

JOSHUA 3 STUDY NOTES (2/13/22)

Joshua's Big Theme: The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

Today's Context: Joshua 3 brings us to the Jordan River as the Israelites prepare to begin their conquest on the other side. As God parts the waters of the Jordan, He doesn't just perform a powerful miracle, but reminds them of the Exodus, and His ongoing trustworthy character.

Additional Study Notes:

- Joshua is the sixth book of the Bible, immediately following the Pentateuch (Genesis - Deuteronomy). It continues the narrative of Israel's journey home.

For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request

Discussion Questions

CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 2? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

TODAY'S TEXT

KNOWING God

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: What Psalms have you enjoyed in your reading this week?
- (6) Compare and contrast the spies leaving the land of Canaan in Numbers 13:26-33 and here in Joshua 2:24. How has Israel's mindset and focus changed? How does this speak to God's slow work of growing us in trust?
- (7) How does this passage echo the Exodus? What might be the significance of that?

GROWING Together

- (8) **If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (9) Share a time when you had to trust God without knowing the details of how He would provide. What did you learn from that moment? What did you fail to learn?
- (10) If we're called to *follow* God while He isn't visibly/physically leading us, how do we follow Him?
- (11) How does our trust in God grow? How do we both learn more about His trustworthy character and actually *trust* His character?
- (12) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

SHOWING God to Others

- (13) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (14) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 4:1-5:1. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (15) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (16) Would you question God's plan to fight off your enemies and stand at a river that He says He will part for you? Why or why not? Did God's plan happen like he said it would? What does that tell you about God?
- (17) How do you see God working in your life? Do you question his plans for you or do you allow Him to lead? How can you share the God who leads you with people in your life today?