

Discussion Guide

Series: *To Be Continued...*, wk2 *Crossing the Jordan*

July 7, 2024



Big Idea

Being strong & courageous requires fearing God.



Icebreaker

What is the scariest thing you've ever done, or what is your biggest fear?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Joshua 3:1-4a (ending with: "... *this way before.*") What was the ark and what did it contain? What did it represent? Why is it meaningful that instead of following their human leader (Joshua), the people were asked to follow those carrying the ark? Fill in the blanks: *The ark represented God's p_____ & p_____ with His people.*
2. Read Joshua 3:4b (starting with: "*But keep a distance...*") & Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 20. Why does God hate sin? Why were the Israelites told to give the ark a wide berth? Recap with one another the example in the sermon given of Niagara Falls and how that relates to the appropriate fear (or respect) one should have toward God. Fill in the blank: *Being strong and courageous requires f_____ God.*
3. Read Joshua 3:5-6. What is living in fear of God really to really look like for us? How did the people "consecrate" themselves in Joshua's day? How does one "consecrate" themselves today?
4. Read Joshua 3:7-8 & 15-17. Why is it significant that this passage includes the detail that the Jordan was at flood stage? Do you see this as strange timing for God to decide to have the Israelites cross the Jordan & if so, why? Read Joshua 1:9. Why does it now (in Joshua 3) make more sense that God encouraged Joshua in the way that He did (to be strong & courageous) in Joshua 1:9? This all acts as a strong reminder to us that "God's ways are not our ways." Why? Do you think the people struggled with any hesitancy or reluctance as they considered following Joshua's direction here? How have; or are you struggling to obey a way of God's, that goes against the way you think?
5. Read Joshua 4:24. According to this verse, what are the reasons why God chose to have the crossing of the Jordan happen at flood stage? Read Joshua 5:1b (ending with: "... *to face the Israelites.*"). Appropriate fear of God can give strength & courage to those who trust Him, while it can take away strength & courage from those who don't trust Him. How can you make sure that you are on the correct side of this equation?
6. Fill in the blank: *When we fear only God, we pave the way for o_____ to be strong and courageous.* How and why does this happen? Do you have an example to share of when someone else's appropriate fear of God, resulting in strength & courage, helped you to be such? Do you have an example to share of when your appropriate fear of God resulted in the increased strength & courage of another?



Concluding Question

If you participated in this past week's "To Be Continued..." Daily Bible Reading Plan, what day/passage spoke to you the most & why?



Prayer

Pray that the entire church would have an increased and more appropriate reverence/respect for God and His Word and His ways.