

# Sermon Study Guide



## #3: Experiencing God

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

January 24, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

*In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.*

### Reflect

Have you ever seen a raging river that is overflowing? Would you dare cross that river because you have to? Why or why not?

### Read and Discuss

#### Scripture

Joshua 3:1–4:24

#### Discussion Questions

Your feelings, emotions and experiences may be an indication of how strong your Christian faith is, but they are only secondary to the truth about God as revealed in His Word, the Bible. How God led the people of Israel through a very unique experience as recorded in the book of Joshua gives us some Biblical truths and principles for how to experience God daily:

1. **Follow God's leading with cleansed hearts (v. 3:1-5).** How were the Israelites able to cross the Jordan river? What is the Ark of the Covenant? What did it represent? As the Israelites followed God precisely as told, how should you follow God as His child? What does it mean to "sanctify yourself?" What are some matters should you be cleansing your heart from so that you can experience God in your life? What does James 5:16 reveal about an effective prayer life?
2. **Walk in Wonderment of God's Great Abilities. (v. 6-17, 4:10-18).** What was the miracle that God performed in order to show His people what He was able to do, and was proof that He can drive their enemies out of the way? What would your reaction be if you were one of those people who witnessed this awesome ability of God? Do you still see God performing wonderful things in this

world? What are the things that God has created that still amaze you about Him? Why are many Christians no longer in wonder of God's amazing abilities? On the other hand, what amazing abilities of God still leave you in wonder?

3. **Remember with intention God's Work in Your Life (v. 4:1-9, 19-24).** Why did Joshua select twelve men, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, to pick up large stones to set up a monument in the place where they lodged that first night, and another monument in the river bank where the feet of the priest stood? How do you keep track of the wonderful things that God has performed on your behalf? How would God's faithfulness in your life encourage you in times of difficulties and help you to go on trusting Him?

### Respond

**In Walk:** God is always with us, even in times of trials, uncertainty, or while facing opposition. Sometimes we don't get to feel His presence or experience Him because of our own attitude. Does your heart need cleansing so that you can follow His leading? Do you still think that what God has made is truly wonderful? How do you intentionally remember God's work in your life so that you will not forget your experiences with Him?

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, You are truly an awesome, great, and wonderful God. Thank You for who You are and for how I can experience You in my life as Your child. May I always have the desire to submit to Your leading with a cleansed heart, and always be on a lookout for the amazing things You are doing around me. Thank You that Your loving mercy and compassion are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.