



## SDG Discussion Guide

Joshua 3

June 9, 2019

### For Starters:

When canoeing, camping or fishing, what's your most memorable mishap?

What was one significant place in your formative years? What might you someday tell your child or someone about it?

What "rite of passage" marked your coming of age into adulthood? Graduation? Voting? Marriage? Family?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write-up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. While waiting to cross the Jordan, what do you suppose the people were doing? Feeling? Praying? Anticipating?
2. What does the ark signify (vv 3-5, 11; see Ex 25:12-22; Nu 4:5; 10:35-36; Dt 10:8; 31:26)?
3. Why must they wait to see the ark and then keep their distance from it: a) To keep separate from a Holy God? b) To better see how wonderfully God will lead them? c) To receive guidance on the way to go? d) All of the above? Why do you think so?
4. What does Joshua's call to "consecrate yourselves" imply: Prayers? Cleansing? Give the victory to God, not man? Or what?
5. Why did God inaugurate Joshua's mission with a miracle similar to the one that Moses gave (vv 7-8)?
6. In verses 9-13, what is the relationship between word and miracle?
7. Why did God have the people cross the Jordan at the flood stage (vv 14-17)?
8. When "you have never been this way before," what do you most need: A guide? A miracle? A signpost? A small group? Where in your life do you need these now?
9. In what way can you personally consecrate yourself for the "amazing things" in your life God wants to do?

Spend plenty of time in prayer for one another. Continue to pray along the line of how God may have illuminated to you where you are on your personal journey of life and faith. Continue to pray that God will help you realize, both as an individual and as a group, his command to us always: "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

\*These questions were adapted from The Serendipity Bible for Groups (Zondervan, 1998).