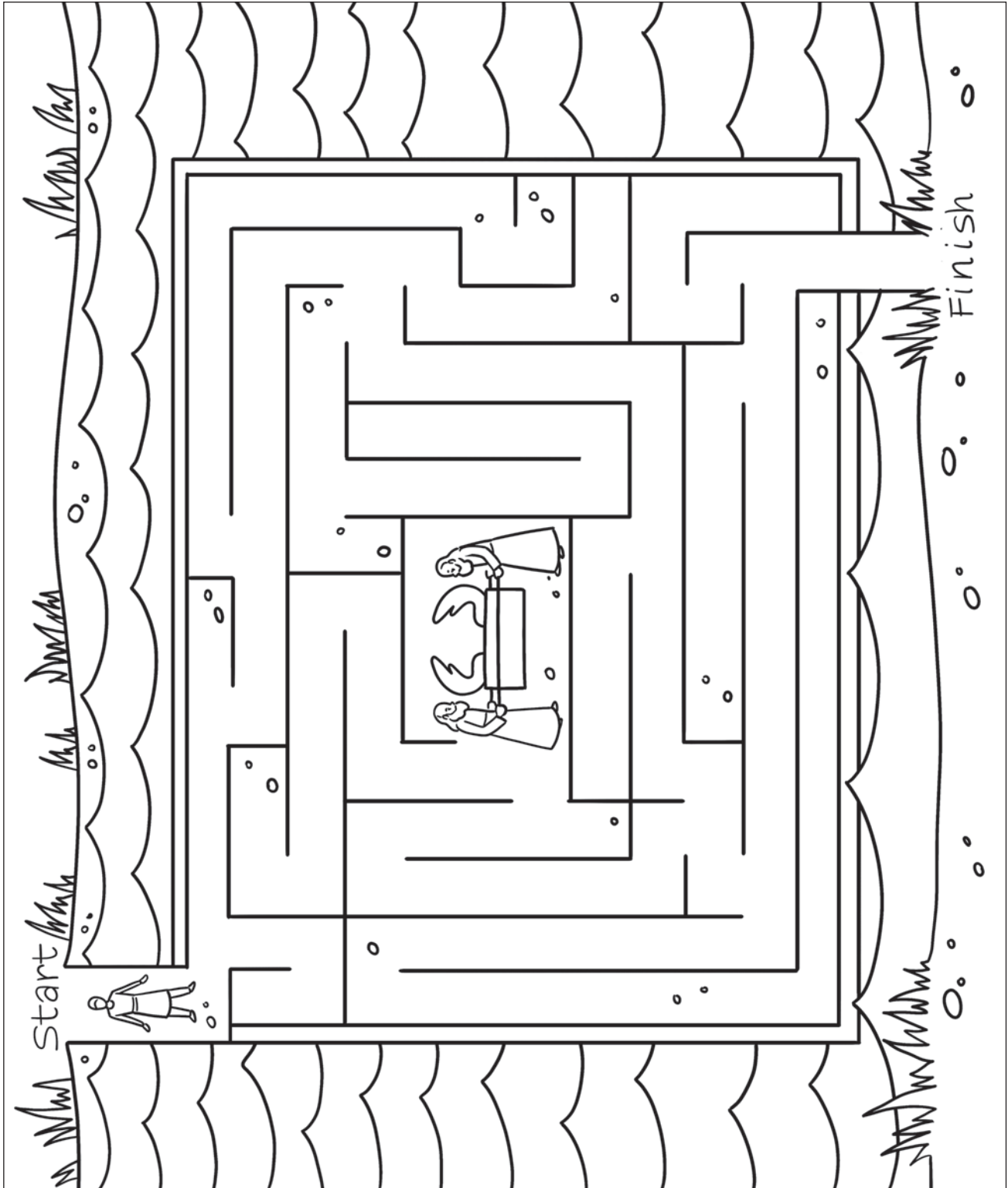
(Based on Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24)



# Maze - Puzzle (Preschool)

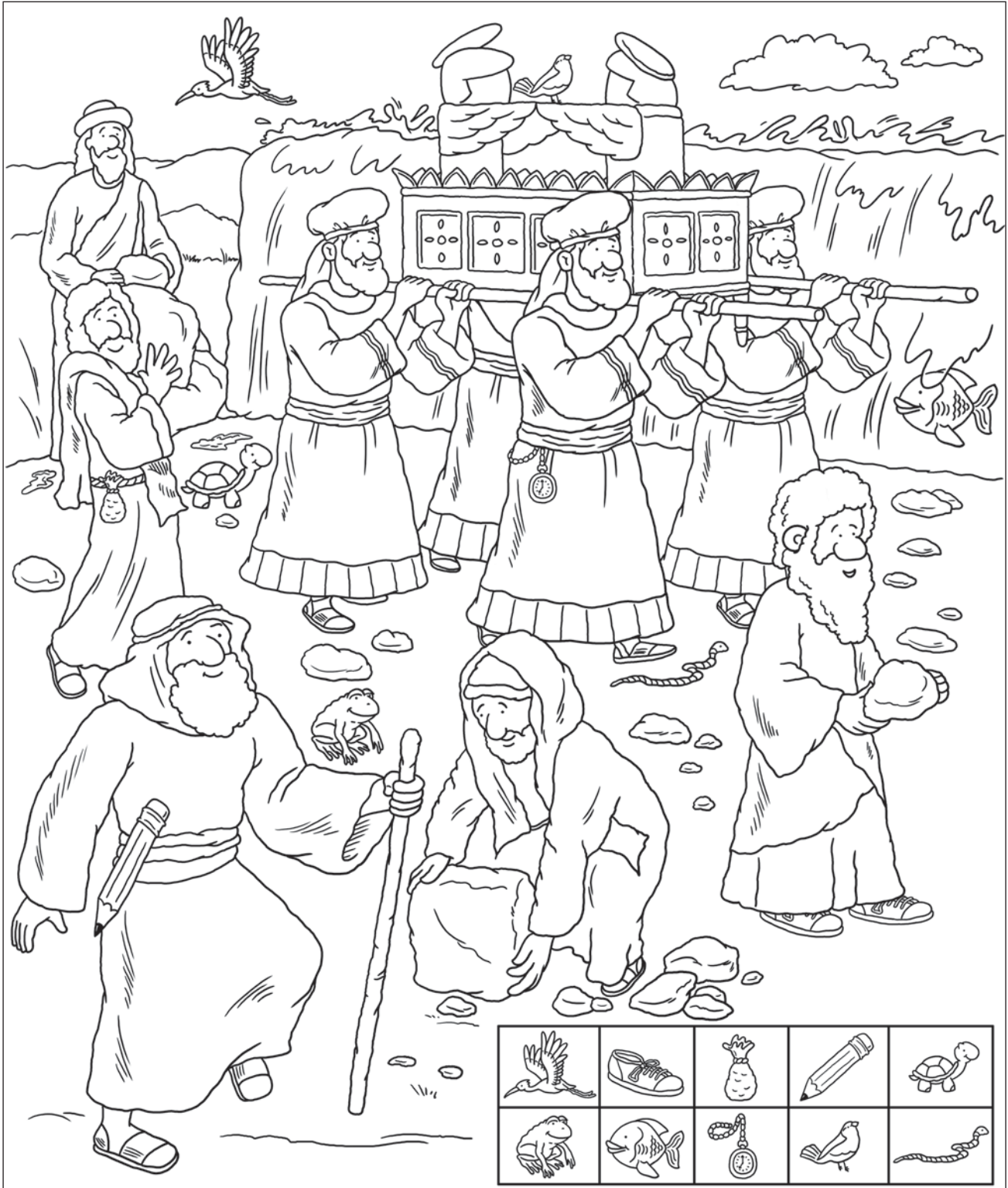
# 6b

Help the Israelites find the right path to cross the Jordan River. Watch for false paths.



# 6c Hidden Pictures – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

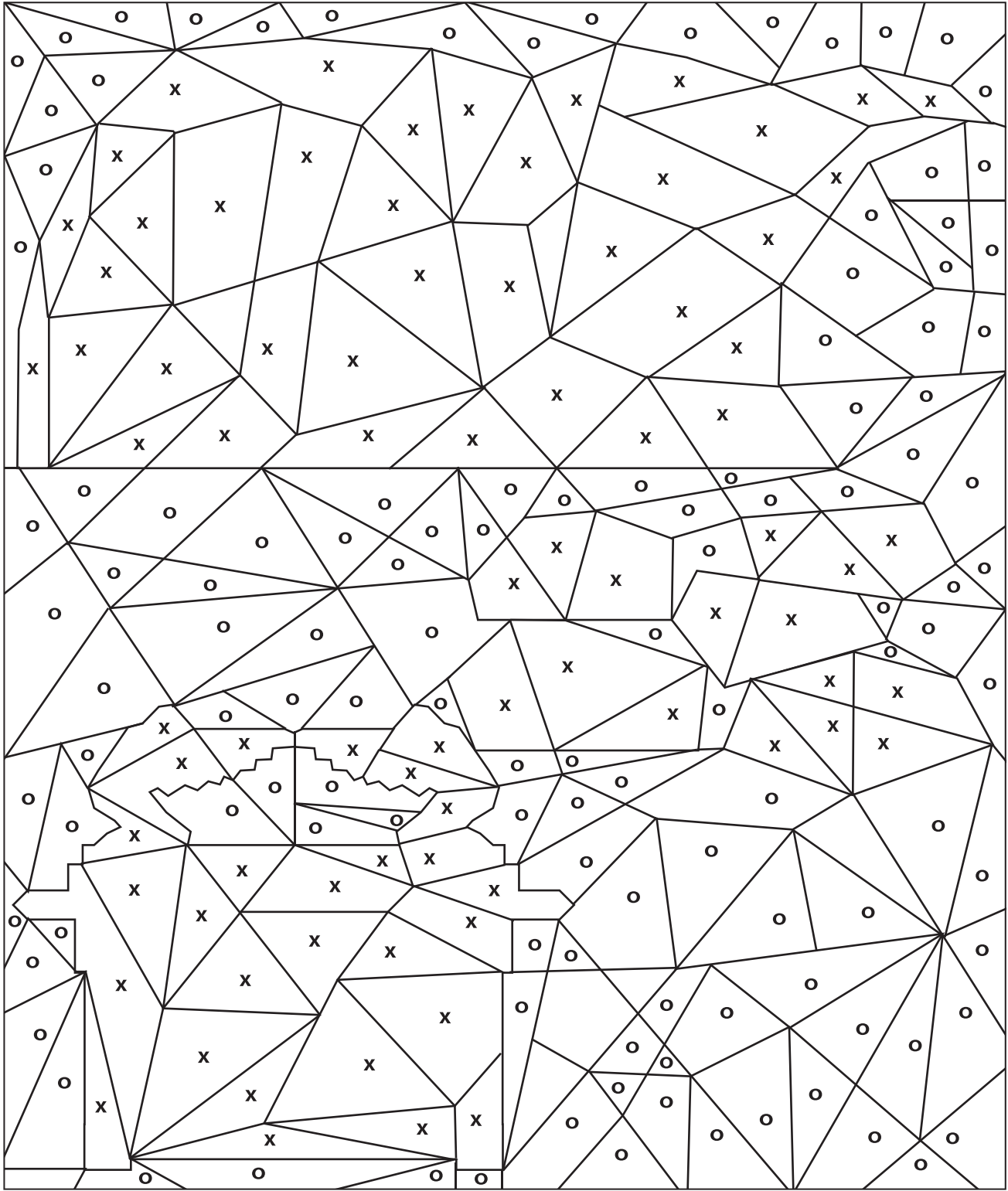
Look carefully at the picture of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, and you will find 10 hidden objects. Circle the objects and color the picture.



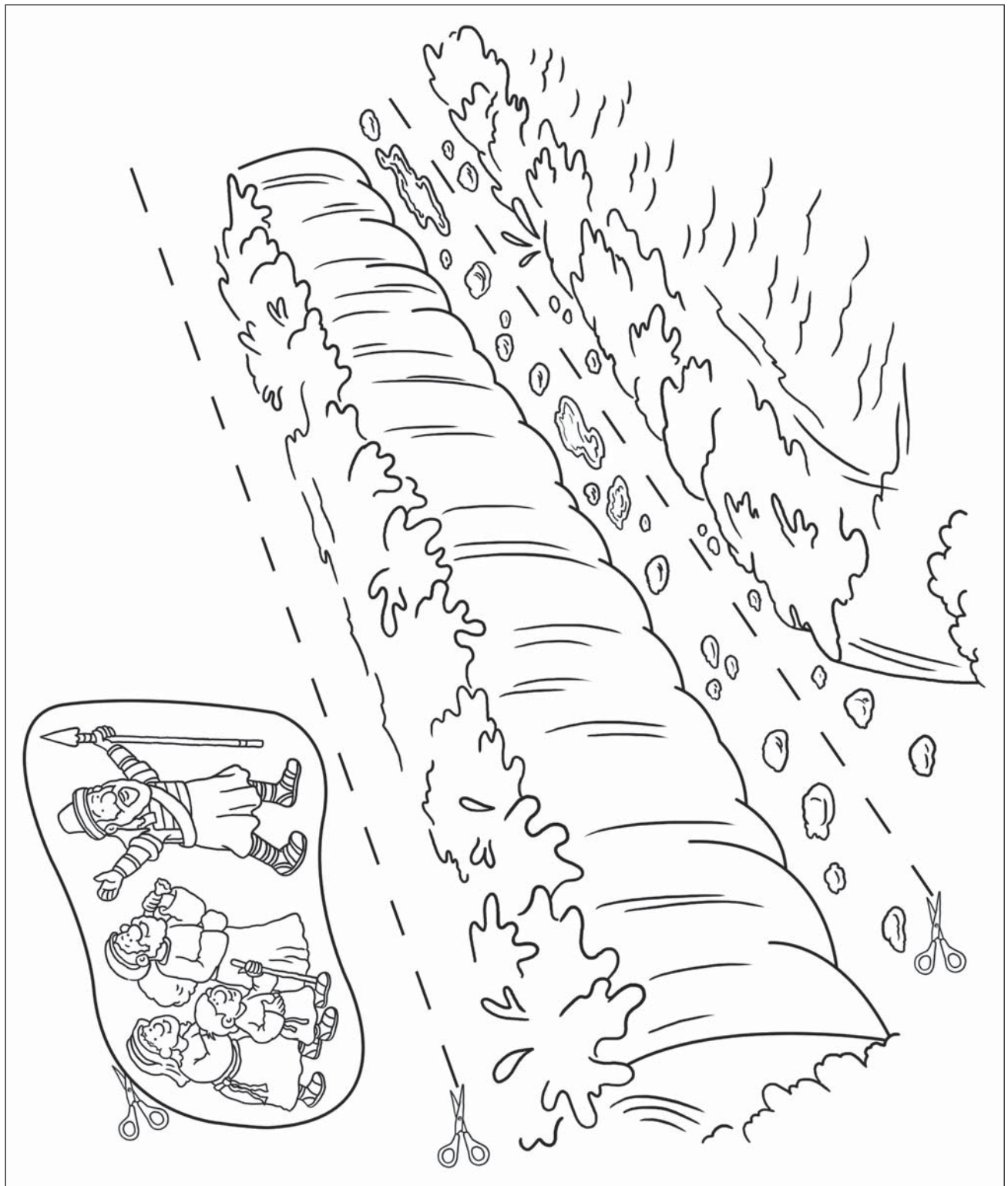
# Color the Sections - Puzzle (Older Elementary)

# 6d

Color the sections with X's a dark color and the sections with O's a light color. You will discover several items the Israelites saw when they crossed the Jordan River.



# 6e Crossing the Jordan River - Craft





# 6g Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

## Communities Remember

**Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24**

The Israelites packed up their tents and set out to cross over the Jordan River. They could see the river was high and overflowing its banks. The priests carried the chest and led the people. Whenever the people moved, this sacred chest went in front of them to remind them God was going before them. Crossing the river may have seemed like an impossible task, but they had faith that God would see them through. When the priests' feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing and left an area of dry land for the crossing.

## Verse of the Month

"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

## What Do You Think?

How do you think the priests felt when they approached the river?

Has God ever helped you do something you thought was impossible?

## Family Activity

Talk about how God helped the Israelites cross the Jordan River just like God helped them cross the Reed Sea when they left Egypt.

Do you have some stories about God helping you through rough times? What objects do you have that make you remember God's help?

## Prayer

Dear God, lead us forward, and help us bravely follow you; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.