

Sermon Study

Joshua 4:1-24

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Share a time when you received a special Christmas gift that you had been wanting for a very long time. What is a gift you are currently hoping to receive?

2. Discuss a time when you embarked on a new beginning, and how this new beginning differs from the former end you stepped away from (moved towns, accepted a job/position, new school, received your driver's license, etc.).

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Read Joshua 4:4-7, 22-24

The nation of Israel is gathered together to remember what God is doing in the midst of His people. Through Joshua, God has the nation pause on the threshold of entering the promise land to gather twelve stones to build an altar that it may be a “sign among you,” and for future generations that, “Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground” (vv. 6, 22).

Group Discussion:

1. Pause to remember the waters God **has** parted for you in your life. How did God breach the waters for you, and provide dry ground?
2. Pause to remember what God **is** doing in your life. What waters are you currently amid? In what ways are you aware of the Lord's presence going before you; currently with you?
3. Pause to remember the promises of God that still **await**. Ultimately, for all of us, entering our 'promise land' is entering eternal life with Christ. However, there are promises that God plans to give us now in this age (cf. Mark 10:29-31).
4. As we have paused to remember what God has done, is doing, and what still awaits, one thing interweaves them all: God's faithfulness. Paul reminds the church in Corinth that “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:9). Paul further exhorts to Timothy, “if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself” (2 Tim. 2:13). Faithfulness is not just an attribute of God, it is the very nature of who He is. How does knowing that God is faithful impact your life in Christ?

Go (your group on mission)

“Command the priests *bearing the ark of the testimony* to come up out of the Jordan” (Jer. 4:16; emphasis mine). The Hebrew word for testimony that we find here is *eduth*, which comes from the verb *uwd* meaning to return, do again; repeat. To give a testimony is to mindfully return to a particular event in the past, and repeat what occurred.

- As Christ followers, we bear a remarkable testimony to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Read and reflect on Acts 4 giving specific attention to Peter and John bearing the testimony of Jesus Christ, and their prayer for boldness in proclaiming His name.
- Pray this week for an opportunity to be bold in sharing a testimony, a remembrance, of how the Lord went before you. This could be your testimony of coming to faith in Jesus Christ, or your testimony of answered prayer as God parted the waters and provided dry ground.

Give

(your group serving each other)

Proverbs tells us that “Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way” (19:2). We look at Israel, and her desire to enter into the promise land. First came the knowledge from God on how to get there and the path to take (Jos. 3:4), then, and only then, did “the people passed over in haste” (4:10). As we stand on the threshold of a new week let us not make haste of it, but let us rather desire to find our way by seeking to understand the path God has put before us (see Deut. 31:8).