

Promised Land
Crossing the Jordan
Sunday, January 15th, 2023

Joshua 3: 2-5, 9-17 NIV

²After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. ⁴Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.” ⁵Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.” ⁹Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God.

¹⁰This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹²Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” ¹⁴So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, ¹⁶the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

- 1. Process.** God often allows time for us to process what He’s asking us to do. Do you process your thoughts and emotions with Him?
- 2. Follow.** Jesus calls us to follow Him. *Do you?*
- 3. Sanctify.** We are set apart for God. Do you keep your heart pure?

Conclusion: When we are called to cross our *Jordan River*, may we seek the Holy Spirit to help us process our thoughts and prepare our hearts. May we choose obedience over our feelings and follow where we see the presence of God. May we continuously confess our sin to remove all barriers that hinder God’s power at work in our lives.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Crossing the Jordan
Week of January 15- January 21, 2023

Ice Breaker: Can you think of something that seemed scary like walking into a raging river? Did you trust in God? What happened?

Read Joshua 3: 2-5, 9-17.

1. Why do you think God had them wait 3 days? (v.2)
2. What orders were given? What were they to follow? (vs.3-4) Why?
3. What does the ark of the covenant represent?
4. How does God’s Word help us in times we have never gone through before? (v.4) How has it helped you?
5. What instruction did Joshua give the people? (v.5) Is this important?
6. How do we consecrate ourselves today?
7. Why is it important for us yet today to remember God is holy and we are set apart as vessels for His holiness to flow through?
8. What did Joshua tell Israel as encouragement? (vs. 10-13)
9. What and who were going into the water first? Why?
10. How has God encouraged you in like manner before you attempt to cross your Jordan River? What does He promise you? How has He proven His promises true for you?
11. What season was it for the river? (v.15) Could this timing cause greater fear? Why would God have them cross at that time?
12. How quickly did the water stop flowing? (v.15) What does this tell you about God’s provision connected to our obedience?
13. What was the ground like where the priests stood? (v.17) What does this tell you about how God supernaturally provides for you?
14. How long were the waters held back? (v.17)
15. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. How do we best process our thoughts and feelings when we face a raging river?
16. Read John 8: 31-32. Why does Jesus beckon us to follow Him?
17. Read Romans 12: 1-2. In light of this teaching, what does it mean for you to offer yourself as a living and holy sacrifice to God?
18. Read Psalm 51:10. How can we remain clean vessels for God’s power to flow through?

Point to ponder: God will never send us where He has not already gone before us. Seek His presence and know no matter how it appears, as you obediently follow His leading, He will provide you safe passage. At His command, step into the river and trust His blessings will follow your acts of faith.