

Memorial Stones

Joshua 4

A. Introduction

1. Old photos often bring back powerful memories, & spark an emotion in us.
2. It also helps you recall the significance of what happened.
3. God knows our tendency to forget.
4. That's why in Joshua 4, He tells His people to set up a memorial.
5. Not to glorify the moment, but to glorify the God behind the moment.
6. Remembering God's actions strengthens our faith, shapes our identity, & inspires the next generation.

B. God's Power on Display (Joshua 4:8–13)

1. Israel must cross Jordan to enter the Promised Land.
2. God's instruction to Joshua must have seemed strange. (Joshua 3:13-16)
3. Jordan was at flood tide, therefore a crossing then seemed impossible.
 - a. The priests were to walk into the water.
 - b. At that moment, the waters of the Jordan would divide.
5. The priests then stood in the river until the work was finished.
6. The crossing of the Jordan was supernatural.
7. The water had stopped flowing. God made a way where there was no way.
8. God wasn't just giving them land—He was showing them He was with them.
9. Just as He was with Moses. (I wonder - was for the people or Joshua?)
10. God works through obedience and faith.
11. The priests, in principle, risked their lives
 - a. The first step could have led to their drowning
 - b. Instead, it delivered them and all Israel
12. Many people have gone before us to enable us to have what we have.
13. When we claim our freedoms, privileges, rights etc. it is because of them.

C. God's Command to Remember (Joshua 4:1–7)

1. God told Joshua to mark the moment with 12 stones taken out of the Jordan.
2. But rather than move on quickly, God said, "Pause. Remember this. Mark it."
3. God wants us to build spiritual memorial stones. Spiritual statements!
4. These stones were a visible reminder of an invisible God.
5. They served as a faith anchor during future trials.
6. Have you marked major events or memories? What are your memorial stones?
7. Some journal to record answered prayers, breakthrough moments, or testimonies.
8. Do you create personal & family traditions that remind you of God's faithfulness?
9. We mark anniversaries, birthdays, & graduations. Why not spiritual milestones?

D. Stones to Remember a Great Miracle (vv. 4-8)

1. The flooded Jordan opened before the people.
2. Waters piled high upstream just as it did with the opening of the Red Sea (3:16)
2. Communion and baptism are memorials to a great miracle.
 - a. Christ died and rose again.
 - b. This was the greatest miracle of the ages.
3. The Israelites took stones from the Jordan River to mark their journey.
4. Our journey is taking the message of Christ's death & resurrection to the world.

E. Stones to Remember Crossing Jordan Safely (4:9-24)

1. All Israel passed over on dry ground (3:17)
2. They placed the stones in Jordan as memorials of this miracle.
3. God's power flows through people who trust and obey.
4. Is there an obstacle standing in the way for this to happen in you?
5. God is still in the business of parting waters.
6. We just need to trust Him & obey Him.
7. Your act of obedience may be the key to seeing His power.
8. Think how God opened impossible doors in your life. Have you marked them?
9. Those are modern-day "Jordan crossings."

D. The Purpose of the Memorial (Joshua 4:14–24)

1. God wants His works remembered through generations. (vv. 21–22)
2. The stones were not just for that generation but for their children and the world.
3. Testimonies keep faith alive. Our stories of deliverance are a powerful witness.
4. Sharing what God has done can spark faith in someone else.
5. Have you shared your story- with your children, friends, those who are struggling.
6. Teach the next generation not just what to believe—but why.
7. Just like you may tell your kids about your wedding day or where you grew up.
8. Tell them about what God has done in your life.

E. Conclusion

1. Never forget what God has done. Set up reminders for yourself.
2. Share your testimony with others. Pass on the faith.
3. Identify your "memorial stones" this week.
4. Write or share your testimony with someone.
5. Begin a new tradition that helps you and your family remember God's goodness.
6. Memorial stones remind us that God has worked in our lives.
7. He promises to continue to do so!
8. Faith in Christ prepares us for heaven.
9. Will others know that you crossed the Jordan safely?
10. What stones have you left for others?