

S W E E T S

Part 2: Yes

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Lem Usita, Next Generation Pastor

This week's word is yes.

Joshua 3:7-8

⁷ And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"

Verse 8 is a command: go and stand in the river.

Joshua 3:14-17

¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

When you get to the river's edge, step in first.

Another Jordan River Story:

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus gave us his yes first.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. – John 15:16

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

– Ephesians 1:4-6

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

Jesus gave us his yes by choosing us so that we can in turn give our best yes to others.

What is the Best Yes?

A yes to Jesus doesn't mean a yes to everything.

A yes to Jesus means you'll be about all the things He is about.

A yes to Jesus means that you give your yes to others

God's commands are always the best place to let your yes reside.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's the best yes you've ever received?
- 2) Can you remember a "river's edge" moment in your life? Are you in a Jordan River experience right now? Can you tell us about that situation?
- 3) In your life, is there anyone you wish could receive their yes from Jesus? Is there someone who needs abundant life that Jesus gives? Who, and what part could you play in that?
- 4) Saying yes to Jesus means saying yes to others (within boundaries). What are some yeses you've received from Jesus that you could offer to others?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?