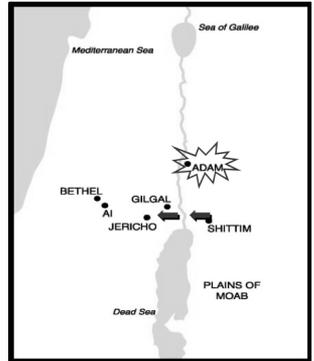




## Bible Background



When facing overwhelming flood of life's circumstances...

Focus on God and not the rising circumstances.

(Hebrews 12:2)

“When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God..., you are to move out from your positions and follow it.” (3:3)

“Why is the LORD bringing us to this land....Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” Numbers 14:3 (NIV)

Prepare yourself for God to act.

“Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’” (3:5)

“consecrate yourselves”

1. Listen to God's plan for crossing the river.

<sup>9</sup>“Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. <sup>10</sup> This is how you will know that the living God is among you...” (3:9-10)

Why listen to God? Because God is...

- *alive*
- *with us*
- *powerful*
- *faithful*
- *in front of us*

2. By faith follow what God says.

“Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest.” (3:15)

faith is...

(James 2:26; Heb. 11:1, 6)

<sup>4</sup>“Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us this victory. <sup>5</sup> No one can defeat the world without having faith in Jesus as the Son of God.” 1 John 5:4-5 (CEV)

Living by faith means our feet will  
get wet !

# Deck Discussion Questions

**Coming Together:** What is the typical response people have when life gets overwhelming? Have you ever found yourself being overwhelmed? What was your response?

## **Growing in Our Understanding**

- Read Joshua 3:1-17. In these verses, what were the people supposed to do and what was God promising to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What was the condition of the Jordan river according to Joshua 3:15? How is the detail in the text significant?

## **Unwrapping God's Principles**

- In Joshua 3:5, the people were told to “consecrate” or “prepare” themselves before crossing the river. What do you think it practical looks like to be prepared to conquer life’s battles?

- What happened when the people did what God asked them to do in Joshua 3:15? How does this impact you when you think of some of things God is asking you to do?
  
- Read Joshua 3:17 again. What do you think the people of Israel felt like when they were crossing a dry Jordan riverbed? What has been your reaction in the past when God walked you through tough times?

**Influencing Our World:** According to 2 Corinthians 1:3-8, what are some of the reasons God allows us to experiencing life's pains?

**Deepening Our Hearts for God:** According to Pastor Chico, Joshua 3 teaches us that God is *alive, with us, powerful, faithful,* and goes *in front of us*. How does this encourage you to live by faith when faced with life's challenges?

**Looking Ahead:** Read Joshua 4:1-24. If you were preaching on a message on this text, what title would you give it? Why? If you are reading through Joshua with us this summer, then this week you should be reading Joshua 7-8.