



# DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday, we reflected on the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, as described in Joshua 3:14-17, drawing parallels to the account of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14. Both stories teach us about stepping out in faith even when the outcome isn't clear. Just as the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant had to step into the Jordan before the waters parted, and Peter had to step out of the boat to walk toward Jesus, we are often called to take steps of faith in our own lives, trusting God to guide us through uncertainty. This journey of faith is mirrored in the act of baptism, symbolizing our crossing from death to life, from old to new. As we face our own challenges, may we remember God's faithfulness to the Israelites and trust that He will also make a way for us, leading us into His promises and the abundant life found in Jesus Christ.

## Devotional 1: Stepping Out in Faith

### Scripture Reading:

#### Joshua 3:14-17

*"So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 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."*

### Devotional:

As the Israelites stood before the Jordan River, they faced a seemingly insurmountable barrier. The river, swollen with floodwaters, represented the last obstacle between them and the Promised Land. It must have seemed impossible to cross, yet God called them to step forward. The priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, were the first to enter the water. It was only when their feet touched the water's edge that the river parted, creating a path on dry ground. Their willingness to step out in faith, before seeing the outcome, triggered the miracle.

This account is a powerful reminder that sometimes God asks us to act in faith before we see the solution. Like the priests at the Jordan, we often stand on the brink of challenges, not knowing how things will work out. It's in these moments that God calls us to trust Him, to step forward even when the way is

unclear. The Israelites' story encourages us to take that step of faith, believing that God will make a way where there seems to be none.

What obstacle are you facing today that seems impossible to overcome? Remember the priests stepping into the Jordan. Their act of faith activated God's miraculous power. In your own life, God may be waiting for you to take that first step, trusting that He will guide you and make a path through whatever challenges lie ahead.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. What "Jordan River" are you facing in your life right now? What obstacle seems insurmountable?
2. How can you show faith by stepping forward, even when the outcome is unclear?
3. Can you recall a time in your life when God made a way for you, even when you didn't see how it would be possible?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for being a God who makes a way when there seems to be no way. Give us the courage to step out in faith, trusting that You will guide our steps and provide for us. Help us to keep our eyes on You and to trust in Your promises. Amen.

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# Devotional 2: Remembering God's Faithfulness

## Scripture Reading:

### Joshua 4:1-9

*"When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 'Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan... These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.'"*

## Devotional:

After crossing the Jordan River, God instructed Joshua to have twelve men, one from each tribe, take a stone from the riverbed. These stones were to serve as a memorial, a reminder of God's miraculous deliverance. The stones were set up at Gilgal as a tangible symbol of God's power and faithfulness. When future generations asked about the stones, they would be told the story of how God held back the waters of the Jordan, allowing His people to cross on dry ground.

This practice of remembrance is vital for our faith. Just as the Israelites created a physical reminder of God's faithfulness, we too need to remember and celebrate God's work in our lives. When we intentionally recall and share how God has intervened, provided, or answered prayers, we build up our own faith and encourage others. Memorials of faith, whether they are written testimonies, symbols, or shared stories, help us remember that God is always with us.

What are the "stones of remembrance" in your life? How has God shown His faithfulness to you? Take time to reflect on those moments and consider how you can share them with others. By doing so, you not only honor God's work but also inspire others to trust in His promises.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. What are some significant ways God has shown His faithfulness to you in the past?
2. How do you currently remind yourself of God's faithfulness and goodness?
3. In what ways can you create your own "stones of remembrance" to share God's faithfulness with others?

## Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for Your faithfulness throughout our lives. Help us to remember and celebrate Your goodness. May we be intentional in creating reminders of Your love and power, and may our testimonies inspire faith in others. Amen.

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# Devotional 3: Walking on Water

## Scripture Reading:

### Matthew 14:28-29

*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus."*

## Devotional:

The story of Peter walking on water is one of faith, courage, and trust. As the disciples battled a storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus approached them, walking on the water. Terrified, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus reassured them, saying, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Peter, ever bold and impulsive, asked Jesus to command him to come if it was really Him. Jesus said, "Come," and Peter stepped out of the boat. For a moment, Peter did the impossible—he walked on water. It was only when he shifted his focus from Jesus to the storm around him that he began to sink.

Peter's experience teaches us about the importance of keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. When Peter focused on Jesus, his faith enabled him to do the impossible. But when he looked at the waves, doubt crept in, and he began to sink. Our lives are often filled with "storms"—challenges and uncertainties that can cause fear and doubt. Yet, when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we find the strength and courage to rise above those challenges.

What waves are crashing around you today? Like Peter, we may start to feel overwhelmed by our circumstances. But Jesus calls us to focus on Him, not on the storm. Trust that He is with you, and He will reach out His hand to save you, just as He did for Peter.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. What "storms" or challenges are you currently facing in your life?
2. How can you keep your focus on Jesus in the midst of your challenges?
3. How have you experienced Jesus reaching out to you when you felt like you were sinking?

## Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being with us in the midst of life's storms. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You, trusting that You will give us the strength to face whatever comes our way. May we always have the courage to step out in faith, knowing that You are there to guide and protect us. Amen.

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# Devotional 4: Baptism – A New Beginning

## Scripture Reading:

### Romans 6:4

*"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*

## Devotional:

The crossing of the Jordan River is a powerful symbol of new beginnings. Just as the Israelites left behind their old life in the wilderness and entered into the Promised Land, baptism symbolizes our transition from the old life of sin into the new life in Christ. In baptism, we identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is a public declaration of our faith, showing that we have died to our old ways and are now living for Christ.

Through baptism, we declare our allegiance to Christ and acknowledge His lordship over our lives. It is a step of obedience, a physical act that represents the inner transformation that has taken place. As we emerge from the waters of baptism, we rise into newness of life, cleansed and renewed by the Holy Spirit. This act of faith is both a personal declaration and a communal celebration, as we join with the body of Christ in proclaiming the gospel.

Have you experienced this new beginning through baptism? If so, remember your baptism as a marker of your faith journey. If not, consider what it might mean for you to take this step. Baptism is not just a ritual; it's a profound statement of your commitment to follow Christ and live a life dedicated to Him.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. What does baptism mean to you, and how has it impacted your faith journey?
2. How can you live out the new life that baptism symbolizes in your daily walk with Christ?
3. If you haven't been baptized, what might be holding you back from taking this step of faith?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of baptism, a symbol of our new life in Christ. Help us to live out the reality of our baptism every day, dying to ourselves and living for You. May we always remember the significance of this act and continue to grow in our faith and commitment to You. Amen.

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# Devotional 5: Trusting in God's Promises

## Scripture Reading:

**Hebrews 10:23**

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."*

## Devotional:

As the Israelites crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land, they experienced the fulfillment of God's promises

. For years, they had wandered, clinging to the hope that one day they would inherit the land God had promised to their ancestors. The parting of the Jordan River was a powerful sign that God was faithful to His word. Even though the journey had been long and difficult, God had not forgotten His people or His promises.

In our own lives, we often find ourselves waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. It can be challenging to hold on to hope when circumstances seem contrary to what we believe God has promised. Yet, the story of the Israelites reminds us that God is faithful, and His timing is perfect. We are called to trust in His promises, knowing that He will fulfill them according to His perfect will.

What promises from God are you holding on to today? Perhaps you are waiting for a breakthrough, a healing, or a restoration in a relationship. Whatever it may be, remember that God is faithful. He who parted the Jordan and fulfilled His promise to the Israelites will also be faithful to you. Hold fast to your hope, trusting that God's promises are sure.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. What promises from God are you currently waiting to see fulfilled?
2. How do you stay hopeful and trust in God's faithfulness when the wait is long?
3. How can the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan inspire you to trust in God's promises?

## Prayer:

Faithful God, thank You for Your promises that never fail. Help us to hold on to hope, even when the journey is long and challenging. May we trust in Your timing and believe that You will fulfill every promise

You have made. Strengthen our faith and give us the endurance to wait on You. Amen.

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# Devotional 6: God's Faithfulness Across Generations

## Scripture Reading:

### Deuteronomy 6:6-7

*"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*

## Devotional:

The twelve stones taken from the Jordan River were not only a memorial of God's faithfulness to that generation of Israelites but also a sign for future generations. Joshua instructed the people to use these stones to tell their children the story of how God parted the Jordan River. This practice of sharing stories of God's faithfulness was essential for passing down the faith and ensuring that the next generation would know and trust in God.

In our families and communities today, we also have a responsibility to pass down stories of God's faithfulness. By sharing testimonies of how God has worked in our lives, we encourage others and help them build their faith. Just as the Israelites used the stones as a teaching tool, we can use our life experiences to teach and inspire those around us, especially the younger generation.

What stories of God's faithfulness can you share with others? Consider how you can be intentional about passing down your faith. Whether it's through conversations, family devotions, or simply living out your faith in a visible way, your testimony can make a lasting impact. Let's be committed to keeping the memory of God's works alive in our hearts and sharing them with others.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. What stories of God's faithfulness have you experienced that you can share with others?
2. How can you be more intentional about passing down your faith to the next generation?
3. Why is it important to remember and share the stories of God's work in our lives?

## Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness throughout all generations. Help us to remember and share the stories of Your work in our lives. May our testimonies be a source of encouragement and inspiration to others, and may we be faithful in passing down our faith to the next generation. Amen.