



# ***UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE***

*Stand Alone*

*December 29*

*Joshua 3:7-4:24*

## *Things to Know*

### **Mission Link**

January 5 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

### **Midweek Kick Off - Simpsonville and Haywood - Food Trucks**

January 8th

### **Equipping U - Simpsonville**

January 8-May 7 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

### **Equipping U - Haywood**

January 8-May 7 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

### **Equipping U - Anderson**

January 15-April 30 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

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# Studying God's Word *In Community*

Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.

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## Read

Read Joshua 4:1-24 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
  - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
  - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
  - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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## Sermon Recap

- The New Year is a time to consider our priorities. What needs to change for you in 2025?
  - Obedience to God should be the top priority for every Christian, not only in the new year but throughout life!
  - Obedience to God requires that we listen to God, and we can only hear God in His Word!
  - As 2024 comes to a close, this is a good opportunity to remember God's faithfulness to you in the past 12 months.
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## Discussion Questions

### 1. God's Confirmation of Leadership

- **Joshua 3:7:** *"The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.'"*
- **Question:** How does God's public confirmation of Joshua's leadership encourage Joshua and the people of Israel? How does this principle apply to spiritual leadership in our lives today?

### 2. Stepping Into the Waters of Faith

- **Joshua 3:15-16:** *"As soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap..."*
- **Question:** Why do you think God required the priests to step into the water before the miracle happened? What does this teach us about taking steps of faith in our walk with God?

### 3. Remembering God's Faithfulness

- **Joshua 4:6-7:** *"That this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord."*
- **Question:** Why is it important to establish reminders of God's work in our lives? What are some ways we can create "memorials" to remember and share God's faithfulness with others?

#### 4. God's Power and Presence

- **Joshua 4:18:** *"And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before."*
- **Question:** How does the restoration of the Jordan River demonstrate God's sovereignty over creation? How does this deepen your trust in His power and presence in your life?

#### 5. A Testimony to All Nations

- **Joshua 4:24:** *"So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."*
- **Question:** What does this passage reveal about God's desire for His power and glory to be known beyond Israel? How does our obedience to God's work in our lives serve as a testimony to others?

## Scripture

### Joshua 4:1-7

When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, **2** "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, **3** and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'" **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. **5** And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, **6** that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' **7** then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jos 4:1-7.

## Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

*How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?*

As the New Year dawns, consider what God is telling you to change. Share with the group how God is calling you into a deeper obedience.

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## Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
    - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
  2. How did you feed others?
    - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
  3. How did you feed your flesh?
    - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
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## Leader Resources

If you are a leader and would like extra resources or a full curriculum guide, [CLICK HERE.](#)

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