

## Adult Impact Study Sheet

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August 13, 2023

If possible, read **Joshua 3 and 4** from several translations.  
For additional insight go to [www.studyLight.org](http://www.studyLight.org) and [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org).

“In Joshua 3 and 4, God illustrates for us three essentials for moving ahead by faith and claiming all that He has for us: the Word of faith [3:1-13], the walk of faith [3:14-17], and the witness of faith [4:1-24].”<sup>1</sup> Keep those thoughts in mind as we continue with our study sheet.

Here’s something to keep in mind as you consider the crossing of the Jordan in verses 3:14-17. From Galilee to the Dead Sea is 65 miles. In that distance the Jordan River drops 600 feet, with the spring rain and snowmelt from Mount Hermon causing it to overflow its banks. Note in verse 16 that “the waters rose up in a heap very far away at Adam” (a distance of about 15-18 miles north of the lowest point of crossing). What does that do to the picture you may have always had of the waters being parted?

1. The ark of the covenant was to be borne by the priests at a distance of 2,000 cubits (more than half a mile) from the people of Israel. What two purposes do you think that served?
2. The ark of the covenant represented the presence of God with the people of Israel. Discuss how the ark played a vital part in the events of these chapters.
3. Why was it important for the people to sanctify/consecrate themselves before the events to follow took place?
4. We read in Numbers 27:15-23, that Moses commissioned Joshua before all the people as his successor. Why and how in Joshua 3:7 and 4:14 is the Lord now exalting Joshua “in the sight of all Israel”?
5. Read 3:17. In Egypt and the wilderness, Israel was referred to as a “people.” Now that they have entered the Promised Land, they begin to be called a “nation.” Why do you suppose that is?
6. “Two heaps of stones were set up as memorials of Israel’s crossing of the Jordan River: twelve stones at Gilgal (vv. 1–8, 10–24), and twelve stones in the midst of the river (v. 9). They were witnesses that God honors faith and works on behalf of those who trust Him.”<sup>2</sup>

Discuss the purpose of the monument of stones Joshua set up in Gilgal (vv. 19-24).

Joshua also set up a monument of stones in the middle of the Jordan River where no one would ever see it. Why do you think the Lord had him do that? What could be the purpose/meaning?

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary OT*, 389

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, 391