

READ Joshua 3-4.18

God's blessings are given for a purpose. He wants us to grow in our love for him as we experience kindness upon kindness. These chapters contain several reminders of all God did in leading Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. They teach us the importance of remembering and celebrating what God has done for us.

Opening

- When have you found yourself saying, “Water, water, everywhere”: Cruise? Flooded basement? Freezer thawed? Wet season? Other?
- How have God's blessings recently encouraged growth in your life?

Digging in —Discovering the Word

- Picture life with the Israelites during their three days of encampment along the Jordan. What thoughts and conversations do you imagine they had? What do you suppose the people were doing? Feeling? Praying? Anticipating?
- Describe the sequence of events the Israelites would have seen as they crossed the Jordan (3:3-4, 8-17).
- What does Joshua's call to “consecrate yourselves” imply: Prayers? Cleansing? Give the victory to God, not man? Or what?
- What does the ark signify (vv. 3-5, 11: see Ex 25: 12-22; Nu 4:5; 10:35-36; Dt 10:8; 31:26)? Why must they wait to see the ark and then keep their distance from it?
- Why was this miraculous crossing especially important for Joshua's leadership (3:7 and 4:14)? Why did God inaugurate Joshua's career with a miracle similar to the one that he gave Moses (vv.7-8)?
- What other goals did this miracle accomplish (3:10; 4:24; see 5:1)?
- How would the twelve stones from the Jordan River serve as a memorial for future generations (4:1-7)?
- In verses 9-13, what is the relation between word and miracle?
- Why did God have the people cross the Jordan at the flood stage? (vv.14-17)
- How do you think the priests were feeling as they approached the edge of the river?

Connecting the Dots — Applying the Word

- What are the greatest “stones of memorial “ in your life? What memorials do you have to remind yourself and future generations of what God has done?
- What have these chapters taught you about remembering and celebrating the things God has done?
- When “you have never been this way before,” what do you most need? A guide? A miracle? A signpost? Where in your life do you need these right now?
- In what way can you personally consecrate yourself for the “amazing things” in your life God wants to do.
- If you were an Israelite and could have just one picture of this day for your memory album, what would you choose?
- What important lesson of faith has been passed on to you from one of your elders?
- How much of your spiritual journey have you shared with your family? What have you found helpful in passing on your faith to your children

Prayer: Praise God for the things you have seen him do—in your life and your church.