

## Question 5

- a) This verse shows that although the “*wonders among you*” are down to the work of God; nevertheless the people were required to do something also.
- b) To ‘consecrate’ is to set apart for holy use. It speaks of availability and of obedience.
- c) It also indicates a deliberate act; illustrated by the example in Exodus 19:10 with the washing of clothes.
- d) The idea was that they were to put away anything that was displeasing to the Lord and get ready for Him to do something great for them.
- e) It is no coincidence that God has not yet revealed the details of this miraculous crossing.
- f) Notice the conviction of Joshua when he declares that “*tomorrow the Lord will do...*”
- g) This ‘consecration’ was a means through which they recognise that what is going to happen is indeed God’s work.

## Question 6

- a) Know your enemy. Know your God! (2:24).
- b) Although He is our Father; we must also acknowledge that He is the Holy God and requires our reverence and worship.
- c) Don’t get ahead of God but seek each day by His word, to follow Him.
- d) We need to live consecrated lives so that we are ready to go where God calls and do what he commands.
- e) The idea of cleansing ourselves that comes from Exodus 19 suggests dealing with sin that holds us back.
- f) We need to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord (**Heb 12:1-2**).

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 9

### Question 1

- a) Trusting God does not mean that we should not be aware of the enemy.
- b) Being prepared is an important concept in scripture.
- c) There are several places in scripture where we are told to be aware of Satan’s tactic. [**2 Cor 2:11; 2 Cor 11:13-14; Eph 6:11; James 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8**].
- d) We can also suggest that this mission confirms all the promises that God has made and will give confidence to the people that was not evident when the spies had reported back 38 years previously.
- e) You can sense the excitement of anticipation in Joshua as he receives this great news. 3:1 shows that he was up early the next day moving the Israelites seven miles to the river; ready to cross over and receive the land God had given them.

### Question 2

**It may be helpful to ensure that all the group understand what the Ark of the Covenant was:**

- *A wooden box (4ft length, 2½ft wide, 2½ft deep) overlaid with gold.*
- *It was carried on poles inserted into rings at each corner.*
- *Inside were the stone tablets on which were written the Ten Commandments.*
- *On the top was a solid gold cover. This was also known as the mercy seat.*

- *At each end of the mercy seat was a golden cherub with outstretched wings overshadowing the Ark.*
- *It was at the mercy seat that the high priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice to make atonement for the people's sins.*
- *It was also where Moses met with God to receive instructions for the people.*

**A good summary is found in Exodus 25:10-22.**

- The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God among His people. This is emphasised in the title 'Ark of the Covenant'.
- It always went before the people; either on their travels or into battle; therefore demonstrating that God went before them.
- We find in Numbers 14:44 that when the people presume to attack the Amalekites without the Ark going before them; they are defeated.

### **Question 3**

- It would be a difficult task the Israelites were facing here in Joshua 3; but God would lead them into the land He had promised them.
- Here Joshua is demonstrating that their success in the Promised Land would be achieved by following God.
- But not only that. It was about God being present with His people.
- Notice in verse 3 that as soon as they saw the Ark moving they were to leave where they were and follow. It required full trust and obedience.
- In chapters 3-4 the Ark is mentioned seventeen times; demonstrating the importance and centrality of God's presence among His people.

### **Question 4**

**The main answer to this question is actually a very practical one. However, we must not overlook the importance of a wider spiritual principle.**

- So holy was the Ark because it was where God demonstrated His presence; that the people were not allowed to go near it or touch it. The Levites who carried and brought the sacrifices had to be careful not to touch it (hence the poles to carry it).
- In 2 Samuel 6 we read that when Uzzah put his hand on it to prevent it falling he was struck dead.
- This emphasised the holiness of God.
- However, until now they had not been told to keep a certain distance from it. This suggests another reason.
- The instruction to remain some 900 metres away would enable more of the people to see the Ark going before them: *"in order that you may know the way you shall go..."*
- Previously they had followed the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. That had been easy for all to see.
- This would also ensure they were not tempted to run ahead of God.
- It emphasised the need for trusting God: *"for you have not passed this way before"*.