

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Dry Ground” Joshua 3:17 – 4:7, 21-24 May 26, 2018

Getting Started

The redundancy of a phrase like “dry ground” is a statement of the obvious. It is making a comparison of what once was, but now has changed. The beauty of a journey through the Jordan River was to eventually be standing on “dry ground”. A “dry ground” moment for us today is the commemoration of Memorial Day. In a day where it seems the coordinates of our country are lost; what’s not lost is the breathtaking beauty of freedom afforded by the many which have gone before us and paid the highest price for our democracy. We will never forget!

What sacrifices have your parents or other friends or relatives made for you? How do you show your appreciation to them?

Going Deeper

- I. **The Setting of Challenge:** “*the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest*” (3:15)
 - a. **Difficulties bring Discoveries.**
 - b. **Obstacles create Opportunities.**
 - c. **Impossibility becomes Reality.**

At the time of year when the river overflows its banks, God chose to supernaturally dam it up, and dry it up, so His people could safely cross over. Share with us about a time when your world looked bleak, but God stepped in and delivered or saved you.

- II. **A Step of Courage:** “*dipped in the brink of the water*” (3:15)
 - a. **Not without Caution:** Carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
 - b. **Not without Calculation:** Crossing with the Ark of the Covenant.
 - c. **Not without Consideration:** Confident because of the Ark of the Covenant.

The priests were carrying the Ark, which was the symbol of God’s presence and power. When you step into dangerous or unknown situations, how do you remind yourself that the Powerful and Personal God is with you?

III. Status of Citizenship: “*all the nation*” (3:17, 4:1)

- a. **From Promise to a Possession.** (Isaiah 66:8 / Psalm 122:6)
- b. **From People to a Nation:** 5/14/1948

Even though it was written to the nation of Israel, what does the verse, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” mean to you as a citizen of America today?

What role might you have in making this blessing come true?

IV. Symbol of Cooperation: “*take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder*” (4:5)

- a. **Representation:** Appointment of the devoted.
- b. **Rededication:** Agreement in direction.
- c. **Relocation:** Acceptance of destiny.

Stones are used as significant markers. By choosing one man to represent each of the 12 families of Israel, Joshua honors and humbles all of them, by letting the stones represent God’s faithfulness and the Israelites’ own inability at the same time. (There was no way they could have crossed the Jordan without God’s intervention. Those rocks came from the deep river bottom, out of their reach and ability.) Do you own a cross? Maybe as a wall decoration, or on a necklace or earring? How does your cross fulfill a similar role as these stones did for them?

V. Statement of Consecration: “*What do these stones mean?*” (4:20-24)

- a. **Practical Location:** Meaning of Gilgal: Stone Circle (Vs. 20)
- b. **Personal Explanation:** “*...let your children know*” (Vs. 22)
- c. **Profound Demonstration:** “*the LORD is mighty*” (Vs. 24)

It should become natural for us to constantly share with people about all the times God has been mighty and faithful in our lives. It becomes part of our testimony and faith story, and can encourage those far from God to realize that He is living and active and eager to enter into their life story too. We are to be a story telling people. How can you begin to incorporate story telling as part of your discipleship process?

Take Away: There were two memorials that were consecrated to this “Dry Ground” moment. One was public for all to see at Gilgal, the other was private made between God and Joshua in the river Jordan. **Notice: Joshua 4:9.**
A public commitment begins with a private conviction!

What the people did publicly, Joshua had already done privately.
No one will ever follow you beyond where you can lead them.
Where is God challenging you to go that seems scary right now?

Prayer Requests

Pray for one another to both appreciate the sacrifices others have made for us, and to boldly cross any river God asks us to cross. Our promised land awaits us!