

Lead Into Tomorrow Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. If you could have your dream job, what would it be?
2. What is something fun you are looking forward to experiencing within the next year (vacation, theme park, birthday, etc.)?

Read the following passage: Joshua 3:7-17.

The Israelites were oppressed by the Egyptians for generations. Their deliverance out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses was a truly miraculous event and subsequently became the defining act of salvation for the people of Israel before the coming of Christ. The journey to the promised land, however, did not go as planned. The people rebelled. An entire generation died in the wilderness. The book of Joshua tells the story of a new generation embracing the promises of God and entering into the land God prepared for them. Their experiences can help us take steps to embrace the purposes God has for us in our own generation.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In Joshua 3, Joshua tells the Israelites that the Lord will do great things tomorrow, so purify yourselves today. Are there any areas of your life that you sense might be keeping you from experiencing the fulness of God's purposes in your life? Explain.
2. In the book of Numbers, God invited all of Israel to go into the Promise Land 40 years earlier. Only Joshua and Caleb met the requirement; but the fact that others wouldn't go, didn't keep Joshua and Caleb out. In what ways is your commitment to pursuing God impacted by others (both positively and negatively)? What does accountability look like in your life currently?
3. Read Joshua 3:7. God is inviting Joshua into the beginning of a process and tells him that the goal of this process is to make him great like Moses. What ways are you sensing God starting a process with you? What steps are you taking to get closer to God and become a more mature follower?
4. Read Joshua 3:3-4. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord is mentioned 9 times in Joshua 3 alone and so it is obviously a key piece of understanding this chapter. The ark represented the presence of the Living God. It had to go out first with the priests who took the initial steps into the Jordan River, before it would become dry and allow the Israelites to cross. What does worshipping God look like for you currently? How do you know when you hear God (particularly when you don't know the way

forward)? In what ways are you growing in your pursuit of the presence of God in your life?

5. God was doing something new with this generation of Israelites led by Joshua. For 40 years it was the same meal and the same routine every day. Now they come to a place in their lives when God says: "It's time for a change. It is now time for you to enter into my promises." We sense that we are having a parallel experience to this Joshua story, coming out of the shadows and into the light of God's purposes for us...Being L.I.T. (Led into tomorrow). Overall, how L.I.T. do you feel your life is today with respect to the following categories.
 - Leaning In Today (connecting with God, connecting with others, worship, faith)
 - Living Intentionally Today (volunteer team, giving generously to the church)
 - Loving Intentionally Today (relationship building, forgiveness, talking to others about Jesus)
 - Listening Intently Today (prayer life)