**Small Group Notes – 4 October 2022**

**Welcome**

*Find a small pebble/stone to use as the beginning of the evening.*

As a group ask each person to take a turn of holding the pebble/stone in their hand and share a testimony of; answered prayer, a sense of God’s presence and peace or God’s guidance. Ask for the testimony to be kept short, so each person has a turn to share.

**Word - Entering the Promised** Land – Joshua 3&4

Crossing the Jordan river to enter the Promised Land is one of the most significant events in the history of Israel. Since God spoke to Abraham and told him, "to your offspring, I will give this land" (Genesis 12:7), God's people had been looking forward to the day the Promise would be fulfilled. That day had finally come; however, before they could cross over and enter the Land that the Lord their God was giving them, they were required to do three things.

* **Prepare -** Prepare **physically** (Joshua 1:10-11) and **spiritually** (Joshua 3:5)

The instructions to God's people are 'to consecrate themselves’. In their preparation, they are to look and listen. Listen to the Word of the Lord as spoken by Joshua (verse 9). Look at what the priests are doing and set their sights on the Ark of the Covenant (verse 3). The Ark of the Covenant was extraordinary as it symbolised God's very presence and power in the midst of his people.

* **Follow** – Joshua 3:2-3, 14-17

The people were not only to look at the Ark of the Covenant but to step out and follow when the priests moved on with it. He had told the people to keep a distance from the Ark of the Covenant as it is so Holy only the Priests were allowed to touch it. The space also allowed everyone to see it and what was happening. Interestingly the miracle didn’t occur until the Priests stepped into the rive

* **Remember** – Joshua 4:4-7 & 19-24

God instructed Joshua and the people to make this memorial as a reminder of what God had done. His promise to the people of his ongoing deliverance & provision for them. It might seem incredible that a whole nation who had witnessed such a great miracle would need such a reminder, but sadly, as we often see in the story of God’s people down the ages, they seem to forget his ways and the miracles that he performed.

**Questions**

* In what ways did the Israelites prepare for this momentous moment?
* What does it mean to consecrate yourself to the Lord? (Joshua 3:5)
* Why was it so important to hear the word of God spoken by Joshua before crossing over?  
  (Joshua 3: 9-13).
* How would the twelve stones serve as a memorial for future generations?   
  (Joshua 4:4-7 & 19-24).
* As believers we are on a journey of faith. What is our destination and how are we preparing?
* How do we consecrate ourselves to follow God, physically & spiritually?
* The Israelites looked to the ARK, a gold box which signified God’s presence with them on their journey. How do we know God is with us?
* How do you get your directions for the journey?
* What memorials do you have to remind yourself and future generations of what God has done for you and your family?
* Is there a challenge that you are facing that needs a Miracle?

**Prayers**

NMBC October Prayer Diary is now available.

Prayer for each other in the group and current situations.