Session 2: Joshua 3:1–17

**SESSION GOALS**

**Main Idea:** When we trust and obey God, he will lead us where he wants us to go.

**Head Change:** To know that God may call us to take steps of obedience that don’t make sense to us.

**Heart Change:** To feel at peace in obedience, even when we don’t know God’s plan.

**Life Change:** To follow God’s lead through every challenge and difficulty we face in life.

**OPEN**

**What is something that used to challenge you that you are now comfortable with facing?**

Sometimes, facing a challenge once is all it takes to be courageous. Think of swimming, for example. Swimming may have once been a terrifying challenge, but after spending time around the water, it became less of a challenge. But even if you know how to swim, you still must be careful and trust your ability to keep you afloat.

After facing the Red Sea and being delivered through it, you would think that a simple river wouldn’t bother God’s people. But at the banks of the Jordan, they came to a halt. To step into God’s Promised Land, the Israelites would have to take courageous steps of faith across the river. They would have to trust that God would lead them through it. In this session, Louie Giglio shows us that obeying God’s plan requires following him in faith, even if it leads us into troubling waters.

**READ**

Read Joshua 3:1–17.

**WATCH**

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Louie Giglio’s teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

* **What did the Levitical priests carry across the Jordan River?**
* **What does it mean to consecrate yourself?**
* **What are the four main takeaways Louie highlights in this session?**

Show Session 2: *Joshua 3:1–17* (13 minutes).

**DISCUSS**

1. As he opened this session, Louie drew a connection between what the Israelites faced and what many of us are facing today. To get to where God is calling us, we have to cross a “river,” or a seemingly impossible obstacle. **What steps of faith do you sense God calling you to take? What challenges stand in your way of taking those steps?**

Read Joshua 3:1–6.

1. The Israelites marched right up to the flooded banks of the Jordan River—then waited for three days. **Have you ever stalled out in the face of a challenge? What were you waiting for?**

1. Verse 3 introduces us to the ark of the covenant, which represented the presence of God. As they waited, the people were to watch the ark and follow where the Levites moved it. In essence, God was telling them to wait until he said go. **When has God told you to wait? At what point did you know it was time to move? How did you know?**

Read Joshua 3:7–13.

1. Having heard from God, Joshua then addressed the Israelites. He told them God would assure them of his promise to give them the land by cutting off the Jordan’s flow of water. God would do a miracle, but they would have to put their feet in the water first. **What role did faith play in Israel crossing the Jordan River? Has God required you to exercise faith before he intervened in a particular circumstance? What did it look like for you to step forward in faith?**

Despite the risks and their uncertainty, Israel obeyed God and stepped into the Jordan. Read Joshua 3:14–17.

1. As soon as the priests carrying the ark placed their feet into the Jordan, the water stood still and backed up, allowing God’s people to cross. Louie said God separated the waters so that everyone could see God’s faithfulness to his promises. Louie remarked, “God likes to make statements that when he calls; he confirms what he calls.” **In what ways has God confirmed your faithfulness to him? Have you seen God confirm his faithfulness to others? How so?**

1. God helped Israel cross the river, but they would soon face more challenges in the Promised Land. Louie reminded us that God doing something amazing for us doesn’t mean our lives will be easy. The presence of opposition or hardship in our lives doesn’t mean we’ve made a mistake—it is a new opportunity to trust God. **When you face difficulties, what thoughts enter your mind? Do you wonder if you’ve made a mistake and “stepped outside” the will of God? If so, for what reasons?**

**LAST WORD**

Crossing the Jordan River was only the first step in claiming God’s Promised Land, but it was a moment that required significant trust in God. To see the power of God, Israel had to take an intimidating, unnatural step of faith. Would God deliver on his promises?

We ask the same question today. Will God show up when I am faithful? The path before us isn’t always clear, and even when it is, it doesn’t always make sense. Like Israel, if we want to witness the power of God, we need only take a step of faith. Don’t let your questions keep you from trusting the one who is in control. He will not lead you astray.