



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

### **Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth**

**Supports Session 3:** Remembering God's Work

**Sermon Title:** "Moving Forward with God" (Joshua 3:1–5:12)

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#### **Connection to Session 3**

The Lord commanded the people of Israel to set up stones to remember the works He had done. Joshua led the people in faith, trusting that God would be with them. After experiencing the miracle of crossing the Jordan on dry ground, they remembered and worshiped the Lord. Stepping out in faith leads to experiencing God's presence and power, which in turn leads to remembering and honoring all that He has done.

#### **Introduction/Opening**

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the people of God were finally going to inhabit the promised land—yet there was a seemingly impossible obstacle in the way. The Jordan River had flooded and appeared impossible to cross. Israel, however, would soon experience the power of God and see that nothing is impossible for Him. After experiencing God's power, the people set up a memorial so that future generations would know what God had done.

#### **Outline**

- 1. God calls His people to step out in faith (3:1-17)**
  - a.** The command given to the people was straightforward: follow the ark of the covenant from a distance (vv. 1-6). God's presence would lead the way, and His people had to trust and follow Him. Obedience to God is often as simple as going where He leads. This act of obedience leads us to where we need to be.
  - b.** The priests, who served as the leaders, had to show extra faith by stepping into the waters of the flooded Jordan before the miracle happened (vv. 7-13). Faith continues to follow where God leads, even when it doesn't make sense. The priests may have been a little skeptical, but they were obedient because they trusted God. And through their obedience, the people walked across the middle of the Jordan.

- c. God made a way when there was no way (vv. 14-17). As soon as their feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing. God showed that where He leads, He provides. Faith that leads to action often experiences the power of God.

## **2. God calls His people to remember His faithfulness (4:1-24)**

- a. Joshua instructed the people to create a memorial out of stones for future generations (vv. 1-9). Its purpose was to remind them of God's past actions so that they would know the goodness and power of the Lord for themselves. What "memorials" are you setting up to teach the next generation about the goodness of God?
- b. God honors obedience (vv. 10-18). The priests stood firm in the Jordan until everyone crossed, because the leaders' responsibility was to get others across the river. Leaders must stay faithful until God says the work is done. Similarly, church leaders today have the responsibility of caring for the flock that God has given them.
- c. The memorial testified to what God had done, which in turn strengthened faith (vv. 19-24). The biggest example we have today of God's power is Jesus's death on the cross and resurrection. What memorial or reminder do you have to remind yourself and those around you about the saving gospel message?

## **3. God calls His people to renew their commitment (5:1-12)**

- a. The men who were born in the wilderness were not circumcised (vv. 1-7). Undergoing the act of circumcision renewed the people's commitment to God (see Gen. 17). Before the people were to experience a victory, they were first to consecrate themselves to the Lord. How often do we prepare our hearts before entering the presence of God, together with other Christians on Sunday mornings, at home with our family, or by ourselves?
- b. The Israelites celebrated the Passover before going into battle, commemorating God's deliverance out of Egypt. This took place before they experienced God's power once again (vv. 8-12). The manna stopped appearing, signaling the beginning of God's new provision.

### **Conclusion**

God calls Christians to step out in faith, remember His faithfulness, and regularly renew their commitment. What Jordan River is currently standing in front of you, and what step of faith is God calling you to take? What "memorials" are you building for your family to remember God's work? Are there areas of your life where God is calling you to repentance or to renew your commitment?

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