



Dr. Montia Setzler, Lead Pastor
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The Value of Memorials

Joshua 4:1–9 (HCSB)

After the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD spoke to Joshua: ²“Choose 12 men from the people, one man for each tribe, ³ and command them: Take 12 stones from this place in the middle of the Jordan where the priests are standing, carry them with you, and set them down at the place where you spend the night.” ⁴ So Joshua summoned the 12 men he had selected from the Israelites, one man for each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, “Go across to the ark of the LORD your God in the middle of the Jordan. Each of you lift a stone onto his shoulder, one for each of the Israelite tribes, ⁶ so that this will be a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ ⁷ you should tell them, ‘The waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the LORD’s covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the Jordan’s waters were cut off.’ Therefore these stones will always be a memorial for the Israelites.” ⁸ The Israelites did just as Joshua had commanded them. The 12 men took stones from the middle of the Jordan, one for each of the Israelite tribes, just as the LORD had told Joshua. They carried them to the camp and set them down there. ⁹ Joshua also set up 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing. The stones are there to this day.

1. MEMORIALS _____ THE NEXT GENERATION

v 6 ‘...so that this will be a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’”

Deuteronomy 11:19 (HCSB)

Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

“A spiritual marker identifies a time of transition, decision, or direction when I clearly know that God has guided me.” Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*. P. 103

- We can learn from the _____.
- We **must** learn to _____ the future.

2. MEMORIALS SERVE AS A SOURCE OF _____

v 7 “you should tell them, ‘The waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the LORD’s covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the Jordan’s waters were cut off.’ Therefore these stones will always be a memorial for the Israelites.”

2 Chronicles 2:4 (HCSB)

Now I am building a temple for the name of Yahweh my God in order to dedicate it to Him for burning fragrant incense before Him, for displaying the rows of the bread of the Presence continuously, and for sacrificing burnt offerings for the morning and the evening, the Sabbaths and the New Moons, and the appointed festivals of the LORD our God.

- Memorials help us dedicate ourselves to the _____ of those who came before us.
- Memorials help us dedicate ourselves to the mission that stands before us.
- Memorials help us dedicate ourselves to the _____ of those who will come after us.

3. MEMORIALS GIVE US A REASON FOR _____

Exodus 12:14 (HCSB)

“This day is to be a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. You are to celebrate it throughout your generations as a permanent statute.”

- Memorials bring celebration of the _____ of God.
- Memorials bring celebration of the presence of God.
- Memorials bring celebration of the _____ of God.

The Next Step:

Remember the power and movement of God by setting up your own memorials.