

**June 14, 2026**  
**Passing Through Flood Waters**  
**Joshua 3:1-6 & 14-17**  
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Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it."

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.

So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 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. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off.

So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

## Questions for Personal or Small Group Use

### Opening

Think of a time you had to take a leap of faith — big or small. What made it feel risky, and how did it turn out?

### Discussion:

- In verses 1–6, the Israelites are told to follow the ark of the covenant into unknown territory — a path they had "not passed this way before" (v. 4). What do you think it would have felt like to be in that crowd, watching the priests step toward a flooded river? What emotions would you have?
- The priests had to get their feet wet before the waters parted (v. 15–16). Why do you think God didn't stop the river first, before asking them to step in? What does that sequence say about how trust actually works?
- The passage mentions that the Jordan was at flood stage — the worst possible time to cross (v. 15). Why do you think God chose this moment rather than waiting for conditions to improve? What might that suggest about the timing of challenges in your own life?
- New seasons can be exciting and terrifying at the same time. Which tends to be your default response to major change — anxious resistance or eager anticipation? What shapes that reaction in you?
- Crossing the Jordan marked the end of 40 years of wilderness wandering and the beginning of life in the Promised Land — a massive transition. What major life transitions are you navigating right now? (Career, family, health, loss, calling?) How does this passage speak to those moments?
- The Israelites had heard about the parting of the Red Sea (Joshua 2:10) but there were few left who had actually experienced it. We can know all the right theology about God's faithfulness and still find it hard to act on it. Where in your life right now is there a gap between what you believe about God and how you're actually living?

### Application

Looking at the passage as a whole: What is one specific area of your life where God may be calling you to step into the water before it parts? Write it on a notecard or in your journal. Pray over it daily this week and ask God to show you what your "step into the water" looks like.