



IT'S TIME TO CROSS OVER

STUDY GUIDE

Joshua 3:1-17

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VERTICAL TAMP A

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide walks back through Sunday's message, "It's Time to Cross Over," so you can dig deeper on your own or with your group. Read each point, sit with the Word Study and Key Line boxes, and let the questions move you from information to reflection. You do not have to answer every question in one sitting.

A suggested rhythm: read one Point per day across three days, then return to the Big Idea and the Close on day four to reset before moving forward.

BIG IDEA

An open heaven is God giving us access to what He promised, but transition requires us to follow His presence, prepare ourselves, and put our feet in the water.

God did not bring us through this conference merely to give us a powerful experience. He is transitioning us into a new way of living, and our responsibility is to follow, consecrate, and move.

REFLECT BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. Where have you become comfortable in a place God never intended to become permanent?
2. Think of a promise you have prayed over for a long time. What is keeping you on the near side of the Jordan?

POINT 1 · FOLLOW THE PRESENCE INTO THE UNFAMILIAR

JOSHUA 3:3-4, NIV

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.

The ark represented the presence, authority, covenant, and government of God. God did not begin by giving Israel a detailed map. He gave them His presence. The instruction was simple: when you see the ark move, you move. This transition could not be navigated by experience, because God told them plainly that they had never been this way before.

You may not know where you are going, but you know who you are following.

WORD STUDY · GREEK

γινώσκω (ginōskō) "know"

The word translated “know” in Philippians 3:10. More than knowing information about someone. Personal, relational, experiential knowledge. Paul had already encountered Jesus, preached the gospel, planted churches, and suffered for his faith, yet he still said, “I want to know Christ.” Christian maturity is not reaching a place where you no longer need to pursue Jesus. Maturity makes you want Him even more.

Joshua told the people to remain roughly two thousand cubits behind the ark, about half a mile. This taught them to honor the holiness of God’s presence. They were not leading the ark; the ark was leading them. Sometimes we make our plans and ask God to bless them, but this transition requires a different prayer: “God, show me where You are moving, and give me the courage to follow.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What would it look like this week to follow God’s presence rather than ask Him to bless a plan you already made?
2. Where have you been relying on yesterday’s map to navigate a season you have never faced before?
3. What direction did God give you at the conference that you still have not followed?

POINT 2 · PREPARE FOR WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR

JOSHUA 3:5, NIV

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

They had been praying, waiting, and wandering for forty years. Now the answer was directly in front of them, but before God brought them into the land, He told them to prepare themselves spiritually. God was preparing the people for what He had already prepared for the people.

WORD STUDY · HEBREW

קָדַשׁ (*qadash*) "consecrate"

To set apart. To make holy. To dedicate something exclusively to God. To remove distractions, realign your heart, and prepare to belong completely to God. Consecration does not manipulate God or make the miracle happen. It positions us to recognize and respond to what He has already promised to do.

You do not consecrate yourself to earn the promise. You consecrate yourself because the promise deserves a prepared version of you.

In 2 Kings 4, a widow's oil kept flowing until there were no more vessels to fill. The limitation was never in the oil; it was in the available capacity. Her preparation did not create the oil, it created room for the oil. That is consecration: it creates space in us for what God desires to pour through us. An open heaven is not permission to become spiritually careless. Greater access creates greater accountability, and before God enlarges what is around you, He often deepens what is within you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What needs to change in your schedule, habits, or appetites to make room for what you have been praying for?
2. What did you surrender at the altar during the conference that you are tempted to pick back up?
3. Which spiritual discipline (prayer, Scripture, worship, generosity, service, accountability) do you most need to restart?

POINT 3 · PUT YOUR FEET IN THE FLOOD

JOSHUA 3:13, 15, 17, NIV

As soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord... set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off... Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest... The priests... 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.

God promised to stop the river, but the priests had to step into it first. The water did not move while they discussed it, studied it, or shouted about it. It moved when their feet touched it. There are some miracles you will never see while standing safely on the bank.

The promise is God's responsibility. The step is mine.

The Jordan was at flood stage, the hardest possible moment to cross, because God was establishing that their future would not depend on favorable conditions. The priests did not simply touch the water and leave; they stood in the middle until every last person had crossed. That is a picture of intercession: standing in the place of pressure so others can walk into the place of promise. Like the priests in the Jordan, Jesus is our greater High Priest, entering what could have destroyed us and standing victorious so we could pass from death into life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What step of obedience have you been asking God to take for you instead of taking yourself?
2. Is there a "flood stage" circumstance in your life right now where God may want you to move anyway?
3. Who has God positioned you to stand in the gap for, even if it means remaining in a hard middle longer than you'd like?

CLOSE · THE JORDAN OPENS AGAIN

Generations later, Jesus entered the same Jordan River. Israel entered the Jordan to step into the Promised Land. Jesus entered the Jordan to begin His public ministry and announce the kingdom of God. And when heaven opened over Jesus, the Father declared His love and pleasure before Jesus had performed a single miracle.

MATTHEW 3:16-17, NIV

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. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

We do not cross for identity. We cross from identity.

We do not obey God to become His children. We obey because through Christ we already are His children. This is what makes an open heaven more than an event. Through Jesus, we have access to the Father, the presence of the Spirit, and the authority to live as kingdom people.

THIS WEEK

1. Name one area where you have been standing on the bank instead of stepping into the water.
2. Identify one habit, relationship, or decision God has been calling you to consecrate, and give it to Him this week.
3. Write out what it would look like, practically, to put your feet in the flood at His word rather than waiting for easier conditions.