



Facts | God is Strategic  
06.11.23

### **START TALKING | (Find a conversation starter for your group)**

Have you ever dreaded doing something just to find out it was not that bad? Maybe something you did not want to eat because you thought it would taste gross or chores you did not want to do because you thought they would take forever, or a conversation with a boss or a spouse you did not want to have because you thought it would go poorly? Then, when you tried that food, you found out frog legs are delicious, doing your laundry is quick and relaxing, and a difficult conversation could be a lot of fun!

Why do we get nervous or scared to do certain things?

### **START EXPLORING | (Read the Bible)**

Read Joshua 1:1-18 and Joshua 3:14-17

- How many times does the Lord tell Joshua to be “strong and courageous”?
- What are some of the reasons you think it was necessary to repeat this statement?

### **START SHARING | (Choose a question to create openness)**

God has a plan for all of us. His plan will bring glory to himself. His plan is also to prosper us and to give us hope and a future. God is working things for our good; however, sometimes we try to control the plan. It is difficult to trust God and have the faith to allow God to direct us. Maybe we are nervous. Maybe we are afraid of the outcome. Maybe God requires us to do something difficult. God told Joshua and the Israelites (two million people) to cross a dangerous river to access the “Promised Land.”

- What are some of the reasons you try to take control instead of allowing God to work things for your good?
- What is the difficult thing God is asking you to do right now? What is the river God is asking you to cross?



**Start Praying. (Be bold and pray with power)**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for getting me this far. Thank you for everything you've done in my life and working for my good even when I'm hesitant or resistant. Lead me to the river that you want me to cross next. Help give me the strength and courage to follow you, even when it seems scary and difficult. I know that when I listen to you and obey you, you'll be close. You'll protect and provide. I want to be obedient to your voice so that you can be glorified. Show me the challenges that you want to overcome next in my life, and guide my steps to follow your will.

In Jesus name,  
Amen

**Start Doing. (Commit to a step, and live it out this week)**

Any time you are nervous, or exhausted, or discouraged about doing the difficult thing or the right thing, ask yourself, "What is God asking me to do? Would I hesitate if I were ten times bolder?"

Give patience instead of getting angry.

Give time, talent, treasure instead of being greedy.

Give mercy and grace instead of judgement.

Give gentleness instead of harshness

Love boldly.