

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

CROSSING THE JORDAN

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JOSHUA 3:1 – 5:1

Joshua 3:9–12

CROSSING THE JORDAN

File no. 39

**Down by the River Jordan, God's people were waiting.
They had washed and made themselves
holy for the Lord.**

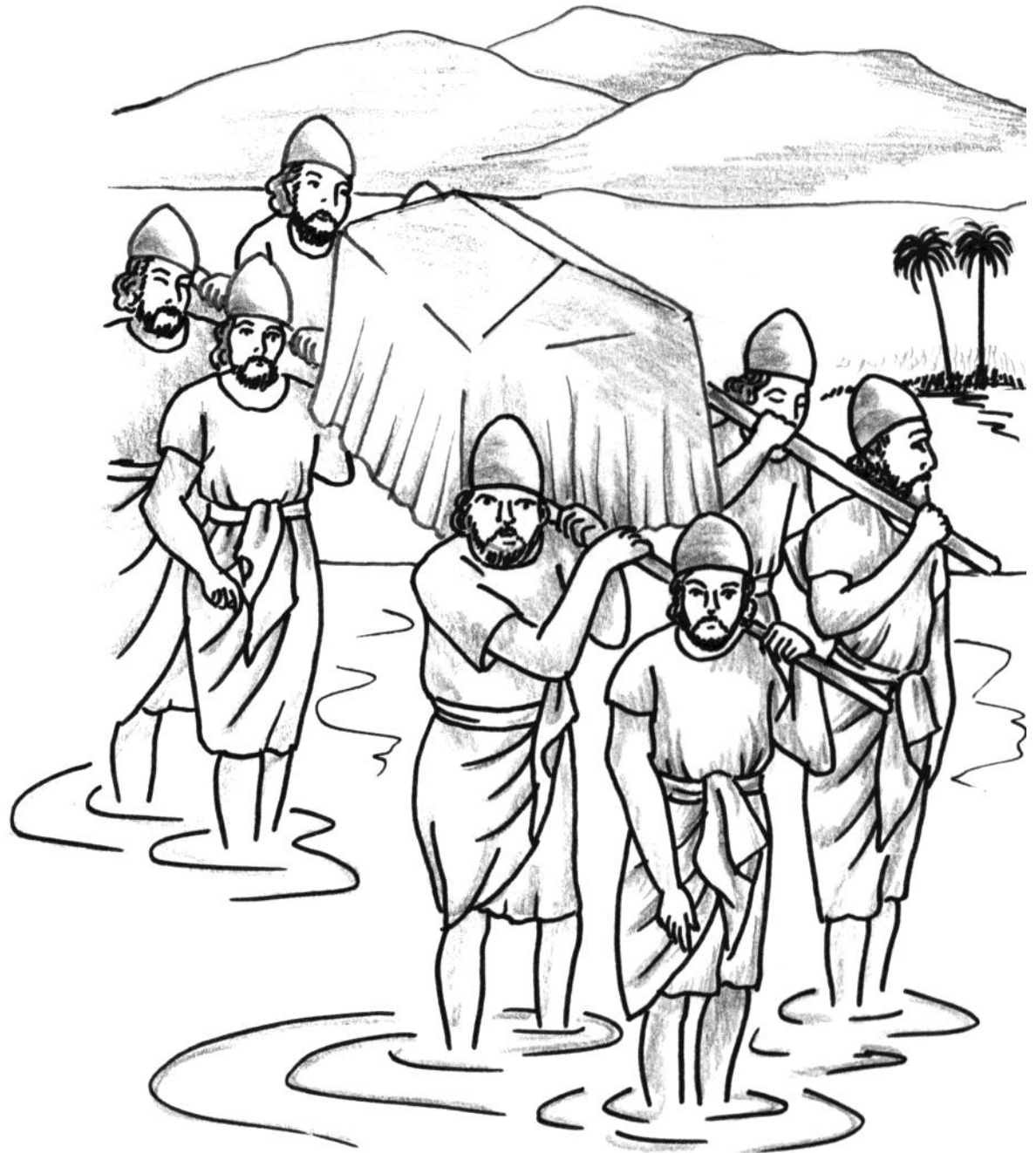
**The Lord said to Joshua,
'Today I am going to show My people
that I am with you,
just as I was with Moses.'**



**Then Joshua said to the people,
'The Lord is with you
and He will drive out your enemies.
The priests will carry
God's covenant box into the water.
Follow it,
and you will know the way to go.'**

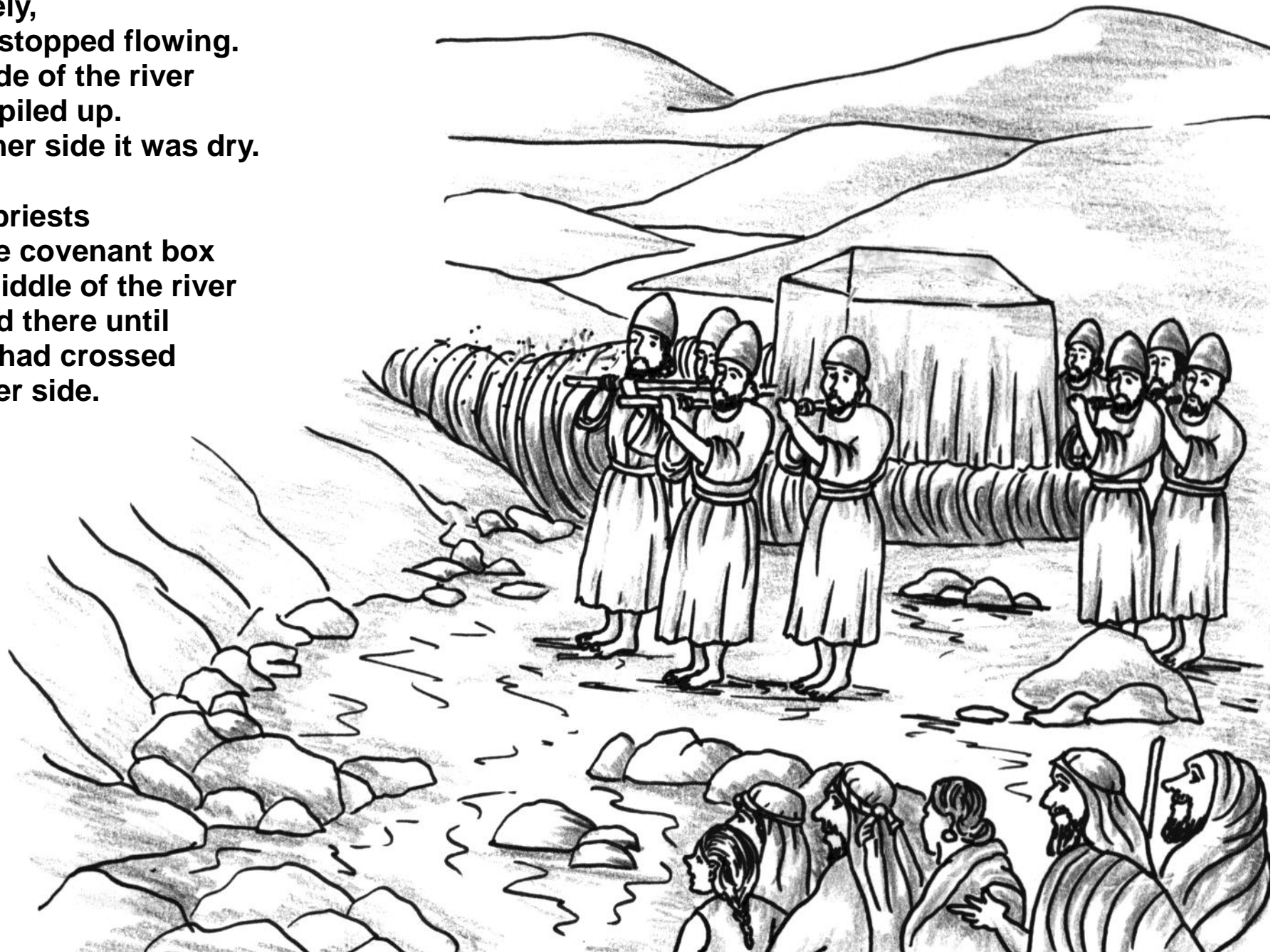
**The river was deep and wide,
because it was in flood.**

**However, the priests
picked up the covenant box
and walked into the water,
just as the Lord had told them to do.**



Immediately,
the water stopped flowing.
On one side of the river
the water piled up.
On the other side it was dry.

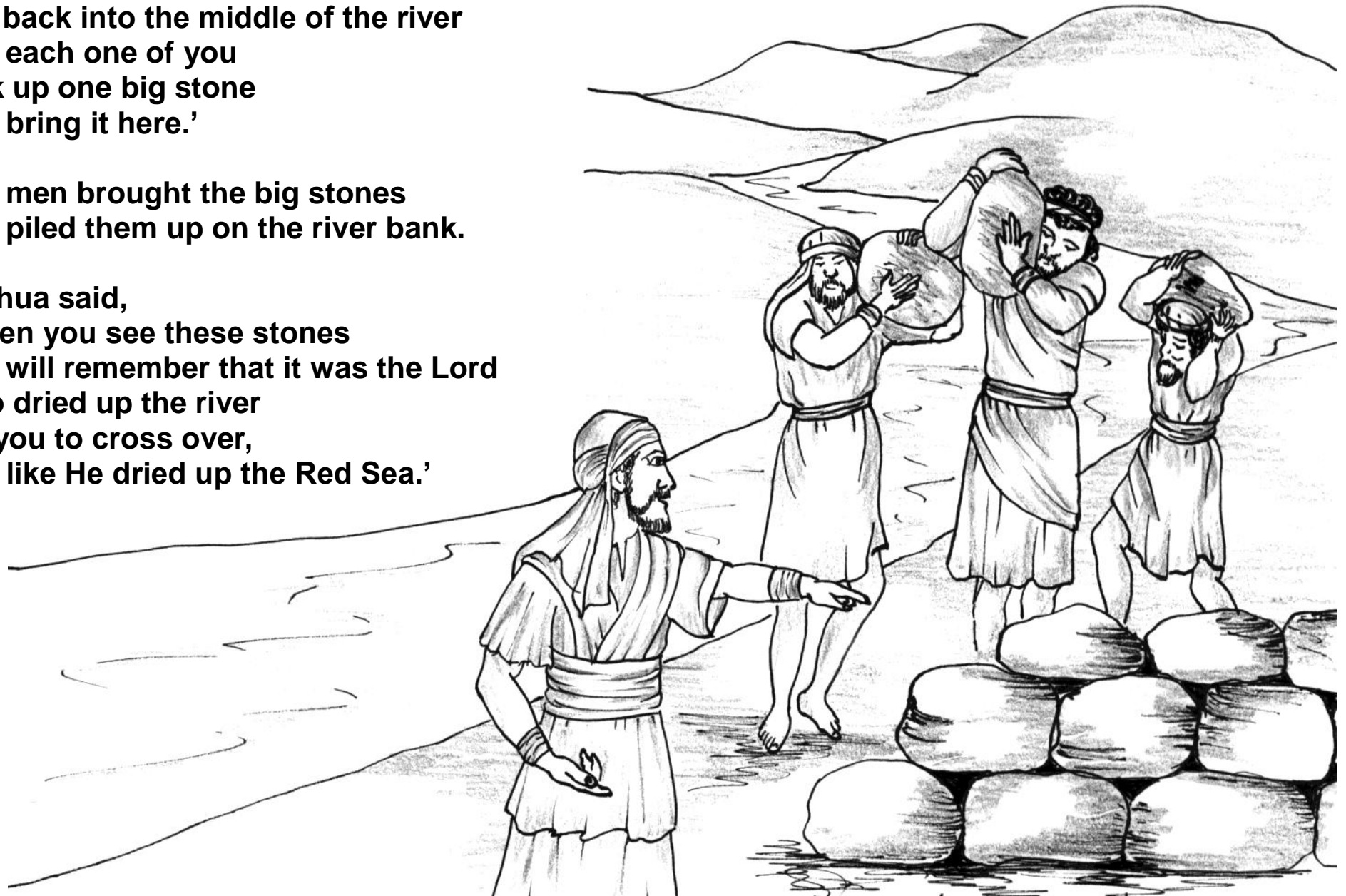
Then the priests
carried the covenant box
into the middle of the river
and stayed there until
everyone had crossed
to the other side.



**Joshua said to twelve strong men,
one from each tribe,
'Go back into the middle of the river
and each one of you
pick up one big stone
and bring it here.'**

**The men brought the big stones
and piled them up on the river bank.**

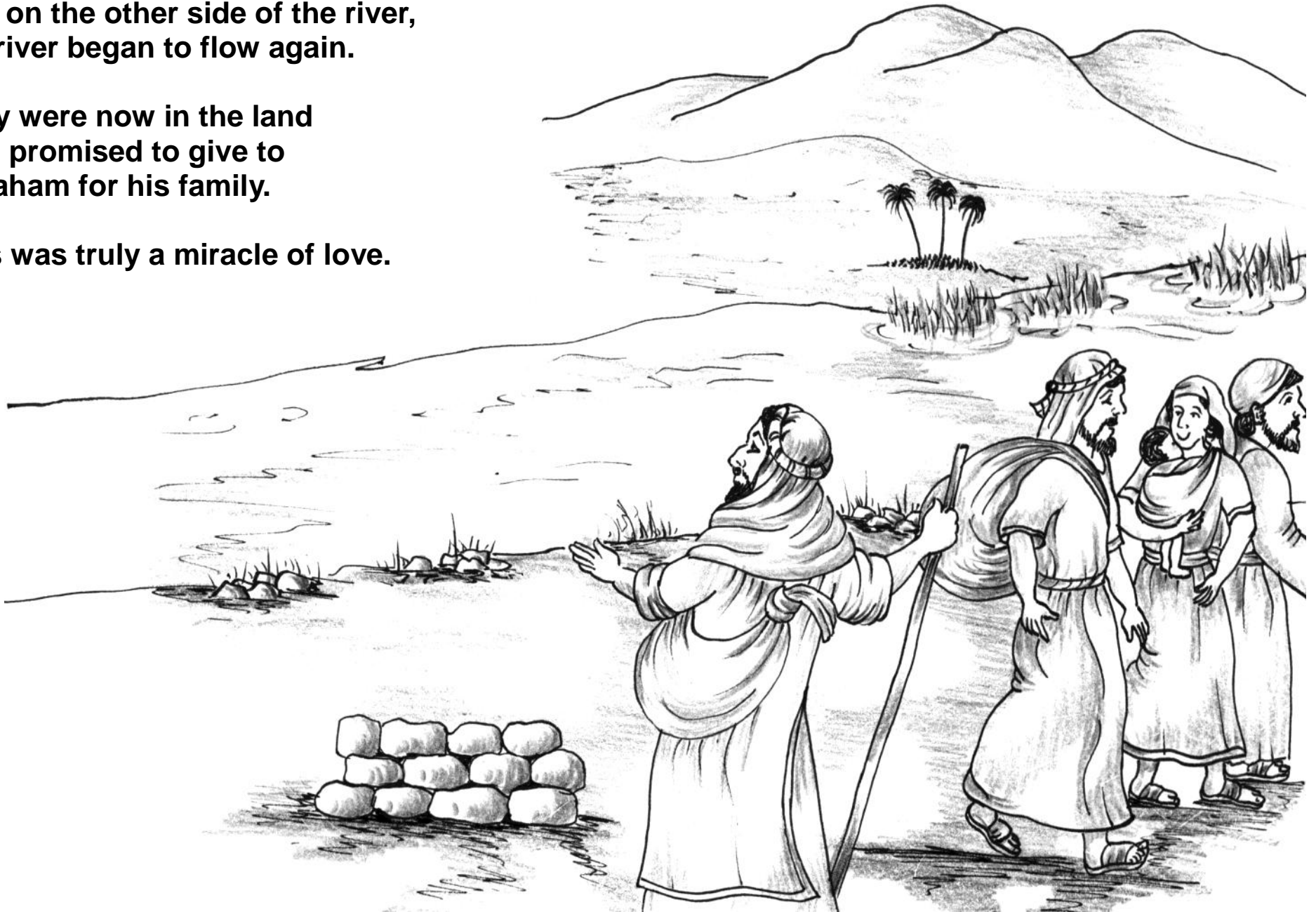
**Joshua said,
'When you see these stones
you will remember that it was the Lord
who dried up the river
for you to cross over,
just like He dried up the Red Sea.'**



**Once everyone
was on the other side of the river,
the river began to flow again.**

**They were now in the land
God promised to give to
Abraham for his family.**

This was truly a miracle of love.



***Just as Joshua led God's people (Israel)
into their land,
so Jesus is leading us.***

***He didn't just go through a river.
He went through death
and was made alive again.***

***We are alive with Him,
and He has a place for us
with all His people.***