

Small Group Guide: Crossing the Jordan - Building Faith for Victory

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you had to do something difficult that required you to trust God even though you were afraid. What helped you take that step?

Key Scripture References

- Joshua 1:5-9
- Psalm 106:7-26
- Deuteronomy 8:1-20
- James 1:2-4
- Hebrews 12:2

Main Points Summary

1. Spiritual Warfare is About Growing in Faith

The sermon emphasizes that true spiritual warfare isn't mystical rituals— it's growing in wisdom and knowledge of God, reading Scripture, and living obediently.

2. The Wilderness Journey: Lessons Learned

- **Observe** - Be obedient to God's Word
- **Remember** - Don't forget what God has done
- **Consider** - Understand the purpose of suffering
- **Beware** - Don't let prosperity make you forget God

3. Why Joshua Was Chosen

- He was humble and a servant
- He had convictions and calling
- He knew God's Word and promises

4. Crossing the Jordan Requires Consecration

Following the Ark of the Covenant (representing Christ) into unknown territory requires dedication and trust.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

- 1. The pastor mentioned that the new generation was different from their parents who wandered in the wilderness. What made them different? How does this apply to our spiritual growth today?**
- 2. Read Deuteronomy 8:2. Why does God allow us to be humbled and tested? What is He trying to reveal to us about ourselves?**
- 3. The sermon states: "Spiritual warfare is about building your faith, growing in the wisdom and knowledge of God, and then living that out." How does this challenge common perceptions of spiritual warfare?**

Personal Reflection

- 4. Which of the four commands resonated most with you: Observe, Remember, Consider, or Beware? Why?**
- 5. The story of the sheep with the broken leg illustrated how God sometimes breaks us to teach us. Have you experienced a time when God "broke" something in your life? How did that change you?**
- 6. The pastor asked: "How can I be obedient to something I never read?" Be honest—how consistent is your personal Bible reading? What obstacles keep you from God's Word?**

Application & Challenge

- 7. The sermon warns about prosperity causing us to forget God (Deuteronomy 8:11-14). In what areas of your life might comfort or blessing be causing spiritual complacency?**
- 8. Joshua was described as humble, serving, and committed to God's Word. Which of these three qualities do you most need to develop? What's one practical step you can take this week?**
- 9. The pastor said, "You want to fight the devil? Live a Christian life in a dark place. Let your light shine." Where is God calling you to**

let your light shine this week—at work, home, or in your community?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Real spiritual victory comes from growing in faith, not from spiritual formulas or rituals**
- ✓ **God uses the wilderness seasons to humble us, test us, and reveal what's in our hearts**
- ✓ **Memory is crucial—we must remember what God has done, not our past failures**
- ✓ **Prosperity and comfort can be spiritual dangers if they make us forget our dependence on God**
- ✓ **Following Jesus means going into "enemy territory" with courage, not running away**
- ✓ **We must follow the Ark (Christ) into unknown waters—He goes before us**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

Option 1: OBSERVE (Obedience)

- Identify one area where you know God is calling you to obedience but you've been resisting. Take one concrete step toward obedience this week.

Option 2: REMEMBER (Gratitude)

- Start a "Remember Journal" listing specific ways God has provided, protected, or answered prayer in your life. Review it when you're tempted to doubt.

Option 3: CONSIDER (Perspective on Suffering)

- If you're going through a difficult season, ask God what He wants to teach you through it. Journal your reflections.

Option 4: BEWARE (Guard Against Complacency)

- Evaluate your schedule. Are you "too busy" for God? Identify one thing to eliminate to create more space for Him.

Group Prayer Focus

- **Pray for courage** to cross whatever "Jordan River" God is calling your group members to cross
- **Pray for humility** like Joshua—to be servants rather than seeking the spotlight
- **Pray for consistency** in reading and applying God's Word
- **Pray for those stuck in "wilderness wandering"**—that they would commit to following Jesus fully
- **Pray for protection** from the dangers of prosperity and self-sufficiency

Closing Reflection

Read together: Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

Final Question: What would it look like for you to "cross the Jordan" in faith this week? Share one specific area where you need to trust God and step into unknown territory.

Preparation for Next Week

The sermon will continue with part two of "Crossing the Jordan." Come prepared to discuss:

- What happened when you took your "step of faith" this week?
- What obstacles did you face?
- How did you see God show up?