**Slide 1**

**Getting to Your Best Life Yet: Step in and Circle Around**

**Joshua 3-6**

How God works – our part and God’s part

Starting this fall to chart your schedule – make your commitments.

Hear God’s voice for what you are to do

**Slide 2**

**Then Joshua told the people, “Purify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5**

1. **Purify Yourself and Start Looking for Wonders**

Ceremonial cleansing in those days. Now it is a purification of the heart. Confession. God wipes clean all that is impure in the heart.

You will hear God’s voice when you confess.

**Slide 3**

**“Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: “When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.” Joshua 3:8**

1. **Your Move - Step into the Challenge**

Take the step of faith

It wasn’t a Hail Mary kind of move. They could step in with a degree of safety. What was as stake was their belief and trust. They could lose face. They could look stupid. God will move us from faith to faith.

Walked across to dry ground. Got across to the best life yet. The last generation was unwilling to cross. God was not big enough to take care of them.

Adventure. Declare that you will walk over there.

Step into giving.

Step into faith. God I am willing to take this next step of belief. I believe that the best life yet is the life of following you. I will walk over to where you are.

Step into that conversation.

**Slide 4**

**As soon as the feet of the priests touched the water at the river’s edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho. Joshua 3:15-16**

They were over on the good side – but there were a few problems. JERICHO.

Jericho was a formidable opponent. Huge walls kept.

**Slide 5**

**But the Lord said to Joshua, “I have given you Jericho, its’ king and all its’ strong warriors. You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram’s horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams’ horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town. Judges 6:2-5**

1. **Circle Pray Around the Problem**

What was up with this kind of command? They were just to walk around the city day after day. No fighting. No action other than to walk. What did you do today? Well I just went for a walk.

Sometimes when we are facing a challenge, God wants to do the fighting for us. We always think we have to storm the castle.

The work is prayer. We just bring everything to God in prayer. Keep going back. Circle it every day.

Imagine the problem getting solved. Don’t just let the problem stand there forever. Get

Keep praying until a drawbridge comes down. Keep praying until the walls come down.

We want to trust in our won strength and rush in on a problem. We bang up against the problem and it won’t budge. We need to pray. We need to keep circling.

When do we know when to stop? What if they would have stopped after six times around?

You may be tempted to give up – you don’t know, you might be at 6 times around. What if you give up after 5 or 6? You will not see the victory. You miss out on the amazing break through.

Discouragement comes in and we think that things will never change. The Israelites could have just left it up and put up with an uneasy truce.

They had to shout. Must have been pretty eerie for the people in Jericho to see these people just blowing a horn. A marching band would come around their town.

Conclusion:

The life that we dream of living is stepping in and circling around. Step in and Circle Around. How do you know when you step in and when you circle around….you listen to God’s promptings. We act and God acts. We look for his wonders.

Life with God. Expectation. Purity. Stepping in. Circling around. God wants to give you the best life yet. What if you are not living that life? You may be out in the desert really.

The Israelites had been following a cloud. Living in tents and wondering around. That had become quite normal for them. They would just go out and collect manna and quail. They were settling. They were existing but not really living. It got really exciting when they stepped in and circled around.