

CROSSING YOUR JORDAN

SERIES THEME: "Take courage because we have never been this way before"
(3:4)

SERMON THEME: Stepping out in faith for what lies ahead

TODAY'S TEXT: Joshua 3:1-17

I. _____ GOD (v.3)

A. The Ark Symbolized God's Presence

- > The elements of the Ark of the Covenant were significant
 - Stone tablets
 - _____
 - Aaron's rod
 - Mercy Seat

- > The Ark went first because God was _____ his people
 - The Israelites needed to see which way to go

B. _____ – God With Us

- > Christ is the true Ark – He is God's covenant with humanity
 - Jesus fulfilled the _____ (Matthew 5:17)
 - Jesus is the _____ of life (John 6)
 - Jesus _____ from the dead

- > Keep your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)

II. _____ YOURSELF (v.5) "To prepare, to dedicate, to be holy, to be set apart"

A. Personal Repentance

- > One of the primary ways Israel was hindered was due to sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)
 - Sin still _____ God's people today

B. _____ Alertness

- > Be ready – don't be distracted – God is going to do something amazing
 - Set aside the typical things in life to watch for the extraordinary

III. _____ A STEP (v. 8, 13, 15)

A. Walk Into The River

- > No one crosses into God's promises without taking a step of _____
 - The priests had to move – and we have to move!

B. Stand _____

- > The trust issue!
 - We like to keep planning, orchestrating, and doing everything
 - Once you take a step of faith, let God do his _____

LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

COMMUNION:

Joshua said, "Choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel..." (v.12)

- > Chapter 4 reveals what these men were to do – make a _____!

This is what our Communion represents -- remembering Christ as he leads us across barriers, into the destiny that God the Father has for us.

- > Look to Him
- > Set yourself apart
- > Take a step!

OPEN: What has been your most memorable mishap on a vacation or camping trip?

READ Joshua 3:1-17

- > While waiting to cross the Jordan River, what do you supposed the people were feeling and anticipating? What were they doing?

READ Exodus 25:10-22 and Numbers 10:35-36

- > What does the ark signify? (vv. 3-5,11)
- > Why must the people wait to see the ark and keep their distance from it?
- > What does Joshua's call to "consecrate yourselves" imply?

READ Joshua 4:1-9

- > What is the meaning behind the 12 stones?

REFLECT: When "you have never been this way before," what do you need most:

- A guide? - A miracle? - A signpost? - Your LifeGroup?
- > Think about where in your life you may need to follow God's direction.
- > Think about ways you can personally consecrate yourself for the "amazing things" God wants to do in your life.
- > Have people share about times when God has come through for them in a big way. How is remembering those instances like making a 12-stone monument?

PRAY that each one in your group would be able to "cross their Jordan" with a sense of God's guiding presence. He is with you! Also, pray for any needs in your group.