



## SCRIPTURE

Joshua 4 & 5

## OVERVIEW

The Children of Israel now cross the river Jordan into the land God had promised to give them. They had not gone this way before and God miraculously made a way through. But how resilient was their faith – They crossed in haste 4v10 – They had some faith but not that resilient. Remember it is not about your resilience; it is about building resilient faith in God. Changing their perspective would help build this so after crossing they needed to stop and reflect on 3 things before they went on to conquer the land. These three reflections were:

1. **Looking Back**

Joshua set up stones of remembrance taken from the Jordan to remind them of when a mighty wonderful God had parted

the Jordan in flood so that they could cross over. The stones represent stories.

2. **Reset**

They then had to put back in place the important aspects of their chosen people status which had been ignored in the wilderness:

- a. The enemy is already defeated – Josh 5 v1
- b. Circumcised again – this had stopped in their wandering in the desert, such that this new generation of God's people were not circumcised. Circumcision was a sign of their agreement to God's covenant with them. God had not broken the covenant, the people had. This now had to be renewed and a recommitment to God took place.
- c. Took Passover – A reminder of the fast-food meal they partook of the night before leaving Egypt. They were meant to celebrate this event every year but only did it once. This was a reminder of how God had miraculously rescued them from slavery in Egypt and of course for us it reminds us of how Christ rescued us from a kingdom of darkness and brought us into a kingdom of light through his death and resurrection. Cf Breaking of Bread. The Passover was meant to happen on a specific day and now was that day. God had arranged this to be the case.
- d. Manna ceased – This reset how they were now to live – no longer relying on a daily provision from God which

they were not involved in producing but a new time to enjoy the fruits of the promised land which flowed with milk and honey (abundance and pleasure) that they would be working together with God to produce.

### 3. **Looking Ahead**

A meeting with a mysterious man who turned out to be the commander of the army of the Lord and maybe God himself (the place was holy). This is a reminder that we are on the Lord's side; it is his plans we follow; we have made allegiance to him; it's not about us although our plans will succeed as we align our hearts to him.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. Begin individually by considering on a level of 1-10 how resilient your faith is at the moment. (10 being really strong). You don't have to share but it is good to recognise where you start.
2. Then start sharing stones or stories of remembrance of how God has worked in your life. Keep these short so that everyone has a chance to share if they want to. What are the stories of The City Church?
3. Have a time of worship to thank God for how great he is and what he has done.
4. Consider breaking bread after this as you reset your hearts celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ and rescue from darkness.
5. Talk about what recommitment might

mean for you/us.

6. Discuss the loss of Manna and what this might mean going forward. How were they now meant to operate?
7. Our plans or God's! How do we align the two on a day-to-day basis?
8. What battle are we actually in? N.B. I'm talking about big picture here.