



STUDY GUIDE:

March 16, 2025

Message Series:

Called Out

Message Title:

Move Forward with Faith

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

What has been your craziest, or most unexpected experience on or near water?

Pray:

Lord, help us to be open to Your leading, to see truth in new ways, and to apply it to our lives. May Your Word shape us, strengthen our faith, and draw us closer to You. We trust that You will speak to us today. We are ready to listen. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

- What comes to mind when you hear about the biblical Joshua? What do you know about him? What is the meaning of his name especially as it relates to Jesus?

Read Joshua 3:1-8.

- What was the significance of the Ark of the Covenant leading the way?
- What does “consecrate yourselves” mean in this context, and why was it necessary?
- Why do you think God chose to part the Jordan in a way similar to the Red Sea?

Read Joshua 3:13.

*“God tells them that they have to step into the danger before he will perform the miracle. What would you do? I know what I would probably do. What I’m likely to do. And I bet this is true for many of us: “God” I would argue, “Can you give me a sign?” What we really want is assurance. God spoke, but that’s not good enough. God promised, but we want more. God gave his word, but we want proof, a security deposit, a downpayment, a guarantee. In fact, part of what this account reveals is a spiritual truth that ought to invigorate our lives. Here it is: **Faith requires a step, not a sign.**”*

- What are you experiencing now in which this applies? You want reassurance but you really need to take a step.

Reflect and Commit: (40 min.)

Read Matthew 16:1-4.

- Why do you think the Pharisees and Sadducees asked for a sign?
- What is the “sign of Jonah” that Jesus referred to?

- What is your response to Jesus' harsh words, "A wicked and adulterous generation look for a sign..." What do you think he means?

"God wants to deliver you, but that requires a step. Following Yeshua would require his people to trust him to live up to his name - the name that means God saves. Trust him so much that someone would be willing to step into the danger and THEN see the miracle happen. In that order. We move on the word of God then we see the work of God. Many times God calls us to move a little so that he can move a lot. What he told the priests to do was to stand in the middle of the Jordan, but all God really needed was for them to walk to the water's edge and take one step in. All they had to do was take a step and God would do the rest. In other words, following Yeshua requires a step, not a sign. It's just that the sign comes AFTER the step. -Pastor Brian Hughes

- Can you think of an example when you took a step of faith and then God revealed something to you?

Read Joshua 4:1-7, 21-24 OR 1-24 (depending on time)

- How do you keep in front of you, the amazing ways God has moved in your life? Do you have anything physical like the Israelites had with the stones?

"Friend, I don't know where God is taking you, but you can believe it involves some danger and some obstacles. Move forward with faith by taking a step. Look back and name some of the moments from your past where God delivered you. Write them down, Mark them. And let that be your sign. God's not done with you yet. Great things are still coming." -Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather prayer requests. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord, Just as You led Joshua and the Israelites to the edge of the Jordan River, calling them to step out in faith before seeing the waters part, we stand before the unknown in our own lives. We don't ask for signs or guarantees—we ask for the courage to trust You completely. Help us to move forward, not because we see the way, but because we know You are leading us. And help us to remember how wonderfully You have worked through our lives so that we continue to take steps of faith confidently. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.