



Week Four – The Legacy of Faith

The goal of this week’s discussion is the importance of remembering what God has done in the past of our lives. A powerful tool to help us in our present.

CONNECT

As people share their souvenirs and family stories, a good follow up question to direct them towards the positive values of these, what is the true value that these things hold? You can also point out that most people keep souvenirs and stories, a follow up question here could be why do we keep mementos?

- What is a typical souvenir or experience you have with every new place you travel?
- What is the one story your parents tell you time and time again?

WORD

1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, 3 and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 5 and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, “What do these tones mean?”

Joshua 4: 1 – 6 (NIV)

THOUGHT

This is not the first time the Israelites saw God do something huge. Just a generation before the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. This was a thought in the back of their minds, a memorial stone of what God has done. Most holidays recall an event in history that we deem important, like Martin Luther King Day.

Everywhere you look in America there are memorials in the form of signs, plaques and statutes. There is even a day in late May called Memorial Day in which we pay homage to our fallen service men and women. These signs, statues, plaques and days memorialize people and events in our nation's history, that embody the values that have shaped who we are as a nation. In the same way God calls us to remember the significant things he has done for his people. In Psalm 105:5 the scripture calls us to "...Remember the wonders he (God) has done, his miracles, and the judgements he pronounced..." Today we are going to look at one of the great miracles God did in bringing the nation of Israel into its Destiny. As the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River God commanded them to gather memorial stones to help them remember this event. In this discussion we'll look at the role of memorial stones in our lives.

DISCUSSION

1. If you were an Israelite and could have just one picture of this day for your memory album, what would you choose?

- The waters receding when the priests entered the river*
 - The nation crossing the river on dry ground*
 - The waters returning when the priests came out of the river onto dry land*
 - The nation gathered around Joshua as he set up the stones*
 - Other _____*
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2. Why did Joshua set up a monument of 12 stones?

- To commemorate their entrance to the Promise Land*
 - To remember what the Lord had done for them*
 - To remind the people to turn to God in hard times*
 - To recognize they were all in this together*
 - To provide a conversation piece for their descendants*
 - Other _____*
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3. What lessons do you see in Israel's crossing of the Jordan?

- Following God requires faith*
 - God fulfills his promises*
 - God can provide a way*
 - It is important to remember what God has done*
 - Other _____*
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4. What are the greatest “stones of memorial” in your life?

- My conversion to Christ*
 - An occasion of healing*
 - A miraculous provision of physical resources*
 - An incident of God’s guidance*
 - Other _____*
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5. What important lessons about faith or God have been passed on to you from someone else?

6. What life changing encounter with God have you shared with others or those closest to you?

This would be a great point to share about the Gospel and what God did for us through Jesus.

7. Israel crossed the Jordan “on dry ground”, but armed for war, signifying God delivers, but battles will follow. Are you battle-ready or battle-weary these days?

After everyone has shared, this is where you can share about God being in control. For the Israelites God had a plan to get them into Egypt and one to get them out. For those who are battle-weary you can share that this is where God has a plan for them specifically. It will really encourage those who need to hear that God is going to come alongside them.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Note that these applications are from the previous weeks of Destiny. Please remind your group of them. Starting from this current week until week one.

- From your group, what Jordan-like experience might well be “memorialized”? (Take time to think about it as a group) Week 4
- Have you found someone to encourage you like a Joshua or a Caleb in your life? Have you reached out to them? If not, reach out to them this week. Week 3 – The Fight of Faith (Crossing the Jordan River in flood season)
- Have you reached out to anyone this week to encourage them? Week 2 – Enter it (Encouragement in obstacles)
- Have you searched the Bible for the promises for the situations you currently are facing? Week 1 – See it (the Story of Joshua, Caleb & the giants in the land)
- Make a list of the “memorial stones events” of your life. Share one of these stories this week someone who you think might need to hear it. Week 4

PRAYER

- Pray for God to help you remember the good things from your past, “memorial stones”.
- Ask God to help you use the “memorial stones” of the past to help you face your present circumstances.
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to encourage someone else by sharing one of your “memorial stones” events.

NOTES
