



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

### USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### The Big Idea

*Sometimes we have to step into the mess to get to the miracle.*

### Message Summary

*Most of us would agree with each other that things in our world are a mess right now, but God wants us to agree with him about how we're to handle it. In Joshua 3, we find the people of God staring an impossible situation in the face. They knew where they were, they knew where they were supposed to go, and they knew that there was a mess of a situation standing in the way. God taught them then what he wants to teach us now: sometimes we have to step in the mess to get to the miracle. The Jordan River was at flood stage and was in the middle of where they were and where they were going, and when they stepped into the Middle Expecting Something Supernatural, God came through. He will for us, too.*

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- How do you typically respond to messy situations?
  - Let someone else deal with it
  - Run away from it
  - Jump in with both feet
- How easy or hard is it for you to trust that God is in control when everything seems out of control? Talk through your answer with the group.
- Read Joshua 3:8, 13. What was the priests' part in v. 8? What was God's promise in v. 13?
- The ark was carried on 2 poles, so while we don't know how many men carried it, it was at least 4. That means the priests in front had to walk further into the mess in order to make room for the others to get their feet in the water so that God could do what he promised. What would you have been feeling when the water touched your toes? Your ankles? Knees?
- Read Joshua 3:17-4:7. Describe a time that you stood in the middle of a miracle. What did you take from that place or time that still reminds you today of God's faithfulness then? How does that strengthen your faith for current messes that you need to step into?