

PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 1

★ The point: God Himself goes before us.

▶ Read Joshua 3:5-13.

Summarize the message God gave to Joshua in verses 7 and 8.

Underline the phrase “I will begin to exalt” in verse 7. Would Joshua have to do anything to make himself respected as the new leader of Israel? Why is this important? Explain.

Describe the specific instructions God gave to Joshua to deliver to Israel (vv. 9-13).

Instructions for the people

Instructions for the priests

The ark of the covenant symbolized God’s presence among the nation of Israel. Knowing this, how did God physically go before the people? Explain.

How does the Lord go before people today?

▶ Respond

Imagine you were one of the Israelites under Joshua’s leadership. What kinds of “wonders” (v. 5) would you anticipate? How does this relate to living in expectation of God’s work in your own life?

The Lord is always before us, working on our behalf. Recall a time in your life when you knew without a doubt the Lord was preparing a way for you. Thank Him for His faithfulness to you.

The Lord had already promised Joshua He would go before him. For further study on God’s promise to go before His people, read Deuteronomy 31:1-6.

PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 2

The point: God calls us to obey in faith.

Glance back at yesterday's study and recall what the Lord told the priests to do. Summarize God's command to the priests in your own words.

Read Joshua 3:14-17.

Reread verse 15. Note the stage of the Jordan during harvest season. Knowing this, what does the Israelites' obedience say about their faith?

What happened when the priests stepped into the water? Sketch the image that comes to mind.

The Israelites obeyed God in faith, and God was faithful to set them safely across the Jordan. What does the phrase "stood firmly on dry ground" (v. 17) say about God's faithfulness?

God doesn't just call us to respond in faith—He makes a way for us and is faithful to see us through whatever He calls us to face.

Respond

Consider your own life. What has God called you to do that seemed impossible?

Now, list three situations in which God is currently calling for action. Pray over these, committing to complete and faithful obedience.

For further study on what it looks like to obey in faith, read Genesis 22.

PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 3

The point: God calls us to remember and testify to His power.

Read Joshua 4:19-24.

What did the Israelites do to remember what they had just experienced? Where did they get the stones? Why is this important?

What was the purpose of the memorial? Do you think they could have remembered and told future generations what happened without this physical reminder? Explain.

Is it still important today for parents and grandparents to spiritually shape the younger generation? Do you see this happening around you? Explain.

Why should the mighty acts of the Lord be remembered and shared with others? Explain.

Respond

List the names of the people who have taught you about God. Pray for them and thank God for their influence in your life.

Do you have a special way of remembering how God works in your life? If not, try keeping a journal or box filled with small items or letters that help you remember. Periodically look through it as a reminder of God's faithfulness.

For further study on remembering God's power, read 1 Samuel 7:1-12.

PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 4

The point: God promised victory over His enemies.

Read Joshua 6:1-5.

Describe the battle plan in your own words.

Look closely at verse 2. How could Joshua confidently lead the people even though the plan seemed odd? What did this say about Joshua's faith?

What do you think the priests were thinking as they listened to Joshua share the Lord's plan of attack?

How did this strategy focus on God's power rather than the people's ability? Did the Israelites still have a role to play, even though the plan didn't involve military conquest or weapons? Explain.

Respond

Has God ever asked you to do something for Him in a way that seemed strange at the time? How did He reveal His plan to you? His power?

You can be confident that there will always be victory over the enemy where God is concerned. Thank God for the assurance of knowing the battles have already been won.

For further study on God's ways being different than our own, read Isaiah 55:8-11.

PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 5

The point: The people prepare for victory over God's enemies and obey.

Read Joshua 6:15-21.

The Israelites obeyed God and marched around the wall of Jericho in silence once a day for six days. What changed on the seventh day? Why was that significant?

In your own words, describe Joshua's orders to the people.

Why was it important for the Israelites to destroy everything in the city (v. 17)?

At the sound of all the voices shouting, what happened to the wall?

The Israelites never expressed any inward doubt; they fully obeyed the Lord's instruction and completely trusted Joshua. Why is it important for us to have the same faith in God's plan?

Respond

In what probably seemed like a crazy plan to the people of Jericho, the Israelites trusted God would come through. They trusted His plan. Often, the way God calls believers to live doesn't make sense to the rest of the world. However, just like Israel, we will see His faithfulness in our obedience.

Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed strange, but you obeyed anyway? What did you learn about His character through your obedience?

What sin in your life do you need to destroy in order to obey? Take some time now to confess it to the Lord and ask Him to forgive you so you can live the life of holiness He has called you to.