



MONDAY 14 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 3:1-8

Plug In...

The entire episode of crossing the Jordan focuses on “the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD”. The ark is in at the centre; leads the charge; shows the way.

Chew It Over...

Read about this item called the *Ark of the Covenant* ([Exodus 25:10-22](#)).

What does the ark impress upon Joshua and the Israelites?

Spend some time considering how Jesus solely led the charge in securing our redemption and entrance into eternal life.

Prayer Suggestion

Keep talking to Jesus until you feel your heart genuinely grabbed by the resolution Jesus had. [It may help reading parts of [Mark 14-15](#), pausing to reflect how alone and solo Jesus was, yet in love and obedience, resolute. At each pause, let what you witness in Jesus bring you to adoration, praise, confession, thanksgiving.]

Adore Him for never giving up. Praise Him for enduring to the end. Thank Him for imparting all the benefits of the victory to us.



TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 3:9-13

Plug In...

Verse 11-13 equates the Ark of the Covenant *with* 'the Lord of all the earth'.

Chew It Over...

God is present everywhere, He is the Lord of all the Earth! Yet, He reveals a special *saving* presence through the Ark of the Covenant (which sits in the middle of the tabernacle – later the temple). That Israel had the Ark of the Covenant, meant they were the people saved.

This episode shows God doing acts that result in the salvation of His people. Joshua calls the people to “come close, and listen” for what they will be told about and see shows that the living God is among them.

What things can you point to from your life that are the result of God’s saving presence in Jesus? What are all the things you can say God has done already in your life and circumstances *as a result of* Jesus bringing God’s presence to you?

Prayer Suggestion

From your heart, express to Jesus appreciation that nothing can now prevent God’s presence in your life. Ask Him to make vivid that God never leaves or forsakes you. Ask for more of God’s saving presence in your life as you think about where you need to grow in following Jesus.



WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 3:14-17

Plug In...

We are told the Jordan was in flood season. Nevertheless, God stopped up the water flow, made a massive highway of dry ground, and the Israelites arrive inside the Promised Land.

Chew It Over...

The Jordan is a barrier. And a big barrier when in flood. Life is not easy in this world – we know that because of the Fall. Yet, many of the Bible stories show God actively leading people towards hurdles; the path of least resistance is seldom taken. Why might that be?

What are the challenges you've had in life? What specific things about yourself has this revealed? What specifically about God has this impressed upon you?

What is difficult right now? What about yourself and about God is being discovered right now?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Spirit to expose your sin, pride, resistance. Plead for mercy: ask that you will learn quickly, you will hold on to these lessons for life. Let these difficulties show you God's character – call on that God! [Psalm 86](#) will help focus your prayer.



THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 4:1-7

Plug In...

Twelve Israelites haul twelve stones right from where the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stood in the middle of the dry Jordan bed. Joshua constructs them into a monument.

Chew It Over...

What's the point of this arduous job? (vv. 6-7)

Given God initiates this massive and permanent prompt for the Israelites, what does that imply about them?

Both the Old and New Testaments endorse God's people being involved in rituals, habits, patterns that display what God has done and is doing. They remind us. We would forget otherwise.

We think we are more stable than we are ([1 Corinthians 10:12](#)). No longer can we kid ourselves that we are "time poor"; no longer can we do stuff first, then pray. No longer can we "just finish this", then hopefully drink from God's Word. Remember how Martha got it back-to-front ([Luke 10:38-42](#)). God levels with us. We are drifters, forgetters, back-sliders. So let us use all the gifts God has given us for our protection and perseverance:

- His Word (All this wisdom from the Lord of all the earth for your success in following Jesus – [Joshua 1:8](#); [Psalm 1](#));
- Prayer (He is ready to give to those who actually turn up and ask – [John 14:12-14](#); [James 4:1-3](#));

- Brothers and sisters all gifted by the Spirit of God for your benefit (to experience this we have to be in one another's lives – [Hebrews 10:19-25](#); [Ephesians 4:11-14](#); [Colossians 3:15-17](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God for all the power, gifts, resources He has given to you to keep you safe. Ask the Spirit to plunge you wholeheartedly into taking these up.



FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 4:1-18

Plug In...

Once the stones from the riverbed have been set up, and all are across, the water re-flows. Again, central is the Ark of the Lord's Covenant. God is present. Again the stones are mentioned. It's recorded that they were set up. God is present, He acts, don't forget it.

Chew It Over...

A critical concern that God has is that the children get to *know* God for who He is (vv.6-7). And God puts that responsibility in the Israelite parents' hands.

For children to know and experience God's love and acts, it presupposes that they are around things that prompt questions and pondering.

How is your life constructed to foster this?

Consider Moses' picture (some of the language is metaphoric) of a life constructed so: [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#).

What distractions are in your family that dilute such an environment? What about your personal patterns and involvements mitigate this? (Use [Ephesians 6:4](#) to self-examine and pray to see the answers to these questions clearly).

If you are in the throes of parenthood right now, don't forgo spending serious time in getting your heart to *own* this responsibility God has given. Quality time bringing this into your family is their best chance at spiritual survival.

Prayer Suggestion

We need the Holy Spirit to deal ruthlessly with our selfishness to ever serve our family in this way. Beg that you'll have no regrets. Thank God for the forgiveness offered for past failures. Entrust all your children daily before the Lord.



WEEKEND 19-20 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 4:19-24

Plug In...

The whole point of Joshua chapter 4 – make sure the next generation *know* the Lord.

Chew It Over...

In English we use the word 'know' to signal 'knowledge'. So, data, or information about something. The Hebrew word 'know' means to know not just in mind, but in the heart. It is a *loving-knowing*. Think of a person you deeply love. You may know heaps of 'data' on that person. Google probably knows the same things. The type of 'know' mentioned here in Joshua is a *relational-experience* with God.

So, when exposing the next generation to this type of 'knowledge' it has to be more than just informational doctrines about God, more than creeds, more than memory-verses (which are all still necessary and important). Yet, it must be exposure to the *experience* of God's presence. Much of this happens at church, for amongst His people God dwells, the Spirit is active.

Reflect on these experiential dynamics of God's presence when His church gathers together and do life together: [Ephesians 3:14-18](#); [1 Corinthians 14:12](#); [Colossians 3:15-17](#). Amongst the family of God is where we practice the fruits of the Spirit so they become second-nature ([Galatians 5:13-26](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Ask that God's supernatural work weaves through our church, that we experience all the attributes and characteristics of God in our relationships – that we not only know about God, but rather are known by God.