



Joshua: Crossing The River

Date: Sunday 19th September

Speaker: Jon Solway & Paul Gating

Key Verses: Joshua 3 & 4

Talk Summary:

There were 3 crucial steps to the Israelites crossing the Jordan successfully.

- They first had to **CONSECRATE**: Joshua 3:1-5. They had to separate from themselves anything that made them unclean, so that they could see God move. Today, we've been made clean by Jesus, but we're still called to live as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), to make daily choices to honour God and draw our hearts closer to Him. What steps do we need to take to consecrate ourselves?
- Secondly, they had to **COMMENCE**: Joshua 3:14-17. The Levites (priests) had to take the first step of faith into the river before the waters receded. They had to believe that God would make a way, and take a step even before it seemed that God was doing anything. Likewise, we often need to take the first step of obedience in order to see God move. He wants us to learn to rely on Him. Where is God inviting us to step out?
- Thirdly, they needed to **COMMEMORATE**: Joshua 4:1-7. Once they had seen God move, they created a monument so that they would remember what God had done, and be able to teach future generations of His miraculous power. This act educated them, and also built faith that they had seen God move, and therefore could believe that He'd move again in future. As we remember what God has done, we see the same: our faith is built, those around us learn, and those who don't know Jesus. How could we practically commemorate what God has done?

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- If Jesus has already cleansed us, why is consecration still important to us?
- What are some of the ways we could consecrate ourselves to God?
- Where have you seen God move in your life? Did you have to take the first step? What was that like? Share stories of how you've stepped out.
- How do you remember what God has done? Discuss some practical ideas of how to do that.
- Are you stood before a river, unsure of how to get across? Share it with each other so that, as a group, you can support one another and pray together.

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?