

Leaders Guide ~ Week 2 January 15th ~ The Courage To Start

FOCUS ON OBEDIENCE OVER OBSTACLES

S.O.A.P. Joshua 3:1-6 NLT

Early the next morning Joshua and all the Israelites left Acacia Grove and arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing. Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, giving these instructions to the people: “When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. Stay about half a mile behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark. Make sure you don’t come any closer. Then Joshua told the people, “Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you. In the morning Joshua said to the priests, “Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river.” And so they started out and went ahead of the people.

LEADER: Choosing to ignore the noise of obstacles and being obedient to God is courage that moves us forward.

Talk It Up: Have you ever let the noise of an obstacle cause you to ignore God’s instructions and miss a life opportunity?

- **Think On It:** I will close the gap to obedience. I will not be delayed by the noises of fear, doubt, discouragement, wants, or expectations. I will hear and I will courageously obey.

FOCUS ON DIRECTION OVER PERFECTION

S.O.A.P. Joshua 3:7-8 NLT

The Lord told Joshua, “Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. 8 Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: ‘When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.’”

LEADER: Courage is not really about the perfecting of the step, its size or stride length, it is about the direction. The early church devoted themselves to a process. Acts 2:42-43

Talk It Up: Are you beginning your day with steps that align you with Jesus? What life patterns do you need to change, and what process do you need to embrace to have quiet time, clarity time, directional time?

- **Think On It:** Alignment with Jesus is the direction I choose first, and it gives me clarity and bearing for uncommon courage, and also the ability to move others to uncommon courage.

FOCUS ON MOVEMENT OVER MIRACLES

S.O.A.P. Joshua 3: 13-17 NLT

The priests will carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.” So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. 15 It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river’s edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.

LEADER: God is not going to do the miracle we are praying for without action from us. We must overcome fear, apathy, our past, and take that first step towards a new direction.

Talk It Up: If God is expecting movement from me before I even begin expecting a miracle from Him, what hindrances or barriers do I need to deal with so my intentions can become actions?

- **Think On It:** I want to be a person of impactful uncommon courage. I will say YES to the promise of God! My YES is on the table with God! I will step out in the right direction, navigated by God. I will inspire others to have uncommon courage.