

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Standing Stones

Week 3: Epiphany: Discovering God's Greatness

Joshua 4:1-3

Week of June 20, 2021

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

God longs to see His people discover Him and describe His miraculous works, even to the next generation. And He wants His people to fully trust Him, walk forward in faith to accomplish great things for His kingdom.

Kicking it off: The Israelites crossed both the Red Sea and (40 years later) the Jordan River ... one is salt water, and one is fresh water. Which do you like better? Salt or fresh water? Or are you more of a "land-only" person?

Discussion:

1. Read Joshua 3:8, where Joshua gives instructions to the Israelites about how they will get into the Promised Land. Then think back to a time when you sensed God leading you to do something "big" in faith ... *without* telling you in advance how things would turn out. (Some examples could be taking a job, moving to a different home, entering a new relationship.) If you're comfortable, share what it was with your group.

"Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"

2. How did you feel going into that experience, and what were some things you learned as a result of taking that leap of faith?
3. Next, read Joshua 3:13. Jeff explained how God is a Thrill-Seeker, eager to demonstrate our trust in Him. How do you feel hearing that description of God? Does it comfort you or scare you? Or both?

"And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."

4. Read Joshua 4:5b-7. What do you think God was trying to teach the nation of Israel about remembering His miracles? Why is that so important to God?

"Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

5. Take a look at our church's four priorities. Where do you sense God might be calling you to "get your shoes wet" and wade into the river, trusting Him? What's one way that your group can help you to take that next step? If you're doing all of these things already, how can you help encourage others?
 - Pursue Him daily.
 - Connect in groups.
 - Serve in teams.
 - Reach your neighbors.

Wrapping It Up:

Make a list of each group member's next steps. Pray Deuteronomy 31:6 over each other, reminding each other that *God will never leave you nor forsake you*, and ask God to help you take your faith to the next level.