

The



# Compass

August 30 - September 5, 2010

Faith Journey - Adventures in Trust

Entering the Promise Land

## Overview

Finally, the Israelites were going to cross into the Promised Land. They had waited and wandered for forty years since they had crossed over the Red Sea on dry ground. God provided a similar path by allowing them to cross the Jordan River on dry ground. Then, he had them build an altar of stones to serve as a reminder from that day forward. We, too, need these signs in our lives as reminders of God's faithfulness.

## Joshua 1-4

This week our focal passage will be Joshua 4:1-9, but we want to read the entire Joshua 1-4 section to see the passage in context. You'll need to use your own Bible. Here is the reading schedule for the week.

Monday – Joshua 1-4 in entirety

Tuesday – Joshua 1

Wednesday – Joshua 2

Thursday – Joshua 3

Friday – Joshua 4

Saturday – Joshua 1-4 in entirety again

## Memory Verse – Joshua 4:5a

Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. (NIV)

## Biblical Context

Joshua 1-4 relates the events of the Israelites entering to possess the Promised Land. God had promised the land to the descendants of Abraham. Moses had just died, and God raised up Joshua as the next leader. The book of Joshua opens with just one remaining obstacle, the Jordan River, between the Israelites and the land. God guarantees the Israelites in Joshua 1:3 “every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you as I promised to Moses”.

## Our Context

Kevin had been considering baptism for a long time, but he had not yet “taken the plunge.” He wasn’t sure exactly what was holding him back, but he wanted to make sure he fully understood the significance of this act. Now, he had committed to being baptized in the service on Sunday, and a whole range of questions, thoughts, and doubts continued to rush through his mind.

## Monday – August 30th

### First Impressions

Review your Compass from last week: Exodus 35-40. Evaluate for yourself how you can set apart and safeguard the time and place you routinely spend with God. Write your ideas below. Are there any listed which need to be adjusted to be more effective?

Read Joshua 1-4. As you go through the chapters, jot down some of the things God did to demonstrate to the Israelites that He had empowered Joshua to lead them into the Promised Land.

## Tuesday – August 31st

**Focus:** Finally, the Israelites would enter the land God had promised them.

**Read:** Joshua 1 and Genesis 12:1-3

**Discover:**

1. Why were Joshua and the Israelites encouraged to be strong and courageous?
2. What does God tell the Israelites and Joshua to do to be strong and courageous? How can you do the same today?
3. Circle the references to the fulfillment of the promises of Genesis 12:1-3. How many do you find?

**Apply:** List gifts God has given freely to you.

## Wednesday – September 1st

**Focus:** Joshua sends two spies who return with confidence in what God will do for them.

**Read:** Joshua 2; Exodus 14:21 and 15:14-15; and Matthew 1:5

**Discover:**

1. As you read through the chapter, list the ways God provided protection for the spies.
  
2. In what ways was it remarkable for the spies to discover their opposition was defeated already?

**Apply:** Matthew 1:5 lists Rahab in the genealogy of Jesus. Like Rahab, what can you do to rely on your faith in God and rise above your present circumstances?

## Thursday – September 2nd

Focus: The Israelites cross the Jordan River on dry land and continue into the Promised Land.

Read: Joshua 3

Discover:

1. What did the priests need to do first before the waters of the Jordan River piled up in a heap? How does this challenge you?
2. How was the act of the priests stepping into the waters of the Jordan different than Moses' parting of the Red Sea? What spiritual significance do you see?

Apply: The Israelites who crossed the river into the Promised Land would never be the same. What similarities do you see between this and trusting Jesus for your salvation?

## Friday – September 3rd

**Focus:** The 12 stone memorial was an immediate priority for God and the Israelites.

**Read:** Joshua 4 and John 14:6

**Discover:**

1. How are the priests and the ark in the Jordan River a “picture” of Jesus who is the way to the Father?
2. How does the example of the memorial for the children challenge you? Is there anything you need to be doing differently?

**Apply:** What memorials have you set up to remember what God has done in your life? Do your family members, children, grandchildren or Base Camp know about them? Make it a point to share or retell these important stories.

## Saturday – September 4th

Focus: Every day is a day for celebration and remembrance for a follower of Christ.

Read: Joshua 1-4

Apply: Repeat Joshua 4:5, the memory verse for this week. Repeat it until you can recall it easily.

Use your journal to record the amazing things God has done in your life. Symbolically take a stone from the dry river bed and place it upright for all to see. Look for opportunities to explain the meaning of the stone in terms of your relationship with God and what He has done. Teach the next generation whenever you have the opportunity.

## Base Camp Suggestions

### **Eating together...**

Talk about ways you have seen God working in your life over the past year.

### **Being a family and applying together...**

Keep everyone (including kids) together for this activity. Find a place where you can stack rocks, as well as, a supply of rocks for each person to have one. (You might even want to make this a permanent “pillar” at the host’s home.) Get several Bibles and have people read through Joshua 3-4 out loud for the entire group to hear (a few verses can be read by each person). Have whoever is willing share a way they have seen God at work in their life in the past year. As they share it, have them add a rock to the “pillar” of thanks. At the end, encourage everyone in the group to give thanks to God by completing the prayer, “Thank You, God, for...”. Everyone can participate in this, but don’t force anyone to do it. Just sharing this together as a biblical community can be a powerful expression of your gratitude of God’s work in your lives.

## For Families with a Child in Tiny Town (0 to Pre-K)

Verse: “Each of you is to take up a stone... to serve as a sign among you.”  
(Joshua 4:5a)

Physical reminders are always helpful so we don't forget important events in our lives. These can help remind us God is faithful and will always be there.

Activity: Begin a “God is Faithful” scrapbook or shoe box. This can be as elaborate or as simple as you wish. Print photos, gather memorabilia, and draw pictures from times in your life when you've seen God at work. If God healed a broken bone in your child, you could add the hospital bracelet. A photo of your child as a baby could show the gift of life from God. You could draw something you received when you needed help. Read Hebrews 13:5b.

If your child learned the verse and completed this or another of our family activities, return this page to the check-in station.

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Parent Signature

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Date

## For Families with a Child In Adventure Quest

Read together Joshua 4:1-9. The Israelites crossed the river safely with Joshua as their leader. Ask your children to draw a picture illustrating the Israelites crossing the river with its banks overflowing. God used His power to allow the people to cross safely. NOW ask your children what do they think happened next? Did they rush into the land to conquer it? Ask your kids to go outside and gather up 12 stones. Then discuss how God directed them to build a memorial with 12 stones taken from the river by 12 men (one from each tribe). God wanted them to focus on Him and to remember who was guiding them. Too much activity can shift our focus away from God. Spend time as a family with less activity and more focus on Him.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station with your signature.

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Parent Signature

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## For Families with a Child In Elevate

Read together Joshua 3:14-17 and Joshua 4:1-24. Here we see the Lord's powerful hand and a reminder to keep God's faithfulness alive in your family. The memorial of the 12 stones was to be a reminder of the day the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land. The children of the Israelites would hear the stories and learn of God's provisions and faithfulness.

Dads and Moms, spend time this week telling your kids what God has done in your life (how He forgave and saved you, how He answers your prayers, how He takes care of your needs, and how He has been faithful in your life). Give specifics. Telling your stories will keep God's faithfulness alive in your family and will encourage your kids to rely on Him.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station.

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## Student Base Camp Ideas

Sometimes part of being on the journey means waiting. Remember the Israelites had to wait 40 years for the promise land. When they finally arrived, they built an altar to remind them of all God had done.

1. Read Luke 18:1-8. How does God want to respond to us in our time of need? Why did the Israelites have to wait 40 years? What are things you have had to wait for or are waiting for? How does waiting help us? Read verse 8 again. What is Jesus saying?
2. The Israelites celebrated. How do we celebrate and remember what God does? How do we show others we are surrendered to God?
3. How is being baptized a similar reminder of the altar the Israelites built after they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land?
4. Spend time sharing and praying for one another about different ways we can celebrate and remember how God works!

# Sermon and Connection Class Notes

## Mission and Vision

Our mission at Tri-Lakes Chapel is to help people connect: intimately with God, intentionally with God's family, and influentially with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical community on every street in the Tri-Lakes region.

To this end, we have designed this Compass with a holistic, communal approach to spiritual growth that we believe will grow us together to be more like Jesus. This approach has four elements which work in an integrated fashion.

They are:

**Household** - Using this resource daily, both personally and communally, as our road map to integrated, spiritual growth.

**Base Camp** - Small groups meeting in homes to live life together while applying the message of the week.

**Connection Class** - Mid-size Sunday groups digging deeper together through detailed teaching and discussion.

**Worship Service** - Coming together corporately to focus on and respond to the heart of the week's passage.

We believe this integrated approach will bring dynamic growth in and through our Tri-Lakes family. Our hope is to experience communal, spiritual transformation as we - together-engage at all four levels.