

WATCH:

Overview: Joshua https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqOqJIFF_eU

READ

Joshua Chapter 4:1-24 (and/or listen to Audible™ Pure Voice NIV Bible chapter 191)

SUMMARY

The Israelites are crossing the Jordan to go into the Promised Land. This was a place of trust. They had to trust God with everything they had because the challenges were only getting bigger, but so were the blessings.

❓ When has there been a time in your life that you had to trust God with everything?

The Twelve Stones were to be a visible memorial to help the Israelites remember God's faithfulness and His power to keep His promises. It was a reminder so that they would not forget how God stepped in and intervened on their behalf.

Remembering is very important in the Bible. God repeats commands and covenants many times throughout the Bible. He reminds His people of what He's done for them. Lessons/principles are taught again and again.

In the book of Deuteronomy there are several verses that talk about remembering (not forgetting)

 **Deuteronomy (read) 4:9, 4:23, 4:31, 6:12, 8:14, 8:19, 9:7, and 25:19.**

We humans have short-term memories when it comes to both God's blessings and the consequences of past sins. When we forget God's blessings from the past, it makes it easy to complain when we face difficult circumstances. When we forget past consequences, we tend to keep repeating sin and doing the same things over again.

❓ Why do you think we forget? *Examples: don't value something enough / don't try to remember (we don't make an effort)*

Symbols of Remembrance:

(Exodus 12) Passover – reminded the Israelites of God's deliverance from Egypt

(Joshua 4) The Twelve Stones – reminded them of all God brought them out of and was bringing them to

(Luke 22:19/1 Cor. 11:25-26) Lord's Supper – reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (His body broken and the blood shed)

(Romans 6:3-4) Baptism – reminds us of our identity with Christ (death, burial, and resurrection)

Q What are some symbols and ways that you can use to remember what God has done in your life? *Examples: keep a journal / video log / brainstorm key events in your life and how God proved Himself faithful*

We also see in this chapter how Joshua followed God step by step. They could have rushed in and just started conquering the land but instead God patiently led them, taking His time to conquer the Israelites spiritually, working on their hearts.

In our own lives we rush and get so busy that sometimes we bypass God and try to do things on our own. God has a perfect plan, time, and purpose for everything He does. He is constantly molding and shaping us and when we bypass a step, this is when we fall short and fail. We need to trust in His process for our lives and allow Him to work in us so He can work through us.

Q Has there ever been a time that you bypassed God's timing or process and tried to do your own thing? What was the outcome?

Our lives are to be set apart / different from the world so that we attract attention and get people talking and asking questions. We are to take our Exodus moments and share them with others so that God may be glorified.

1 Peter 3:15 Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks.

Q What's your elevator pitch for your faith?

We walk through circumstances in our life so that we can be a testimony to someone else. We must make sure that people see God in and through us in our words and actions. Joshua's leadership and trust in God was a testimony to the people who followed him. He was exalted by God and the people respected him.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time ...

Q Does your life reflect the testimony on your lips?

Q Do those around you see something different and ask questions?