STILL MOVING FORWARD

A Six-Week Survey of the Book of Joshua

WEEK 3: CROSSING WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU

Student Handout | Pastor-Teacher James A. Terrance, Jr.

LET'S REVIEW THE BOOK OF JOSHUA (CHAPTERS 1-3)

A. True or False

1. Joshua became Israel's leader after the death of Moses.
   ___ True ___ False
2. God promised Joshua that he would never face opposition or difficulty.
   ___ True ___ False
3. Joshua was instructed to meditate on the Book of the Law day and night.
   ___ True ___ False
4. Joshua sent twelve spies to investigate Jericho.
   ___ True ___ False
5. Rahab confessed that the LORD is God in heaven above and in earth beneath.
   ___ True ___ False
6. Israel crossed the Jordan before the priests carrying the ark stepped into the water.
   ___ True ___ False
7. Joshua told the people to sanctify themselves because the LORD would do wonders among them the next day.
   ___ True ___ False

B. Fill in the Blank Facts

WORD BANK: Moses | three | Rahab | scarlet | Sanctify | ark | Jordan

1. Joshua succeeded _____ as the leader of Israel.
2. The people were told to prepare food because within _____ days they would cross the Jordan.
3. The two spies stayed at the house of _____.
4. Rahab was told to bind a _____ thread in the window as the sign for her household.
5. Joshua told the people, '_____ yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'
6. The people were instructed to follow the _____ of the covenant.
7. The priests stood firm in the midst of the _____ while all Israel passed over on dry ground.

Key Verse

Joshua 3:5 (KJV)

"And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

Primary Scripture Passage

Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-9

Why This Lesson Matters

At times, life places something in front of us that appears impossible to cross. Joshua reminds us that God is able to make a way where we cannot see one, and once He brings us through, we should remember what He has done.

Introduction

Israel finally arrives at the Jordan River. The Promised Land is on the other side, but the river stands between them and the promise. God does not remove the river before they arrive. Instead, He demonstrates His power in the presence of the obstacle.

Every believer eventually faces a 'Jordan' - something that seems too large, too difficult, or too uncertain. Sometimes God's greatest demonstrations of faithfulness happen when there is something in front of us that we cannot cross without Him.

Key Words

Sanctify - To sanctify means to set oneself apart to God and prepare for holy service. Joshua 3:5 uses the word when Joshua tells the people, 'Sanctify yourselves,' before the LORD does wonders among them.

Jordan - The Jordan is the river Israel had to cross in order to enter the land from the east. Joshua 3:1 names the Jordan as the place where Joshua and all Israel lodged before crossing.

Ark - The ark of the covenant was the sacred chest associated with God's covenant presence among Israel. Joshua 3:3 directs the people to follow 'the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God' as the priests carry it.

Memorial - A memorial is a visible reminder that helps God's people remember and retell His mighty acts. Joshua 4:7 says the twelve stones would be 'for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever.

Lesson Outline

1. Prepare Yourself for What God Will Do

Joshua 3:5

Before Israel crossed, Joshua told them, 'Sanctify yourselves.' Preparation for God's work begins spiritually.

Before worrying about what is ahead, we should examine our hearts, pray, seek God's direction, and make ourselves available to Him.

Student Notes:

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2. Step Forward Before You See Everything

Joshua 3:13-17

The priests carrying the ark stepped into the water before the river stopped flowing. Sometimes faith requires taking the next obedient step before we know exactly how everything will work out.

God rarely gives us the entire map. He gives us enough light for the next step, and biblical faith responds obediently to what God has actually said.

Student Notes:

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3. Remember What God Has Already Done

Joshua 4:1-9

God instructed Israel to take twelve stones from the Jordan and establish a memorial. Future generations would ask, 'What mean ye by these stones?' and Israel was to tell the story.

Your life contains some memorial stones - places where God kept you, provided for you, protected you, and brought you through. Do not forget them; tell the next generation what the Lord has done.

Student Notes:

ONE THING TO REMEMBER: God may not remove what is in front of you, but He can lead you through it.