

STAY CLOSE #3

Joshua 3 & 4

01/23/2022

Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – STAY CLOSE – PRESENCE – 2022

- Not a fearful “stay close” THINK: invitation to **dwell** (remain, live, inhabit, stay)
- Our place is in the shadow of Most High; to be where He is, walk in His ways
- Exploring the basis FOR & foundation OF our relationship w/God

SLIDE 3 – IT’S A NEW DAY

- Moses is dead; Joshua now to lead Israel into the Land (Promised)
- Incredible promise of God – own Land, ‘milk & honey’ – blessing
 - *No more slavery, no more nomads/wandering – a place to be/BELONG*
- God’s promises & our inheritance –
 - enemy will fight us for it w/TEMPTATION to
 - Disobey, abandon, quit, question, settle, compromise...

SLIDE 4 – COVENANT: PROMISE & PRESENCE

- Covenant – agreement between 2 (or more) individuals, sealed by blood
 - PROMISE – “**this is how things will always be between us**”
 - Upheld by the good will, good name, & power of the greater party
- Basis for our relationship w/God is rooted in God initiating covenant w/us
- **Genesis 12** – God & Abram/Abraham – *go where I say (obey) & I will make you great, bless you & make your name great, & you’ll be a blessing to all nations.*

SLIDE 5 – PIC – THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (REPLICA) – poles to carry it

- FAKE – Raiders of the Lost Ark – talisman or something that brings luck
- REAL – physical/visible representation of God’s promises & presence
- The more proof/evidence needed, the younger/the > immature the individual

SLIDE 6 – STEP BY STEP: THE LAND

- Promises of the covenant + signs of the PRESENCE ‘I will be WITH you’
- Priests carry the ark (as a sign of the promise & presence of God) into the Land
 - You’re not alone; each step, each movement forward → WITH you
 - Elevating Joshua in the sight of the Israelites – esteemed as God’s man

SLIDES 7-20 – JOSHUA 3:1-17

SLIDES 21,22 – MAPS – CROSSING THE JORDAN

- Jordan at flood stage – natural barrier – keeps out armies etc
 - Remember Truckee River @ flood – downtown bridge w/backhoe?
- God will show His power – through Joshua, to Israel, & to people of the land
- The entering & taking of the Land is a step-by-step process – FROG

SLIDE 23 – CROSSING THE JORDAN?

- People to banks of the Jordan, at Shittim – 3 days – rest? Prep?
- God’s instruction – I’m going to send the ark across - & when you see it, you can follow it (1/2 mile back) – where the ark (PRESENCE) goes, you go
 - You’ve never gone this way – follow My presence – WITH YOU
 - Ark = covenant reminders – PROMISES & PRESENCE
- Consecrate selves (get ready – repent, get right, etc.) Here we go

SLIDE 24 – GO & STAND IN THE WATER

- Priests carry ark with poles – YOU will lead – go STAND IN the water
- EVERYBODY come watch – here’s what’s gonna happen
 - ...& here’s what it means: God will drive out all the -ites THIS IS A SIGN
 - Choose 1 man/tribe – for a task I’ll tell you about → COVENANT
 - As soon as the priests set a foot in the water, it will stop flowing & stand up In a heap – here we go!
- By the way – the Jordan is at flood stage throughout the harvest, so...
 - Not just standing in a river – standing in danger... or are they?
- When their feet touch the water, it did what God said it would – piled up

SLIDE 25 – REMEMBER: PROMISE & PRESENCE

- The priests stood in the middle of the Jordan, on DRY GROUND
- All Israel crossed over while they stood there – THEN, the 12 guys
 - “Go into the middle of the Jordan & you each pick 1 rock from where the priests were standing on dry ground; bring the rocks out of the Jordan
 - Pile them up in the place where y’all are camping tonight
- These rocks (altar) serve as a reminder of the covenant – promise/presence

SLIDE 26 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

- Stay close to Jesus
- Be flexible/open to God-directed change
- Be prepared – when God says “Get ready”
- Be strong & very courageous – God is WITH us
- Be careful to obey all we know to obey