

BUSINESS FAITH GROUPS

Gap Work

Joshua 3:5-4:7

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I. SESSION OVERVIEW

- Joshua 3:5-4:7
- Discovery | Faith risks
- Business Application | Growth Gaps

II. REVIEW (30m)

- Personal Catchup
- Review last month's outcomes
- Open in Prayer

III. DISCOVERY

- Read Joshua 3:5-4:7 (shared reading)

Context/ Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because of their unbelief. As they head toward the promised land of Canaan, they must first get past one final major obstacle: the Jordan River. Normally, this would not have presented much of a problem since the Jordan was only 100 feet wide at Gilgal where they crossed. However, it seems that God always does things in such a way that no man can boast of having done them on their own. This crossing would be no exception. You see, God brought them to the Jordan River at the time of harvest. Those who have been there during the harvest time tell us that the Jordan swells to an impassable width of over 1 mile! It was over 50 times wider than it normally would have been when Israel arrived. There was no way they could cross this river on their own! They needed supernatural help.

What jumps out at you?

- Give each an opportunity to share what they discovered as you keep it a conversation integrating your insights and their discoveries.

IV. AREA CHAIR INSIGHTS (30M)

1. Stone Piling

The crossing of the Jordan river was a huge mile marker for the Israelites and God knew it. He also knew that we have a short term memory so He instructs Joshua to gather 12 stones to serve as a visual reminder of their story of freedom, answered promises, and provision to tell their kids and grandkids.

- Freedom from oppression
- Parting of the Red Sea
- Providing food every day as they journeyed without a home
- A Promise of a Land of Milk & Honey

God desired at least three results from the memorial.

- 1) **the world would remember the powerful hand of God** (He's bigger than any other Gods).
- 2) **those who were the beneficiaries of God's miracle would never forget God's love for them.** (the current people alive Israelites would know God's love for them)
4700+ promises that never fail
- 3) **future generations would remember what God had done.** (legacy, future believers).

The symbolism of stones centers on ideas of endurance, stability, and permanence. They represent the ability to be grounded and connected with the God. Stones are qualities of God too-- strong, versatile, and easily accessible.

Do you see the significance of this pile of stones in Joshua 4? They are **the anchor point. They are meant to be a Story-starter about God in your life.**

- They tell the people where they have been.
- They tell them who God is.
- And they tell them what God can do.

These stones allow them to draw a straight line from the past acts of God into their uncertain present, and beyond.

We as parents, have a spiritual responsibility to pass our faith on to the next generation. If we don't pass it along, we have failed at one of our most important tasks- stewardship. We must tell them what God has done for us— and then we must tell them again and again until the stories are tattooed on their souls. Tell your children how God answered your prayers in times of trouble. Tell them how Jesus rescued you from a life of sin.

Q-So What or Where are your Stones?

- It can be a picture or a plaque on the wall as reminders of God's provision—a reminder to you and a conversation starter for you to tell someone else your story.
- Highlights as a family (or low lights as a reminder of His protection)
- Journaling
- For me, I have created an annual family video that we watch on Christmas Eve as a “stone piling” event.(20+ years)

Q- Do you intentionally “Stone pile” at your company, family? What are you passing on, highlighting? How are you celebrating milestones?

2. He Went Ahead

v9,11,14 this phrase “He went ahead” of them really popped for me.

Q-What does this mean to you?

Q-How do you do this as a leader in your Home? Your Company?

Q- What are some best practices to help each other?

The Ark went into the water first as well.

3. Getting Your Feet Wet

Let's go back to Joshua 3:8. When the Israelites were on the verge of entering the Promised Land, God commanded the priests to step into the river. They needed to demonstrate their faith and belief in His promise before the water was rolled back.

So often I want God to go first but I'm finding that doesn't require any faith at all. If the priests hadn't obeyed and stepped into the river they may be standing on the shores still today.

Too often, we want the Lord just to fix everything in our lives for us. We don't want to have to make any decisions nor do we want to have to exercise our faith in Him. We just want Him to do it and that will be the end of it. However, most of the time, God will require us to take steps of faith in order that we might see our Jordan parted and for us to get to the other side. God had a plan, but for this plan to work, it required faith on the part of His people!

At times I find myself waiting on God to part the river first when perhaps Jesus is waiting on me to get my feet wet. I wonder how many times God doesn't answer my prayers or doesn't cause or allow something to happen in my life because He is simply waiting on me to take the first step of faith.

What is it that you dream of doing or being for God? Don't just pray about it or talk about it but act on it! God is honored when we act as if He is going to answer our prayers.

When we begin to take spiritual risks, tiny steps of faith, belief forms, trust develops in Him, His promises become real and faith ownership is transferred. You form a stone.

Q- As a wife, husband, father, mother, business owner-- do others close to you see your dependency on God?

Q- Do others see courageous action of faith in you?

4. Use it or Lose it

Like most things in life, if we don't use something we end up forgetting about it to the point of losing it. As the Israelites fought battles, God gave them victories, they began to acquire land, possessions, and engage with other cultures. Much of the book of Joshua is on battles, victories, and dividing the land they acquire.

Most sermons end here and feel good about traditions, heritage, legacies. But if we continue through the end of Joshua and when he dies... well turn with me to Judge 2. It's the book right after Joshua.

Read Judges 2:6-10

In their prosperity they got comfortable and forgot God. They began to enjoy

independence and start chasing & serving cultural idols. They begin to worship foreign and false, untrue gods. And as a result, we read in v10 that the 3rd generation didn't know what God or what He did or what He is capable of for them personally.

The Stones lost their voice;

Do you sit in this space today? Perhaps too comfortable so you've never had to depend on God for your needs? Too engrained in yourself that you have forgotten how He has provided, worked and desires a personal connection with you?

V. WRAP

One step is all it takes. One step. As soon as Israel's feet were "dipped in the edge of the water" God acted, the flowing waters receded upstream, there was dry land, and all the people crossed over. With that one step we can follow the ark of God's presence into your Jordan and through to the other side.

Can you take a step of faith and "Get your feet wet" today?

How can we as a group encourage spiritual risks in each other?

BUSINESS APPLICATION

I. SESSION OVERVIEW

- Business Application | Growth Gaps
- Tools
- Outcome/ Growing your Business, Leadership/People, and yourself

II. CONTEXT

The Latin word “Magis” means greater than before or more than now (not better than). It’s like closing the gap of who I am today and who I can become tomorrow. It’s not a comparison thing of bettering than you but it’s about personal growth, self improvement or what God has for you. It’s about moving you from comfort to trust and spiritual growth. It’s about getting to the other side of yourself.

What if we used this concept of Magis to help us cross your Jordans and grow in 3 areas?

Visual draw 2 lines representing a river. We are here on the shore. We want to cross to the other side, our desired state.

I think there are 3 Zones;

Comfort/

I often get stuck in my comfort zone. It feels good, feels safe. It’s standing on the side of the river bank.

Stress/

Overwhelmed & unable to learn. Panicked, unable to learn, Anxious=unproductive

Growth/

Uncomfortable requiring focused attention, effort & courage. Learning, anticipating, purposeful.

III. TOOLS/ 3 Gaps

What if we examined our Business Gaps, Leadership Gaps (growing our people), and Personal Growth Gaps?

We Analyze (identify), Areas (here & desired state), and Act (steps to execute) to grow in that Gap.

1. Business Gap/

Ops, Finance, Sales/Mktg, Culture

This is your Jordan River.

Review Qs & Plot on the Biz Diagram where God wants you to experience growth zone work and action steps to execute it.

2. Leadership Gap/ (or people gap)

Leadership or Your Team

This is your Jordan River.

Review Qs & Plot on the Leadership Diagram where God wants you to experience growth zone work and action steps to execute it.

3. Personal Growth Gap/

Spiritual, Family, Personal

This is your Jordan River.

Review Qs & Plot on the Personal Diagram where God wants you to experience growth zone work and action steps to execute it.

IV. WRAP

Currently, where are you at mentally? What is your mental health towards your Gap?

- When my mind is weak, my gap is a PROBLEM
- When my mind is balanced, my gap is a CHALLENGE
- When my mind is strong, my gap is a FAITH OPPORTUNITY

The key to this one is seeing YOUR GAP AS YOUR GIFT! The faith-stretching opportunities are the blessings in hindsight. But can you see it so when you are in it?

The faith it takes for me to leave my current position and step into the chaos and get to the other side or line. That's Growth Zone stuff. That's Trust building. That's integrating your faith into your business, leadership, life.

The gaps make me trust harder, work harder, grow my faith harder, all wrapped in His grace.

Action Steps |

Break into smaller groups to discuss;

Q- Which of these 3 is your greatest (ie weakest) faith "gap" today?

Q- What do you need from our group to help you get through the deep waters of your Jordan and to reach the other side?

Reconvene as a large group and ask people to share their gap and how we can pray & hold accountable.

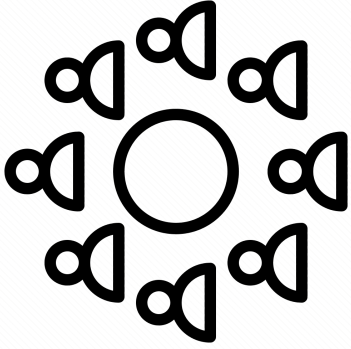
GOALS |

- Ask each for their goals from this meeting to the next.
- Commit to prayer & supporting each other.

Name	Business	Personal	Faith
First Name		Strength training	Integration
First Name	LT/Culture	Running (alarms)	Listening to Him
Jon	Culture	Intentionality	Consistency
Kevin	Culture	Intentionality	Consistency
Brad	Culture	Leading the Family	Intentionality
First Name	Culture	Strength thru surgery; leverage time	Trusting Him

- What's your personal growth opportunity—name the fear, habit, skill, distraction that you need to grow, overcome-- in this gap?
- What is the wisest next step?
- When will you take it (date)?

GAP WORK | LEADERSHIP



Ask yourself these questions in leading your team
(which pops)

Analyze/

- Am I leading with a Title, Production or Multiplication heart for my people?
- What can I do for my people to help them succeed?
- What do people need from me daily that they may not want to ask for?
- How can I disadvantage myself for other's gain today?
- How can I gain value while adding value to others by serving?
- How can I serve people in a way that will inspire them to serve others?

AREA/

- Current state & desired state. Growth Zone.

ACTION/

- What's your personal growth opportunity—name the fear, habit, skill, distraction that you need to grow, overcome-- in this gap?
- What is the wisest next step?
- When will you take it (date)?

GAP WORK | PERSONAL, FAMILY, SPIRITUAL



Spiritual, Family, Personal
ANALYZE/ Which pops for you?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Assumption Gap: "I Assume That I Will Automatically Grow"▪ The Knowledge Gap: "I Don't Know How to Grow"▪ The Timing Gap: "It's Not the Right Time to Begin"▪ The Mistake Gap: "I'm Afraid of Making Mistakes so I play it too safe"▪ The Perfection Gap: "I Have to Find the Best Way Before I Start"▪ The Inspiration Gap: "I Don't Feel Like Doing It"▪ The Comparison Gap: "Others Are Better Than I Am"▪ The Expectation Gap: "I Thought it Would Be Easier Than This"
AREA/
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Current state & desired state. Growth Zone.
ACTION/
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What's your personal growth opportunity—name the fear, habit, skill, distraction that you need to grow, overcome-- in this gap?▪ What is the wisest next step?▪ When will you take it (date)?