

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

CROSSING THE JORDAN • JOSHUA 3:1-17 • FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FAITHFUL

Foundational Practice: Living on Purpose

This month, we are focusing on our foundational practice of Living on Purpose. We invest our lives eternally, according to God's design. Our skills, gifts, passions, experiences, and relationships all contribute to living out our God-given purpose (Ephesians 2:10). In our discussion guide this week, we will talk about God's presence through His spirit. The spirit that dwells in us also gives us spiritual gifts. What are your spiritual gifts? In what ways are you using your spiritual gifts to help you live on purpose?

1. **Read Joshua 3:1-17.** What was most significant to you from this passage? What stood out to you in the teaching on this passage?

“Our faithful God was with them.”

- BRAD BELL

2. In reflection to God being with the people as they cross the Jordan River, a question was asked in the sermon, “I see that God was with them, but is He *with* us?” How is God present with His people today?
 - In what ways have you experienced God *with* you, either in times of “awesome” or “awful”?
 - In what ways do you currently experience God’s “with-ness”? In the hard parts of your life or the ordinary parts?
 - What are some ways you’d like to grow in experiencing “Immanuel: God with us” in your daily life?
3. **Read John 14:15-27.** What do these verses teach us about the “with-ness” of God through His Holy Spirit? How are these verses comforting? Confusing? Challenging?
4. The same power of God that parted the waters of the Jordan is the same power of God that breaks the chains of sin and now lives in you (1 John 4:4). Are there areas of your life you can grow in yielding to the Spirit?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

The miracle of crossing the Jordan should increase our faith in the power and presence of God.
The Greater miracle . . . is that God has chosen to dwell with us.

Read Revelation 21:3 to close your time together.

Share some ways you can dwell with God in a deeper way this week. Often, we choose to experience God in what comes most natural or comfortable to us. Consider a new way to dwell with him this week by something that might be out of what you normally do. Perhaps it's trying a new spiritual discipline or going out in nature for some solitude, gathering with others for a slow meal, an extended time of study or worship, or joining friends for a serve project. Share with your group one way you might consider dwelling with God in a deeper way this week.