

WEEK THREE (February 25 – March 3, 2023)

OVERVIEW

Following the death of Moses, Joshua took up the leadership of the Israelites. He was called to lead them into the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites were committed to God's call as they stepped out in faith. They stood in the Jordan River and activated their faith as they went forward into the Promised Land. For Joshua, wading into the waters of the Jordan River was an act of trust. The Israelites would never experience the power of God unless they were willing to take that step of faith. The same is true for us! As Fairway Christian Church moves forward into the future, we have an incredible opportunity to boldly take the next step of faith.

READ

Before opening your Bible, ask God to prepare your mind and heart to hear His Word.

Big Idea: Boldly take **YOUR** next step of faith.

Dig Deeper: Read and discuss God's Word.

Open your time together praying for the three parts of the FORWARD Initiative vision: GO into our community, SOW the gospel, and GROW disciples who will change the world.

1. Read Joshua 3: 1-6. What was Joshua's command in verse 5?

Why did Joshua tell the Israelites to "consecrate yourselves? Consecrate (Qadash) means "to consecrate, sanctify, purify, prepare, dedicate, be holy, be sanctified, be separate."

What would it look like for the Israelites to consecrate themselves?

2. What are some examples of things that might distract a person from fully following God?

3. Read Joshua 3: 7-17. Who demonstrated faith in this story? Joshua? The priests? The Israelites?

This event occurred in the Spring, during flood season, when the Jordan River would be at its deepest, widest, and fastest current. Why do you think God may have chosen to perform this miracle during that time of year?

4. We see the Israelites didn't just put their toes in the Jordan River and then it immediately dried up. They had to keep walking out into the flooded river, trusting God was not going to let them drown. When we see the challenges or opportunities ahead, how do we approach them?
5. Read Joshua 24: 15. At the end of Joshua's life, he is passing his faith along to the next generation. What does it look like for you to pass on a legacy of faith and generosity for the next generation?
6. Read Psalm 71: 18. As we think about leaving our own legacy of faith, can you think of ways your involvement in the FORWARD Initiative can help us reach the next generation in a greater way?

APPLY

Take a step by applying what you learned to your life this week.

1. Read Hebrews 12: 1-4. How is looking at the work of Christ (the author and perfecter of our faith) similar to what the Israelites were being asked to do?

2. Is there an area of our life that God is asking you to grow in faith? How have you responded?
3. Where have you seen God work through the FORWARD Initiative components of: GOING into our community, SOWING the gospel, and GROWING disciples who will change the world?

How does planting a new family church play a part in this?

4. Examine the Giving Chart on the inside back page and as you feel led by the Holy Spirit, commit to your next step in bold faith.
5. Have you asked God to use you, and are you committed to making yourself available? Other than supporting the FORWARD Initiative financially, what are other tangible ways you can be involved in this vision?

PRAY

Talk to God and listen to what He tells you. Lead your group in prayer, thanking God for His work on the cross in His Son Jesus Christ. Ask Him to help the group members identify areas of their life that are keeping them from stepping forward in faith. Pray for Fairway Christian Church to continue the mission of Christ here and around the world. Pray that God's people will move forward with generosity, courage, and faith in the days ahead.

READING PLAN: Close your meeting with these short readings.

- Isaiah 43: 2-3
- Matthew 28: 19-20
- Psalm 71
- Psalm 56: 3-4
- Joshua 1: 6-9
- 2 Timothy 1:7