



LifeGroups Study Guide

Looking Back – Looking Forward

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Lesson Aim: Celebrating what God has done and looking forward to where He still wants us to step out in faith.

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on winter break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this simplified format, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the winter break.

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: Have you ever been involved in a project or organization that lacked vision? What was that experience like?

1. **Read Joshua 3:1-17.** While waiting to cross the Jordan, what do you think the people were feeling? Praying? Anticipating?
2. What are some ways you can personally “consecrate yourself” (verse 5) to get ready for the “amazing things” God wants to do in your life?
3. **READ Joshua 4:1-9.** Why did Joshua have the people set up a monument?
4. Looking back on 2012, what are one or more “monuments” you are excited about and want to remember that happened through The Bridge? Why?
5. Looking back on your own personal life, what are one or more “monuments” that you want to remember from 2012? Why?
6. Israel crossed the Jordan “on dry ground”, but was also armed for battle. This reminded them that God delivers but also that there were big battles ahead. Looking ahead to 2013, do you have room for God to do some new things in your life in the areas of connecting, growing, serving or reaching? How? What will be the challenges to this that you will have to battle against?
7. As God was with the Israelites when they moved forward in battle, so He is with us as we move forward in the things He calls us to. What are some specific plans you can make to ensure you will be consistent in moving forward and following Him?

Close in prayer by asking God for His vision for yourself, family, friends and The Bridge and however else the Lord leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday’s message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups**! Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the “Resources” link.

INTRODUCTION – CROSSING THE JORDAN (Joshua 3-4)

LOOKING BACK (2012)

▶ PRINCIPLE #1: We are told to look back, not go back.

- Ecclesiastes 7:10 - *Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.*
- For The Bridge & for you... these are the good old days!
- ▶ Mission / Purpose Statement of The Bridge: We exist to help people find Jesus Christ & follow Him fully.
- ▶ Intentional Discipleship Pathway: Connect ♦ Grow ♦ Serve ♦ Reach

LOOKING FORWARD (2013)

- Philippians 3:13-14 - *Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*
- Isaiah 43:19 - *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*
- ▶ On the west side of the Jordan River
 - No more Moses
 - No more manna from the sky
 - No more calm, unthreatening desert

▶ PRINCIPLE #2: Nothing good comes in life without problems, struggle & sacrifice.

A WORD ABOUT...

- ① Missions Emphasis Month
- ② A whole new approach to Welcoming Guests
- ③ Our developing 1-3-5 Year Plan
- ④ A wild dream... completion of our KidVenture / Atrium Renovations
- ⑤ Your own growth in DISCIPLESHIP
 - 2 Peter 3:18 - *Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- Do you understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior?
- Have you experienced believer's baptism?
- Have you become a responsible member of a local church?
- Are you growing in your ability to walk by faith, and not by sight?
- Are you growing in the spiritual disciplines of Bible study & prayer?

- Are you growing with the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
- Are you connected relationally with other believers in a small group?
- Have you identified your unique spiritual hard-wiring from God?
- Are you regularly serving the Lord in some volunteer capacity?
- Have you learned how to give your faith away to others?
- Are you regularly engaged in sharing the love of Christ with unchurched people?