

WORDS MATTER

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites... As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:1-9

A _____ word always requires a specific _____.

A. Get your house _____.

So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies ready...'"
Joshua 1:10-11

B. Get a _____.

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.
Joshua 2:1

C. _____ yourself.

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."
Joshua 3:5

D. Take _____.

Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing... while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho... The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground. **Joshua 3:15-17**

Small Group Discussion Notes

These small group notes are a tool, not a curriculum to be completed. Use them as you see fit!

Opening Questions

- Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Why not, or what were they? Why those?
- If you could go back and do one thing differently in 2011, what would it be and why?
- What is one spiritual goal that you have for 2012? What will you do to reach it?

Launching Questions

- Discuss God's specific word for Joshua in Joshua 1. What is promised, what is expected?
- Another example of a specific Word is found in Genesis 12. How is this account similar to, and different from the account in Joshua 1? What can we learn from that?
- Read Leviticus 11:41-45, 1 Kings 9:1-5, Hosea 9:10, and 1 Timothy 4:1-5 and use them to build a well-developed, biblical definition of what it means to be consecrated, and how it happens.

Guiding Questions

- What does it mean to have your house in order, and why is that important for what's coming?
- In what ways is God's specific word for River City, also a word for us? As you think about how you might respond to God's call, which parts are easy to embrace, and which are difficult for you?
- Of the four ways to prepare to move on God's word, which would be hardest for you and why? Which would be easiest, and what would you say to someone who struggled in that area?

Application Questions

- Do you accept God's Word to River City as God's word for you? Whether you do accept it or not, you must respond. How will you specifically respond to this specific word?
- What areas of your "house" need to be put in order? What have you done to begin that process?
- What would it look like for you to be consecrated to God this week? How will you get there?
- What is your first step, and when will you take it?