



## Want To Go Deeper? - Week 2

### Historical Context

Joshua 3-5 is a pivotal section in the narrative of the Israelites as they transition from wandering in the wilderness to entering the Promised Land. Here are some important historical contexts to consider:

1. **Leadership Transition:** Joshua had recently taken over leadership from Moses, who had led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness for 40 years. Joshua was tasked with leading the new generation into the Promised Land, a significant responsibility that required faith and courage.
2. **The Promised Land:** The land of Canaan was promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites had been anticipating this moment for generations, and it represented the fulfillment of God's covenant with their forefathers.
3. **The Jordan River:** Crossing the Jordan River was a significant event because it marked the boundary into the Promised Land. The river was at flood stage, making the crossing a miraculous event that demonstrated God's power and presence with the Israelites.
4. **The Ark of the Covenant:** The Ark represented God's presence among His people. Its role in the crossing of the Jordan was crucial, as it went before the people, symbolizing that God was leading them into the land.
5. **Consecration and Faith:** Joshua instructed the people to consecrate themselves, which involved ritual purification, as a preparation for witnessing God's miraculous work. This act of

consecration was a demonstration of their faith and readiness to follow God's lead.

6. **Memorial Stones:** After crossing the Jordan, Joshua set up twelve stones as a memorial to remind future generations of God's faithfulness and the miraculous crossing. This act was intended to ensure that the story of God's deliverance would be passed down through the generations.
7. **Circumcision at Gilgal:** The Israelites renewed the covenant of circumcision, which had been neglected during the wilderness years. This act symbolized their renewed commitment to God and their identity as His covenant people.
8. **Passover Celebration:** The Israelites celebrated Passover in the Promised Land for the first time, marking their transition from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land God had promised them.

These chapters highlight themes of faith, obedience, and God's faithfulness, as well as the importance of remembering and passing down the stories of God's mighty acts.

## Marks of a Movement

- It always requires a step of faith.
- If God isn't in it, it will fail.
- The Holy Spirit empowers ordinary people.
- People are amazed.
- God's purpose spreads.
- Opposition rises.
- Changed lives fuel more change.

## Deeper Application

Prepare yourselves spiritually to witness and participate in a move of God. This involves several key aspects:

1. **Consecration and Readiness:** Just as the Israelites were called to consecrate themselves before crossing the Jordan, we are invited to prepare our hearts and lives for God's work. This means setting aside time for prayer, repentance, and seeking God's guidance. It challenges us to consider whether we are spiritually ready to recognize and respond to God's movements in our lives.
2. **Faith Before Certainty:** The Israelites had to step into the flood-stage Jordan River before the waters parted. This act of faith before seeing the outcome is a powerful reminder that God often calls us to trust Him and take steps of obedience even when the path isn't clear. It encourages us to act on faith, trusting that God will provide and guide us as we move forward.
3. **Remembering God's Faithfulness:** The memorial stones set up by the Israelites serve as a reminder of God's past faithfulness. In our lives, we are encouraged to remember and recount

the times God has moved powerfully. This practice strengthens our faith and provides assurance during times of uncertainty or challenge.

4. **Identity and Renewal:** The renewal of circumcision and the celebration of Passover signified a renewed commitment to God and a reclaiming of their identity as His people. For us, this can mean regularly renewing our commitment to live according to God's purposes and embracing our identity as His children, set apart for His work.
5. **God's Presence in Transition:** The Ark of the Covenant going before the Israelites symbolizes God's presence leading them. In times of transition or decision-making, we are reminded to seek God's presence and guidance, trusting that He goes before us, is with us, and follows behind us.

By applying these principles, we can cultivate a life that is attentive to God's movements, ready to act in faith, and anchored in the remembrance of His faithfulness. This prepares us to participate in His work and witness His glory in our lives and communities.

## Challenge

### Step into the Water of Faith

As we reflect on the story of Joshua and the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, I challenge you to identify an area in your life where God is calling you to take a step of faith. Perhaps it's a decision you've been hesitant to make, a relationship that needs mending, or a calling you've been reluctant to pursue.

1. **Prepare Your Heart:** Spend time in prayer and consecration, asking God to reveal His will and prepare your heart for His movement. Seek His guidance and be open to His leading, even if it requires stepping into the unknown.
2. **Take the Step:** Like the priests who stepped into the flood-stage Jordan, take a bold step of faith, trusting that God will meet you there. Remember, faith often requires action before certainty. Trust that God is with you, leading you, and will provide the way forward.
3. **Set Up Your Memorial:** As you witness God's faithfulness in your life, create a "memorial" to remember His work. This could be a journal entry, a note in your Bible, or a conversation with a friend. Let this serve as a reminder of God's presence and power, strengthening your faith for future challenges.
4. **Share Your Story:** Just as the Israelites shared the story of the Jordan crossing with future generations, share your testimony of God's movement in your life with others. Your story can inspire and encourage those around you to trust in God's faithfulness and take their own steps of faith.

By embracing this challenge, you open yourself to experiencing God's transformative power in your life, becoming a living testament to His glory and faithfulness. Are you ready to step into the water and see what God will do?