



Stepping Into Tomorrow – Message 3

Announcements

Women's Night // Tuesday, October 2 // Event starts at 7:00PM (Door open at 6:30PM) // Little Creek Campus. Ladies, invite your friends and join us for a dynamic Women's Night featuring speaker, singer, songwriter, and pastor DawnCheré Wilkerson of VOUS Church in Miami.

Warm-up

Sometimes we follow a routine because we've always done it a certain way. Name a family tradition from your childhood that you continue to do today or have passed along to your children.

Bottom Line

As we follow God's lead, we can *step into tomorrow* and overcome the insecurities that keep us stuck in the routines and ruts of life.

Word and Application

Last week we explored the weight of *disappointment*, the second enemy of our destiny. We learned that as we experience unmet expectations in life, we can still lay hold of God's promise, God's pattern, and God's purpose for us. Today, we learn how to move beyond the obstacles that hinder us from confidently stepping into tomorrow.

- After exiting from Egypt, the Israelites spent 40 years stuck in a wilderness rut. Rather than entering The Promised Land, they allowed fear and insecurity to hinder them from trusting Almighty God.
- What rut or routine do you currently feel stuck? Share a "wilderness rut" that God freed you from and explain the difference in your life since then.

Read Joshua 3:1-5. As the Israelites prepare to enter The Promised Land, the people are given instructions on what to do. From this passage, we discover these four lessons.

Four Lessons On Entering Our Tomorrows

1. God wants us to step out of our ruts and routines.
 - **Read Joshua 3:3-4.** What do you think is the significance of these instructions from the Lord?

- These verses demonstrate that we are to follow God's leading instead of leading on our own. Do you think it is more difficult to lead or to follow? Explain. What happens when we get ahead of God or too far behind?
- The Israelites had never been in this place before. That often applies to us when God is leading. Whether you are on the brink of a new career, a new venture, or a life-changing decision, God will lead and show you the way step-by-step. In what specific areas do you need to simply follow God?
- Escaping a stuck place or changing routine requires us to be *strong and courageous* and trust in our God. Is it harder for you to be strong or to be courageous? Explain.

2. God wants us to prepare ourselves.
Before we can move into the promise God has for us, we need to be ready to follow Him.

- **Read Joshua 3:5, Exodus 19:10-11, and Luke 9:23.** What were the commands given to the people? Why do you think it is important for the Israelites to consecrate themselves?
- **Read Psalm 19:12, Psalm 26:2, and Psalm 139:23-24,** In what ways is your life settled into a routine that keeps you from fully following God's leading? What do you need to do to make yourself ready?

3. God wants to demonstrate His power for us.

- **Read Joshua 3:10, Psalm 46:10, Psalm 86:10, and Exodus 14:1** Sometimes we only need to be still and let God have His way. How can we learn how to do this better?
- **Read Psalm 77:14 and Matthew 14:27-31.** What was the key to these amazing miracle? Can you recall a miracle in your life and what barrier you were able to overcome?

4. God wants us to respond to Him by stepping out.

- **Read Joshua 3:14-16 and Genesis 12:1.** Joshua committed himself to being a leader of the Israelites and he received power from God to meet this commitment. God called Abraham to leave all he knew. There are times we may make commitments without the assurance that the resources to fulfill them are available.
- When have you or someone you know experienced miracles or blessings after moving forward in faith, without the resources you needed?

Life Challenge

Who is someone you know who needs to be reminded that they are not alone and that God is with them? Commit to remind them that they are not alone this week.

Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of your small group.