
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



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“The Great Adventure” — Pastor David’s Farewell Message

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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
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SERMON RECAP

Pastor David's farewell message was a warm and deeply personal call to follow Jesus as the greatest adventure of our lives. Drawing from Joshua's crossing of the Jordan, the fall of Jericho, and the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he reminded us that life with Christ is not passive, stale, or merely safe. It is a journey of trust, obedience, risk, surrender, remembrance, and joy.

The heart of the message was this: God often gives a promise, places an obstacle before us, tests our faith, and then proves His faithfulness. The Jordan River was at flood stage. Jericho's walls were impossible. The fiery furnace was terrifying. Yet in each place, God's people were called to take Him at His word, not because they could control the outcome, but because they knew who God was.

Pastor David encouraged CBC to keep walking with Jesus, even when the next step feels risky. Stack stones of remembrance. Pray honest prayers. Trust God again. And when life does not unfold the way we expect, cling to the "even if" faith that says, "God is able, God is good, and His way is still the way."

 STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- Following Jesus is the great adventure.

True adventure is not simply doing what we want; it is walking with Christ in obedience, surrender, and faith.

- God calls His people to step before they see.

In Joshua 3, the priests had to place their feet in the flooded Jordan before the waters stopped.

- Spiritual memory strengthens future faith.

The twelve stones from the Jordan were not merely reminders of what God did, but declarations of who God is.

- Obedience often includes waiting.

Israel walked around Jericho for days before the walls fell. Much of faith happens in the long obedience before visible breakthrough.

- Real faith says, “Even if.”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed God could deliver them, but their worship was not dependent on the outcome they preferred.

- God finishes what He starts.

Pastor David closed with Philippians 1, reminding CBC that the God who began a good work will carry it to completion.

Key Scripture

Primary Sermon Text:

- Joshua 3:14-17 — Israel crosses the Jordan River on dry ground as the priests carrying the ark step into the water.

Scriptures Mentioned, Quoted, or Clearly Alluded to in the Sermon:

- Joshua 3-4 — The crossing of the Jordan and the memorial stones.
- Joshua 3:14-17 — The priest's step into the Jordan; God stops the waters.
- Joshua 4:1-9 — Twelve stones are taken from the Jordan as a memorial for future generations.
- Joshua 6:1-20 — Israel marches around Jericho; the walls fall by God's power.
- Daniel 3:17-18 — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego declare, "Even if He does not...we will not serve your gods."
- Philippians 1:3-11 — Paul thanks God for gospel partnership and trusts that God will complete His work.
- John 16:33 — "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
- Romans 8:28 — God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.
- Colossians 1:27 — "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- Matthew 16:24-25 / Luke 9:23-24 — Whoever wants to find his life must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Jesus.
- John 14:6 — Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life."
- Ephesians 4:13 — The call to grow into maturity in Christ.
- Acts 9:2; Acts 19:9, 23 — Early Christians were associated with "the Way," a phrase Pastor David referenced.

Other Relevant Verses

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 — "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Thematic tie: This reinforces the call to step into the Jordan before seeing the waters part.

- Psalm 77:11-14 — "I will remember the deeds of the LORD..."

Thematic tie: This expands on the idea of "stacking stones" and remembering God's faithfulness.

- Hebrews 11:8 – Abraham obeyed and went, “even though he did not know where he was going.”

Thematic tie: This connects to the sermon’s emphasis on faith as obedience without full visibility.



DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1 – Step Into the Water

Reflection Question

Where is God asking you to take a step of obedience before you can see how He will provide?

Reading

Joshua 3:15-16

“Now 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, the water from upstream stopped flowing...”

Thought

The Jordan River was not calm and convenient when Israel arrived. Scripture specifically tells us it was at flood stage during harvest. This matters. God did not bring His people to an easy crossing. He brought them to an impossible looking one.

The ark of the covenant represented the presence, rule, and covenant faithfulness of God. The priests carrying the ark went first, showing Israel that the presence of God leads the people of God. But the waters did not stop while they were still safely on the bank. The priests had to step in.

This moment echoed the Red Sea crossing, but with an important difference. Moses lifted the staff and the waters parted before the people entered. Here, Joshua and the priests had to trust God in a new way. Yesterday’s miracle gave them confidence, but today still required obedience.

Pastor David reminded us that the same God who was faithful then is faithful now. The life of faith often includes this pattern: God gives a promise, places an obstacle before us, tests our faith, and proves His faithfulness.

Challenge

Identify one “Jordan River” in your life. Write it down. Then prayerfully name one concrete step of obedience you can take this week.

Day 2 — Stack the Stones

Reflection Question

What reminders do you need to build into your life so you do not forget who God is when trouble comes?

Reading

Joshua 4:6-7

“In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD...”

Thought

After Israel crossed the Jordan, God instructed Joshua to have twelve men take twelve stones from the riverbed. These stones became a memorial. They were physical reminders of God’s faithfulness, not only for the generation that crossed, but for their children and grandchildren.

In the ancient world, memorial stones were public testimony. They marked places where something significant had happened. For Israel, these stones were not about nostalgia. They were about discipleship. God knew His people would need to remember. He also knew their children would need stories of His faithfulness.

Pastor David emphasized that the stones remind us not merely of what God did, but of who God is. That distinction matters. If we only remember events, we may become disappointed when God works differently next time. But if we remember His character, we can trust Him even when the next chapter looks unfamiliar.

Spiritual forgetfulness is one of the enemy’s subtle weapons. When life is peaceful, we drift. When life is painful, we panic. Memorial stones help anchor the soul.

Challenge

Create a visible or written “stone of remembrance” this week. It could be a journal entry, a note on your mirror, a photo, a Scripture card, or a conversation with your family about a time God was faithful.

Day 3 — Keep Walking Around Jericho

Reflection Question

Where are you tempted to give up because God's instructions feel slow, strange, or ineffective?

Reading

Joshua 6:2-3

"Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands... March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.'"

Thought

Jericho was a fortified city. From a military standpoint, marching around it in silence was not a normal battle plan. Yet God's strategy was designed to make one thing clear: the victory belonged to Him.

Israel had to obey before they understood. They had to walk day after day without visible change. Imagine the questions in the camp by day two or three: "Is this really working? Did Joshua hear God correctly? Why aren't the walls moving?"

This is where much of the Christian life happens, not always in the dramatic moment when the wall falls, but in the repeated obedience of walking one more lap. Pastor David reminded us that most deliverance and purpose come in the long waiting.

The people of God are formed not only by breakthrough, but by endurance. Waiting exposes what we trust. Silence reveals what we believe. Repetition trains our hearts to obey God because He is God, not because we can measure immediate results.

Challenge

Choose one area of faithful obedience that feels repetitive or unnoticed. Commit to one more "lap" this week.

Day 4 – Even If

Reflection Question

Can you trust God's character even when you cannot control His answer?

Reading

Daniel 3:17-18

"The God we serve is able to deliver us from it... But even if he does not...we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Thought

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived as exiles in Babylon. They were far from Jerusalem, surrounded by imperial power, pagan worship, and cultural pressure to conform. When King Nebuchadnezzar demanded worship, refusal was not merely socially awkward, it was deadly.

Their answer is one of the clearest expressions of mature faith in Scripture. They believed God was able to deliver them. They also refused to make obedience conditional on deliverance.

"Even if" faith is not weak faith. It is not faith without expectation. It is faith that has gone deeper than outcome. It says, "God can save me from the fire, but even if He does not, He is still worthy."

Pastor David connected this to the freedom we have in Christ. Real freedom is not getting everything we want. Real freedom is knowing Jesus so deeply that obedience remains possible even when circumstances are painful.

This kind of faith is only formed through relationship with God. We do not develop "even if" courage by trying to be impressive. We develop it by knowing the One who is with us in the fire.

Challenge

Pray honestly about one outcome you deeply desire. Then surrender it to God with the posture: "Lord, You are able. And even if You answer differently than I hope, I will still trust You."

Day 5 — He Will Finish What He Started

Reflection Question

How does it encourage you to know that your growth depends not only on your grip on God, but on His faithful work in you?

Reading

Philippians 1:3-6

“I thank my God every time I remember you... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Thought

Paul wrote Philippians from prison. That means his words about joy, partnership, and confidence were not written from comfort. They were written from chains.

The church in Philippi had partnered with Paul in the gospel from the beginning. He loved them deeply. Pastor David used this passage as a farewell blessing over CBC, expressing gratitude for a church family that had loved, shaped, and sent him.

Philippians 1 reminds us that gospel relationships are never wasted. God uses churches, mentors, friends, pastors, youth leaders, children, and families to form us in Christ. But behind all of that is the faithful hand of God. He begins the work. He sustains the work. He completes the work.

This is a deeply comforting promise. Your sanctification is not finished. Your story is not finished. Your usefulness is not finished. Your adventure with Jesus is not finished. Until the day of Christ Jesus, God is still working.

Challenge

Reach out to someone who has helped form your faith. Thank them specifically. Then ask God how you can become that kind of encouragement to someone else.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Opening

Welcome everyone warmly. Acknowledge that this week's message carried both a farewell and a commissioning tone as Pastor David encouraged CBC to keep following Jesus into the great adventure of faith.

Begin with a brief time of prayer using prompts such as:

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation.
- Ask God to open hearts to areas where He is calling for fresh obedience.
- Pray for courage to remember His faithfulness and trust Him again.

Thematic Recap

Pastor David reminded us that following Jesus is not a stale religious routine but the greatest adventure of our lives. Like Israel at the Jordan, Israel at Jericho, and the faithful exiles before the fiery furnace, we are called to trust God's character even when the path is risky, slow, or uncertain.

Core Highlights

- God often calls us to step before we see.
- The presence of God goes before the people of God.
- We need "stones of remembrance" to help us remember who God is.
- Obedience may involve waiting longer than we want.
- Mature faith says, "God is able...but even if He does not, I will still worship Him."
- God will complete the work He began in His people.

Icebreaker

5-15 Minute Discussion Question:

Think back to childhood or an earlier season of life. What did “adventure” mean to you then? How has your understanding of adventure changed as you have followed Jesus?

Scripture Exploration

Passage 1: Joshua 3:14-17 — Crossing the Jordan

Discussion Prompts:

1. What details in this passage make the crossing especially significant or risky?
2. Why do you think God required the priests to step into the water before the river stopped?
3. What does the ark of the covenant teach us about God’s presence leading His people?
4. How is this moment like and different from the Red Sea crossing?
5. Where might God be calling you to step forward before you have full clarity?

Passage 2: Joshua 4:1-7 — Memorial Stones

Discussion Prompts:

1. Why did God want Israel to take stones from the middle of the Jordan?
2. What does this passage teach us about the importance of remembering?
3. How can remembering God’s past faithfulness help us face future trouble?
4. What are some modern “memorial stones” Christians can build into their lives?
5. How can families, small groups, and churches pass down stories of God’s faithfulness?

Passage 3: Daniel 3:17-18 — Even If Faith

Discussion Prompts:

1. What stands out to you about the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
2. How do they hold together confidence in God's power and surrender to God's will?
3. Why is "even if" faith so difficult?
4. What false "gods" or pressures still ask for our worship today?
5. How can knowing Jesus personally strengthen us to obey under pressure?

Grand Synthesis Prompt

Looking at Joshua 3, Joshua 4, and Daniel 3 together, what do these passages teach us about the relationship between obedience, remembrance, and surrender?

Application: Growing in Personal and Communal Prayer

Use these practical steps to help your group respond:

Personally

- Pray the honest question:

"God, where are You asking me to trust You again?"

- Name your Jordan:

Identify one obstacle that feels too big, too risky, or too uncertain.

- Build a prayer memorial:

Begin a list of answered prayers, past provisions, spiritual milestones, or Scriptures God has used in your life.

- Practice surrender language:

In prayer, hold your requests before God while also yielding the outcome to Him.

- Pray before the breakthrough:

Do not wait until the walls fall to worship. Pray while you are still walking around Jericho.

As a Group

- Share brief testimonies of God's faithfulness.
- Keep a group record of prayer requests and answered prayers.
- Pair up during the week to pray for one another's "next step."
- Encourage one another in areas where obedience feels slow or unseen.
- Regularly ask: "What is God teaching us about Himself in this season?"

Closing

Prayer Needs

Leave space for group members to share:

- Areas where they need courage to step forward.
- Places where they are waiting on God.
- Situations requiring "even if" faith.
- People they are praying will come to know that God is real.
- Gratitude for ways God has been faithful.

Closing Prayer Prompt

Close by inviting several people to pray around these themes:

- Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness.
 - Courage to step into obedience.
 - Help to remember what God has done.
 - Endurance in waiting.
 - Surrender to God's will.
 - Blessing over Pastor David, Kelsey, their family, and their new ministry assignment.
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Leader Notes

- Create safety. Some people may be facing real “Jordan River” moments. Avoid rushing to fix or explain their pain.
- Keep the focus on God’s character. The sermon emphasized not only what God does, but who God is.
- Honor different seasons. Some may be stepping forward, some may be waiting, and some may be grieving. Make room for all three.
- Encourage testimony without comparison. One person’s breakthrough should encourage the group, not shame someone still waiting.
- Guide toward application. Help each person identify one practical next step rather than leaving the conversation only at the level of ideas.
- Avoid forced answers. Let people wrestle honestly with “even if” faith. Spiritual maturity often grows through honest tension.