

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Crossing into New Beginnings

Opening Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, as we gather here today, we turn our hearts to You. Open our eyes to see Your wondrous works and fill our spirits with Your truth. 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Psalm 119:105). Guide us now as we seek Your presence. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Read: Joshua 3:1-17

Imagine standing on the brink of a new beginning, much like the Israelites by the Jordan River. They were about to enter the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the wilderness. The challenge before them was daunting: crossing a river at flood stage. But Joshua, their leader, had clear instructions from God. The Ark of the Covenant, representing God's presence, would lead the way.

Why did Joshua insist on following the Ark? In ancient Israel, the Ark was more than a religious artifact. It symbolized God's promises and His tangible presence among His people. As the priests carrying the Ark stepped into the river, something miraculous happened—the waters parted, creating a dry path for the people to cross.

The Hebrew word used here for "parted" (נִכְרַעַ, *nikra'*) carries the sense of splitting or breaking apart, a vivid image of God's power over nature. This act was a divine assurance that God was with them, making a way where there seemed to be none.

Joshua's leadership in this event teaches us a profound lesson: trust and obedience to God pave the way for His blessings. The Israelites had to follow closely, stepping into the unknown, relying not on their understanding but on God's promise.

In our lives, we often face 'Jordan Rivers,' situations that seem impossible to overcome. Like the Israelites, our role is to trust and step forward in faith, following where God leads. We might not always see the path clearly, but God promises His

presence and guidance. When we align our steps with His will, even obstacles can become opportunities for His power to be displayed.

Conclusion:

God's guidance is always ahead of us, just as the Ark led the Israelites. We are called to step into the waters of our challenges, trusting that God will part the way. His promises are sure, and His presence is a guarantee. As we follow Him, we find our paths made straight and our faith strengthened.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. What are some challenges in your life that feel like 'Jordan Rivers'?
2. How can you show trust in God's guidance when facing these challenges?
3. What steps of faith can you take in your daily life to follow God more closely?

For Parents:

1. How can you encourage your family to trust God's promises during difficult times?
2. What examples can you share from your life where God 'parted the waters' for you?
3. How can you teach your children to recognize and follow God's guidance?

For Professionals:

1. How does your faith influence your decisions and actions at work?
2. In what ways can you demonstrate trust in God when facing professional challenges?
3. How can you integrate prayer and seeking God's direction in your daily work routine?

This week, identify a 'Jordan River' in your life—a challenge or a decision you are facing. Pray for guidance, then take one step of faith, trusting that God will provide a way through it. Reflect on how this step aligns with God's promises and direction for your life.