

Joshua 3

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Have you entered the promises of God? Is there any particular Bible promise that resonates with your heart? Your life? Your circumstances? God wants you to enter His promises by faith. He will deal with any obstacles that seem to thwart the way into His promises.

In Joshua 3, over one million Israelites stood on the brink of the Promised Land. The overflowing Jordan River presented a barrier to their entrance. But God had a plan; He always has a plan! Only two things were required of the people. The first was to follow the ark, because the territory was unknown to them (Joshua 3:3), and the second was to purify themselves (Joshua 3:5). The great Jordan was not a problem to God.

Likewise, there are only two requirements for us to enter into God's promises. The first is to follow Jesus, and the second is to allow Him to purify our hearts and lives. It is only as we follow Jesus that we enter into all the promises of God.

Ask God to lead you into His promises.

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 3:1–4

1. Upon receiving a favorable report from the spies, Joshua prepared to lead the people across the Jordan River into Canaan. From Joshua 3:1, document the activity of the *children of Israel*.

2. *After three days*, the *officers* went through and *commanded the people* concerning their advance (Joshua 3:2–3a). When were they to set out to cross the Jordan? Joshua 3:3b

a. From Hebrews 9:4, identify and remark on the three articles contained within the *ark*:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(a) The *ark* served as a visible representation of the presence of God. Why was it important that the Israelites set out *after* the *ark*? See also Numbers 10:33.

b. Joshua instructed the people to keep a *space of two thousand cubits* (a half mile) between themselves and the *ark* (Joshua 3:4a). Why was this instruction given? Joshua 3:4b

- (1) Share an area from your life where you can apply this counsel.

3. From your study today, what wisdom do you receive concerning the importance of:
 - a. God's presence (see also Exodus 33:14–15)

 - b. God's guidance

THIRD DAY: Read Joshua 3:5–8

1. What did Joshua exhort *the people* to do? Joshua 3:5a
 - a. Why were they to do this? Joshua 3:5b

(1) Define *sanctify*

- (2) Why do you think this instruction was so critical for Israel to obey?
 - (a) How does this speak to you about your need to be spiritually prepared?
2. Summarize Joshua's directives to the priests. Joshua 3:6
3. Record God's personal message to Joshua. Joshua 3:7
 - a. In what way do you think this would:
 - (1) Benefit Joshua as a leader
 - (2) Bless Joshua personally
 - b. Share a personal message God has spoken to you.

4. What did God tell Joshua to *command the priests*?
Joshua 3:8
 - a. Why was this instruction remarkable?

5. Share a situation in which God has asked you to stand.

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 3:9–13

1. After receiving instruction from God, Joshua summoned the people to come *hear the words of the Lord* (Joshua 3:9). According to Joshua 3:10:
 - a. What would they know

 - b. What would God do without fail

2. From Joshua 3:11–13, summarize Joshua's instruction for:
 - a. The *ark of the covenant* (verse 11)

- b. The tribes of Israel (verse 12)

 - c. The priests (verse 13)
 - (1) How do you see these instructions as an act of faith for:
 - (a) Joshua

 - (b) The tribes

 - (c) The priests
3. From Joshua 3:11, 13 note and comment on the authority of the Lord.
- a. Why was it expedient for the Israelites to acknowledge God's greatness?

4. Share a place in your life where you need to acknowledge God's greatness in order to exercise faith.

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 3:14–17

1. Capture the drama of this scene by writing a brief account of the events that unfolded. Joshua 3:14–15
 - a Warren Wiersbe notes, *During most of the year, the Jordan River was about a hundred feet wide, but at the spring flood season, the river overflowed its banks and became a mile wide.*³ How does this enhance your awe at their step of faith?

2. From Joshua 3:16, describe what happened when the feet of the priests *dipped* into the water.
 - a God miraculously stopped the waters from *very far away* (about twenty miles). This relatively distant work directly affected Israel's crossing. How does this speak to you concerning God's work?

b. Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(1) 2 Corinthians 5:7

(2) Hebrews 11:1

(a) How does this inspire you to step out in faith?

3. From Joshua 3:17, record and comment on the resulting miracle.
4. Compare and contrast this story with the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus 14:21–29. What do you see?
5. What is your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?

