

# STRONG & COURAGEOUS

22

## FOLLOWING GOD INTO THE TORRENT JOSHUA 3-4

### FOR CHILDREN:

Try wearing a blindfold as a friend or family member guides you to a new place or through an activity. Was that fun? Was it at all scary? Was it both? Read Joshua 3:1-6. It's often a little bit scary to follow someone else's instructions when we don't know where we are going or what is going to happen. Yet, if we trust the person giving instructions and we know that they will keep us safe, it can be an adventure to try a challenge blindfolded. Joshua and the Israelites had a big challenge in front of them. All they had to go on was God's promise and God's past record of salvation and care. It wouldn't always be easy for the Israelites, but they could trust that God was not leading them anywhere He was not willing to go Himself, and that God was always leading them to something that was for their best!

### WEEKLY AFFIRMATION:

**I'll Step In Faith!**

### WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE:

"Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do miracles among you."

JOSHUA 3:5

### FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read Joshua 4:15-18. In his commentary on Joshua, Mark Ziese writes, "...the river rushes down as before in a flooded state... The rushing sound carries a chord of finality; turning back is not an option." This is not the first time that miraculously parted waters have closed behind the Israelites. The same thing happened when they crossed the Red Sea back in Exodus. But it wasn't soon after that they started wishing for the old life (*Numbers 11:5, one of many examples*). A similar temptation exists for the Christian. The beginning of one's Christian walk is marked by passion and excitement for being forgiven, but then comes the daily walk of obedience, the struggles of picking up one's cross daily, and the Christian is tempted to go back to the old way of life. Paul often had to remind Christians this was not an option! (*Rom. 6:11-14; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-10*). It can be helpful to consider your exit from the waters of immersion as closing off the old life. Spend time in prayer to consider what God is calling you to leave behind for a better future ahead!

### FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Joshua 4:10-13. This passage is not simply about who is going first or second, there is something more significant. It's about who is witnessing whom. The ark moves first in view of all the people - therefore Israel witnesses that it is God's power that parts the water! Then the Transjordan tribes cross in front of the other tribes - their brethren, therefore, witnessing their contribution to the occupation of the land. And we come full circle in that the ark has remained in the middle of the Jordan as all the people cross - God, therefore, witnessing the obedience of His people! We learn that God never asks His people to go where He has not gone first. And we may find assurance in the truth that God's eyes are always on His people.

### JUNE 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Book of Joshua.
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Joshua (available on the website).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Seek out a few individuals in your church family or sphere of influence and share with them a comforting promise from God's Word.