

Introduction:

1. What is your favorite family tradition? Why?
2. What good thing did you wait the longest for before you finally got it? How did you react to the long wait?

Understanding:

3. Read Exodus 34:10. This passage about God's marvels was originally written for Old Testament Jews readying to enter the Promised Land, but now look for how it connects to us in Jacksonville Chapel. What kind of "awesome thing" is God doing in us in 2015?
4. We can have the courage to obey God because He is with us. Read Joshua 3:7. What would happen if Joshua (or us!) only held to the first half of that verse? What happens when we grasp the whole verse?
5. Pastor Ted said "no" to thinking that no matter what our "river" is – whatever our challenges are – If we just step boldly into them then God will take them away. Explain how, instead, today's passage is actually saying that God knows **what we can handle**.
6. Read Joshua 3:5. Why was it necessary for the Israelite people to consecrate themselves? What meaning does this have for us today as Christians who want to take courageous action?
7. Read Joshua 3:10-13. How were the Israelites to know that God was with them and would drive out their enemies from the land of Canaan? Was the ark some kind of magical device? If not, what power did it have?
8. Read Joshua 4:14. How did the people of Israel respond to the miracle? Who were they *really* in awe of? Why?
9. Read Joshua 4:24. Parents - your children need to hear about what God is doing in your lives. They need to be told how God came through for you when things were tough, when you struggled with an illness, or couldn't work with that difficult person in the office. This even goes beyond parenting. How does this idea apply to all of our relationships in the Chapel?

Application:

10. This week take that FIRST STEP to do what He wants – no matter how small. Maybe it's reaching out to that person who has hurt you in the past – this week take that first step to reconcile by just reaching out to them. Or maybe you want to be bolder about sharing your faith at work or at school. This week be open to that one opportunity to talk to someone about what God is doing in your life.
11. On Sunday we did the same thing that God asked the Israelites to do: To remember how He's taken care of us in the past, and to use that to give us courage in the future. We picked up a stone on our way out and wrote on it something God's did for us in the past. What did you write? How do you see this being an encouragement for you going forward?