



going deeper

Stories, also known as narratives, make up about 40% of the Bible. You could even say that the Bible itself, taken as a whole, is one giant story.

Understanding how to study stories is an important Bible study skill.

The purpose of a story is to show you something instead of telling you outright. Like Jesus' parables, they are designed to make you think, evoke an emotion to engage your heart, and to help you enter the reality being explored in the narrative. So what should you do with a story?

You try it:

1. Invite God to reveal his truth.
2. Read **Mark 7:31-37** slowly, paying attention to what stands out to you.
3. Role playing. Imagine yourself as each character. What can you learn from "trying on" their perspective? What is God saying to you personally?

Follow along: *The book of Joshua, chapters 1-3*

1. Moses is dead! (1:2)

It's my turn.

I have God's promise (1:3)

I have God's presence (1:5)

I have God's command (1:6)

Everything that made Moses Moses has been given to me too.

2. Preparation: When we follow Jesus, he prepares the way (2:1-11; Eph 2:10)

3. Action: God's preparation plus our obedience = a miracle moment.

Faith isn't what you believe. It's what you do with what you believe (James 2). Faith is only faith when it's in action.

"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" (John 4:34).

4. Faith edges: "The righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1:17). They step into the unknown in obedience to Jesus as a way of life.

True faith lives at the edge of our fears, on the untamed frontier of God's kingdom.

"Without faith, it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6)

So... don't allow these two fears to keep you from your miracle life:

a. Fear that it won't work.

b. Fear that it will work.

Exodus 20:18-21:

* Find the edge, then cross the line.

FOR YOU

Talk to someone about a “faith edge” God is challenging you with right now. Ask them to hold you accountable and to pray. Then...uh... ***just cross the line.***

FOR COUPLES

Share your “faith edges” with each other. You could start by saying, “I think God is asking me to...” Help each other by asking, “What’s holding you back? How can I help you take that step?”

FOR PARENTS

Your children face regular “faith edges” too, though they might not see them for what they are. You can help them see those edges and support them.

Preschool parents: When your child is afraid of something this week, share **John 10:27,28** with them and explain what it means: *God is so big he can hold us in God’s hands. Imagine God’s hands, as big as our house, holding us safe and warm. How does that feel? Let’s talk to God about it.* Ask them regularly: “Where are we?” Have them answer: “In God’s hands!”

K-6 parents: Explain what a “faith edge” is using your sermon notes. Ask, “What hard thing do you think God is asking you to trust him about lately? How do you think he wants you to obey him?”

Youth parents: Discuss what stood out to you about Sunday’s message. Take turns sharing frankly about what your “faith edges” are right now and ask each other what you/they think God wants them to do about it. Pray together about stepping out in faith and obeying God at the edge.

Older/grand parents: Reflect back on the “faith edges” you shrank back from earlier in life and your regrets about that. Take some time to either go for coffee, call, or write your grown kids or grandkids about those and what advice you have for them in light of those moments.

FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Take at ten minutes this week for a “5-2Thrive update.” How did it go? Why?
2. Briefly re-cap Sunday’s message for those that may have missed it.
3. There are three important themes Brad skipped over on Sunday. Take time to discuss them now, beginning with **Joshua 1:7,8**: Why is continuous meditation on God’s word important for facing our “faith edges?”
4. In **Joshua 3:1-4**, instructions are given to follow the Ark of the Covenant (which represents the presence of God) because “Then you will know which way to go, for you have never been this way before.” What might a modern day application of this principle be? Explain.
5. Thirdly, in **Joshua 3:5** Joshua says, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” In the New Testament, Peter says, “Prepare yourself for action.” (**Peter 1:13**). How might we consecrate & prepare ourselves for God’s miracles in and through us?
6. How has this series and these scriptures been challenging you or changing you? Explain.
7. What “faith edges” is God challenging you with recently? How can the group pray for you in this?