

It is also important to recognize that each person's individual Land of Promise was tied to the whole nation coming into their Land of Promise. The leaders played a key role in directing the nation and each individual in it into God's provision. While each of us has a destiny and provision from God, God's divine purpose for us goes beyond just us personally. The full impact of God's purpose and provision can only be seen as we see the entire body of believers collectively entering the Land of Promise.

**Question:** *In what ways can we "consecrate" our lives as we seek to enter God's promises for us? How does the fulfillment of God's promise to you bring blessing to others?*

#### 4. The breakthrough.

**Joshua 3:6-17** When the priests stepped into the flood waters of the Jordan River we see the miracle happen. The waters of the flooded Jordan River are stacked up in a heap and the children of Israel are able to walk through the instantly dried riverbed into their Land of Promise. They trusted God, did exactly what He said to do and they saw Him do what only He could do.

The last step in understanding how we can enter our Land of Promise is to simply take the first practical step of obedience to God's direction. God will often give us some simple step of faith to begin the journey into His promise and provision. Taking that step is not hard but trusting that He will meet you can be to a struggle. Why because we don't always see the whole picture. Let's follow the example of Joshua and the children of Israel in this case and take that walk of faith through our barriers and into our Land of Promise.

**Question:** *What step of faith can you take that may open the door for God's miracle to begin in your life?*

### Personal Application

What is your "Land of Promise"? What promises are you trusting God to fulfill in your life? How will today's lesson help you as you seek to enter your Land of Promise?

### Prayer

Pray that each person recognizes God's promises and seeks to enter into His promises and provision.



## Crossing Into Your Land of Promise

### Announcements

A Life Made Beautiful – 5/7-8  
Vision Night – 4/25  
Leadership.ChurchoftheKing.com – visit today!  
Service Ministry Crawfish Boil – April 24  
Women's Freedom Weekend – April 23-24  
Small Group Training – May 15  
Kid's Camp 2010 – June 21 – 24, June 28 – July 1  
Vacation Bible School 2010 – June 7-11

### Warm-Up

*Have you ever encountered a flood before, maybe even during Katrina? What happened?*

### Word

God has a "Land of Promise" for each one of us to possess. In the same way that God spoke to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all of the children of Israel about the land that they were to possess, He speaks to each of us about all that He wants to do in us and through us. Our "Land of Promise" might include freedom from some bad habits that hinder our lives from being all that God desires. It might include the reconciliation of a strained relationship or healing in our bodies from some type of sickness or disease. It might include the healing of a broken heart and the renewal of our hope for a better future. Anything and everything that we know God wants for our lives is included in our Land of Promise. So, how do we enter our Land of Promise? What barriers stand in the way and how can we

overcome them? In our lesson today we are going to study these questions.

God spoke to Abraham to leave his father's house and go to a land that he would take possession of and leave to his descendants. This promise was passed along to his son, Isaac and his grandson Jacob. Jacob and his family fled the perils of a famine in this land and went to the land of Egypt. The children of Israel became slaves during their time in Egypt and were eventually led out of this Egyptian bondage by Moses. We pick up the story just as Joshua assumes the leadership of the children of Israel after Moses' death. God reminds them of His promise and is directing them to enter the Land of Promise but there is a problem. **Let's read Joshua 3:1-17 together as a group.**

**Question:** *What can we learn from this story that will help each one of us enter our own Land of Promise?*

### **1. The barrier: Jordan River - the place of crossing.**

**Joshua 3:1-2** The Jordan River stood as a barrier to Israelites – a barrier that they needed to overcome. Note also in verse 15 that the Jordan River was at flood stage. This was the worst possible time, considering the circumstances, to attempt to cross the Jordan. It made crossing this impossible barrier seem even more impossible.

Many times in our lives we find ourselves facing an impossible barrier that stands between us and the promises that God has given us. It is in these moments that we realize God is the only One who can get us through – we desperately need Him to move on our behalf. We need to ask for His help and seek His wisdom to know what our part is in this miracle.

**Question:** *Why do you think God chose such an inopportune time to lead the children of Israel across the Jordan? Have you ever faced an impossible barrier at what seemed to be the worst possible time? Please explain.*

### **2. The beacon - the guide to crossing.**

**Joshua 3:3** The Ark of the Covenant was the place where God's presence dwelt among the children of Israel. It also contained the tablets upon which the Ten Commandments had

been written. This physical representation of God's presence and His word stood as a beacon for the children of Israel as they made their way through this impossible barrier into the promised land. The children of Israel were instructed to keep their eyes fixed in this beacon as they all began to move.

It is important for us to recognize that it is God's presence with us that will carry us through our barriers into our promised land of God's provision for us. When Jesus died on the cross, ascended into heaven and poured out His Spirit upon believers, those believers (and we today) became the dwelling place of God. As we walk with God daily, allowing His presence to fill us each day, we have that beacon to guide us into our Land of Promise. **Read Psalm 119:105 and John 16:13 together as a group.**

**Question:** *In what way does the Ark of the Covenant represent the ways God leads us as believers today?*

### **3. Those behind.**

**Joshua 3:4-5** God instructed the priest who were carrying the Ark to go ahead of the children of Israel – they were to lead the way. The instruction to the rest was to keep enough distance so that they all could keep a clear eye on where they were being led. They were also instructed to “consecrate” themselves in preparation for this miracle. The word consecrate meant that they were to separate themselves from anything that would hinder them from fulfilling God's purpose for them at that moment. This was a call to personal holiness in each of their lives.

**Question:** *Why do you think God calls us to be separate from certain things in life?*

When we are making steps to enter our Land of Promise, it is important for us to separate our lives from anything that would hinder us from fulfilling God's purpose for us. It is not about us trying not to do bad things or just trying to do the right thing, rather, it is about us fulfilling our God given purpose. Anything that would distract from that purpose is to be avoided.