

Jack Hayford

Pathway to Permanence Jack Hayford

Focus The Lord has given each person a specific purpose in the season ahead. When we step out toward that purpose and praise Him, He will work miracles on our behalf because our purpose is guaranteed and secure in the Lord.

Fun Take turns sharing your New Year's resolutions. Have fun deciding on the top resolution in categories like the funniest, most outrageous, and most achievable.

Review Key Scripture: Joshua 1:1–8

- **Cross Jordan: Step Into the Miracle Before You See It**
When the Lord has given us direction, we should step out in faith, then stand and wait for God to demonstrate the miracle.
- **Conquer Jericho: Don't Wilt Before Walls, Circle Them with Praise**
When we face a challenge in our life, we should not fear or cower but focus on the Lord with praise. God will do the work to defeat the enemy.
- **Continue the Journey: Abide, Reside, and Be Fruitful**
The Lord designated a fruitful plot of land to each family. After centuries of slavery the Israelites took their position prescribed by the Lord. Likewise, the Lord has prescribed His purpose for each of us in our own lives.

Group Dynamics Idea

Building relationships is an important part of small group meetings, and connections can be made when we pray together. At the end of your discussion time, ask members to break up into groups of two or three to share prayer requests and pray for each other.

- Discuss**
1. The Israelite priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant had to step into the Jordan River *before* the water parted. What are some thoughts that may have crossed their minds before stepping into the flooded river?
 2. The Lord instructed the Israelites to walk around the city of Jericho for seven days. As a result, He made the walls of the city collapse, and Jericho was conquered. Has the Lord ever asked you to do something that seemed to be out of the ordinary? Describe your reaction and the outcome of following through with His request.

3. How would you encourage a friend who was facing something that seemed larger than they could possibly handle or endure?
4. When we praise the Lord, how does it affect our thoughts and emotions? How does it affect our circumstances? Why do you think praise is a tool to use when battling the enemy?
5. Encourage your group to complete the following exercise on their own: *Set aside time to ask the Lord what His purpose is for you this year. Write down the words He gives you. Ask Him what your next step should be, and begin by praying and praising Him for the courage to move forward as He has directed.*

- Take Home**
- Regardless of your position in life, the Lord has a purpose for you in this season.
 - Be open to hear from the Lord the direction He wants you to go.
 - Step into the direction and allow the Lord to work the miracles needed for you to prevail.
 - Praise the Lord through every obstacle.
 - Expect fruitfulness in the territory He has given you.

Prayer Lord, thank You for giving each of us a specific purpose for this time in our life. Help us to see our relevance, hear Your voice, and step in the direction You are calling us. You are faithful to guard us against the work of the enemy, and we give You all the praise and glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

As you prepare for the upcoming *Blessed Life* Series, consider using nametags for your group. Many new people visit groups at this time and nametags make visitors feel at ease. They are a great way to learn everyone's name!