

March 25 & 26, 2023

Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

## Front Up #3 - Milestones

### I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – indoor worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:20 and 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or [thechurchnextdoor.org](https://thechurchnextdoor.org). **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – The **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am and 6pm** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website [yournextstepnow.com](https://yournextstepnow.com) as well as all podcasting services.
- **Deeper Life** – Deeper Life meets this Sunday night at 5pm. Join Pastor Doyle in the sanctuary to go deeper into God's word.
- **New Bible Reading Plan and Podcast** – find our 2023 Bible reading plan and daily podcast on the app or at <https://thechurchnextdoor.org/connect/bible-reading-plan/>. It will bless your life!
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – our little ones are hunting Easter eggs on the west lawn on **April 1** from **11am-1pm**. Bring your little ones to find some treats and have some fun.

### II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. When you were growing up, how did you know spring had arrived?
2. What was the longest trip you ever took? When you were growing up, what trophies or awards were you interested in? What do you remember from the Guinness Book of World Records?

### III. Bible Study

Read **Joshua 3:17** (NIV)

*Entering the Land through the Jordan on dry ground...* **17** The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

1. How was entering the Promised Land a milestone for Joshua and all Israel? Why do you think God parted the Jordan River for them at this time? What was God saying to them?
2. What "rivers" has God parted for you in the past? What rivers are you still waiting for Him to part for you? How can we help as you wait?

Read **Joshua 4:5–6** (NIV)

*Build a memorial for the future...* **5** "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, **6** to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

3. What would a memorial do for the people? What would it do for future generations? What did the stones mean?

Read **Philippians 2:1-15** (NIV)

*Paul says your life is worthy...* **1** Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

**6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

**7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

**8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

**9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

**10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**11** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4. What word or words would you use to describe “the mindset of Christ” Paul tells us about here? How does the fact that Jesus thought and behaved this way change how you see Him? How does it change the way you live and share your faith?
5. We listed “seven spiritual milestones of faith” this weekend: conversion/initiation, water baptism, Holy Spirit, small group involvement, stewardship, service, and commitment to discipleship. Which of these have you already taken? How did it bring you closer to God? Which one do you still need to take? When and how will you do that?

Read **Joshua 22:9-10; 24** (NIV)

*The Eastern Tribes build an Altar as they go home...* **9** So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the Lord through Moses.

**10** When they came to Gelliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan.’

**24** “No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, ‘What do you have to do with the Lord, the God of Israel?’

6. Why did the eastern tribes (the tribes on the east side of the Jordan River) build this altar? How did it bless them in their relationship with God and the rest of the nation? How can celebrating the resurrection at church do this in our time?
7. Bonus question: Have you written down five names on your lightbulb sheet yet?