

# **bold** *take the Land*

## PART TWO: TAKE A STEP

We want God to do it all. We want God to do it all so that we won't have to do nothing. But God will only move in harmony with how we obey. God doesn't speak until we start moving to obey. God doesn't show us our next step to take until we step out and obey. We want God to show up and move for us. We want Him to obey for us. But that would alleviate our part in this process, because *God only hits a moving target.*

**BIG IDEA:** You won't take any ground unless you take a step.

In the third chapter of Joshua, the Israelites reach the Jordan River during the flood season. Stuck in the wilderness for 40 years, they have reached a crux point—a threshold moment. To reach the Promised Land, they must cross the high waters of the Jordan River, and follow in the path of the Ark of the Covenant at the instructed distance. When you're stuck in a wilderness of your own and finally reach a threshold moment, how can you prepare for a breakthrough?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When canoeing, camping, or fishing—what's your most memorable mishap?
2. What is your greatest fear? What would you attempt to do if you were **bold** and weren't afraid? If you knew it would succeed and could not fail?
3. *Read Joshua 3.* While waiting to cross the Jordan, what do you suppose the people were doing? Feeling? Praying? Anticipating?
4. *Read Joshua 3:1:* “Then Joshua rose early in the morning; he and all the Israelites left Acacia Grove and arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing.” God gave Joshua some instructions, and the first thing Joshua did was act immediately in obedience to God. Contrast Joshua's act of obedience to Moses' interaction with God at the burning bush in Exodus 3 & 4. ***Joshua made God first on his priority list.***
5. *Read Matthew 6:33.* What would happen if we woke up and made God the priority of our day? We prioritized God in our finances? We prioritized God in our marriage? We prioritized God in with how we parent our children?

*Many times we don't enter into a land of promise because we linger and delay obedience—we procrastinate obeying God by saying, “Let me pray about it.” Let me say this—you and I never have to pray to be obedient. We don't have to pray, “Should I put God first in my family?” “Should I put God first in my bank account?” Many times, we use prayer as an excuse to get out of obeying God.*

6. What does the Ark of the Covenant signify? (*Read Joshua 3:3-5, 11; Exodus 25:12, Numbers 4:5, 10:35-36, Deuteronomy 10:8, 31:26*) Why do you think they had to keep a half a mile back from the Ark?
7. Chris says that if you want to see a breakthrough to God's promises, you have to ***Go after God's presence.*** Would you say that you hunger for God's word? What needs to change for you to pursue God's presence in your life?
8. God told the Israelites not to get in front of the Ark of the Covenant, which held his presence. What difficulties have occurred in your life because you did not wait on God?
9. *Read Joshua 3:6-7.* When did God speak to Joshua? What did Joshua and the Israelites do before God started speaking?

*God is not going to give you more information until you act on the info He has already given you. He isn't going to give you details about tomorrow if you haven't moved on the details He gave you yesterday. God is not going to show you step 7, if you still haven't done step 1. God is not going to give you the next step until you have stepped out in faith and start moving.*

# ...**bolder** than ever

10. *Read Psalm 119:105.* Why do you think the Psalmist uses the word lamp here? What are some characteristics of lamps and lanterns that are different than other sources of light? What does this lamp illuminate? How does it direct us? How can we see farther down the path when we have a handheld lamp? How do you keep your lamp on? Have you gotten burned out?
11. *Read Joshua 3:7-8.* Why did God inaugurate Joshua's career similar to the one He gave Moses?
12. Chris says that if you want to see a breakthrough to God's promises, you not only have to **Go after God's presence**, but you Have to **Go all in and stand in the river**. What was the significance of God telling them to stand in the water? Do you tend to dip your foot in the water or move straight in to stand in it? Explain.
13. *Read Joshua 3:7-17 and Exodus 14.* How are these circumstances similar? How are they different? Was this an instantaneous miracle? (Note: the city of Adam was located 16 miles up river from Jericho, and has experienced a dry river bed on 2 other occasions: AD 1266 and 1927, both due to mudslides.)
14. Imagine you are one of the priests, holding this heavy ark above your head and your stepping into a raging Jordan river. You step in and your feet get wet, You keep on stepping and the water is around your knees. Now up to your waist? How do you feel? What do you fear? What do you think of Joshua's plan now?
15. *Read Joshua 3:14-17.* Why did God have the people cross the Jordan at the flood stage?
16. *Read Joshua 4:6-7, 21-22.* Why did Joshua ask the people to get stones and build an altar? Why 12 stones? (4:5; 3:12) Why from the river? Why two sets of altars: one in (or by) the river where the priests had stood (4:9), one taken to Gilgal (4:3, 19-20)?

## MOVING FORWARD

What are some areas that God has shown up and shown out in your past? Times when He has proven His faithfulness to you? As a group, take some rocks and write on them some of those events in your past, and make your own moment of God's faithfulness as a group by placing these stones in a glass vase or somewhere else to be displayed. This would also be a great interactive activity to do together with your family.

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## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This would be a great time as a group to do communion together. Communion is the New Testament way for us to purify ourselves and prepare ourselves for God to move in some big ways. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 and spend some time getting right with God personally.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall. As soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.*  
Joshua 3:13, 15-16

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