

“Remember - Series Introduction” (10-6-24)

1) The Step of Faith

Joshua 3:11-13 (ESV)

(11) Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. (12) Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. (13) And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”

Note: To move into the Promised Land, you’ve got to take a step of faith, but you are not alone!

*Jordan River is at its highest point - overflows the banks in harvest season (vs. 15)

*To escape Egypt, God just opened the way, but to take new territory - we’ve got to take a risk!

Joshua 3:17 (ESV)

Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

Note: Our step of faith is on firm footing when we are following the Lord’s leading

2) The Stones of Remembrance

Joshua 4:1-3 (ESV)

(1) When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, (2) “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, (3) and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’”

Note: God instructs them to take stones of remembrance - the 12 men 1 from each tribe. It’s important that everyone participates in the story of what God has done, and holds onto the reminder of His faithfulness!

Joshua 4:5-7 (ESV)

(5) And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, (6) that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ (7) then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

Note: Don’t just rush across, grab hold of what has just transpired. Notice, “put the stone on your shoulder,” don’t just grab a pebble. This was a hugely significant moment - You need a marker to remember!

Joshua 4:20-24 (ESV)

(20) And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. (21) And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ (22) then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’ (23) For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, (24) so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

Note: Remembering helps us to connect the dots over the generations of God’s faithfulness!

3) Remembering our unfolding Story

This series - we are opening with a reflection back to last summer (this story was the passage we were on the week we were given the new church property)

Stories: Some early memories . . .

Moving Announcement - In November 2015 announced publicly for the 1st time to Grace Chapel in Franklin (Women's Retreat that weekend) - A lady from Knoxville stayed to attend church. Came up to us immediately after service and said you have your first member - Dawn Jerger

House to Sanctuary - our dining room into a coffee sitting room (moms with littles had a comfortable spot) All other furniture was put in the garage, and chairs were placed in the living room facing the fireplace. We are a church that started in a house; now we are a church that owns a house!

***Read - Marshall Family Letter**

Conclusion: Joshua & the people remembered!

Joshua 4:8-9 (ESV)

[8] And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there. [9] And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.

Application: Before rushing ahead and charging forward into the promise, we must stop all along the way to remember & praise God. We need these memorial stones as reminders for future steps of faith.