Sermon-based Small Groups

_____ of _____

1stPresDowntown

Crossing Over: Walking with God Through Transition

Joshua 1:1-9

Week of August 16, 2026

This week's scripture:
My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them … Be strong and courageous … I will not fail you or forsake you … for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Scripture Reflection Questions: Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection Questions: Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

1. Opening Reflection: Standing at the Edge

The sermon opened by naming several different transitions people in our congregation are facing right now—back to school, heading south for the winter, an empty nest, a loss, a diagnosis, a retirement. Which of those transitions resonates most with where you are this fall? What does your particular threshold feel like right now?

The sermon observed that beneath all our different transitions, there is one shared question: what does it look like to walk with God through change? How have you historically navigated transitions—by leaning into God, by pressing forward on your own, or by trying to avoid the change altogether?

2. The Transitions We Grieve: "Moses Is Dead"
Before issuing any command, God names the loss out loud: "Moses is dead." The sermon noted that we are not good, as a culture, at naming losses—we are told to move on, keep busy, look forward. How do you tend to handle endings and losses? Do you name them, or do you skip past them toward what's next? The sermon said that every transition—even a good one—carries with it the end of something. The family sending a child to college is closing a chapter that took eighteen years to write. The retiree is stepping away from a role that gave their days shape and meaning. What ending is embedded in the transition you are currently navigating, and have you given yourself permission to grieve it?

3. The Summons Forward: "Now Proceed to Cross"
The sermon made an important observation: the brevity of God's command "Now proceed" does not mean Israel's grief is over. They will carry Moses with them across the Jordan. The birth of Leighton illustrated this—joy and grief held together in the same moment. Have you experienced a transition where two seemingly opposite things were true at once? What was that like to hold?

God tells Joshua to "be strong and courageous" three times. The sermon noted that God does not promise Joshua he won't be afraid; God tells him what to do with the fear. Where in your current transition are you most afraid—and what would it look like to take the next step in spite of it?

4. The God Who Goes with Us: "Wherever You Go"
The sermon emphasized that God's promise to Joshua is not tied to his competence, the outcome of battles ahead, or even a particular geography—it is tied solely to God's presence. How does it change the way you approach your transition to know that the promise is not "the outcome is guaranteed" but "you will not walk into it alone"?

5. Staying Anchored Through Transition

The sermon closed with three movements from Joshua's threshold: transition is honest about loss, transition is a summons to move, and transition is never walked alone. Which of these three do you most need to hear right now—and why?