

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 17, 2026

Icebreaker Questions

- Have you ever followed someone who gave terrible directions? What happened?
- What's a time you took a big risk that ended up being worth it?
- What's one "comfort zone" that's hard for you to leave?

Sermon Summary

(If you missed this week's sermon, it's always available by noon on Monday on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@horizoncommunitychurch>)

In Joshua 3, Israel stands at the edge of the flooded Jordan River after forty years in the wilderness, facing an impossible obstacle between them and the Promised Land. The sermon emphasized that God's people must follow His presence rather than culture, fear, or personal preference, remembering that where God guides, He also provides. Before the miracle came, the people were called to consecrate themselves and take a step of faith by obeying God even before they saw the outcome. The priests had to step into the water first, teaching that faith is not passive waiting but active trust and surrender to God. Ultimately, God stopped the Jordan River at flood stage so that everyone would know the miracle could only be explained by His power and faithfulness.

Opening Prayer

Briefly pray and invite the Lord into your conversations to bring wisdom and insight to His Word. Pray around the theme for the sermon/discussion.

Primary Passages of Scripture

Read Joshua 3:3, 5, 7-8, 12-13, 15-17, Hebrews 11:1

Discussion Questions

Pick 2-3 questions for discussion across the group

- What stood out to you most from the story of crossing the Jordan River?
- What distractions most commonly pull people away from following God?
- Why do you think consecration came before the miracle?
- How does spending time in God's Word help us recognize His direction?
- Why do you think God often asks people to step out in faith before showing the outcome?
- In what ways can obedience open the door for God to work?
- How does remembering past faithfulness help build trust in present challenges?
- What fears tend to keep people "standing on the riverbank" spiritually?
- How can we tell the difference between following God and following culture or personal preference?

Prayer

- Ask: "How can we pray for you this week?"
- Assign each request to a group member to ensure everyone is prayed for during the prayer time.
- Assign someone to open in prayer and someone to close in prayer.

Closing