

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Joshua 4**PRINT PASSAGE:** Joshua 4:14-24

L2 Family Legacies



REFLECT

"So, what do you have planned for decorations?" Shari asked. "I don't know, and the celebration is only a few days away. My cousins are helping me with the color scheme and setup. The banquet hall also offers setup packages. I want to do something special—something they will cherish for a long time—but I am stuck," Khari explained. "Set a wedding picture on each table so everyone can remember how they looked the day they got married. Get them matching shirts with their wedding picture on the front and a current picture on the back," Shari suggested. "Hmmm, those are cool ideas, but I was thinking . . . well, I don't know what I was thinking. But I need to hurry up!" Khari exclaimed. "Well, at least you can start looking at pictures you can use, just in case you need them," Shari noted.



Khari took Shari's advice and discreetly looked at the family albums and her parents' wedding album. While looking, she found something she had never seen nor that her parents had told her about. It was a small chest with letters and cards. They were dated sequentially. Khari felt uncomfortable about reading them. She did not want to invade their privacy. They were old, and some of the writing was beginning to fade. She felt these letters would be a true family legacy if they could be preserved. Someone suggested she take the small box, have the letters and cards laminated, and put them in a twenty-fifth-wedding-anniversary album. That sounded like a plan!

The celebration was fabulous! Khari's parents renewed their vows of love and commitment. The parents opened their gifts at home. Khari was nervous, but her mother was ecstatic because she thought she had lost the small chest. Mom said, "These memories will last forever now. Please read them; they are letters your dad sent me before our marriage. I will cherish them forever. You may read them. They are a testament to our love. Thank you, Khari."

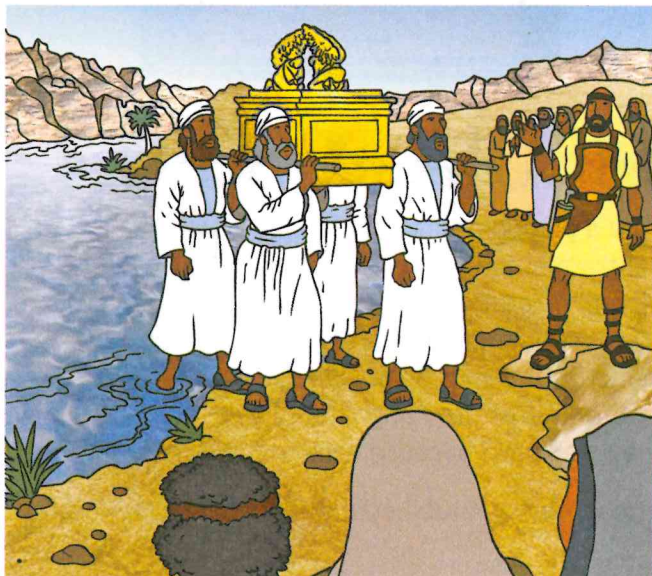


[Joshua said to the Israelites], "What do these stones mean?" tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'" (Joshua 4:21b-22)



Joshua 4:14-24

14 That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses. **15** Then the LORD said to Joshua, **16** "Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan." **17** So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan." **18** And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before. **19** On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. **20** And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. **21** He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' **22** tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' **23** For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. **24** He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."

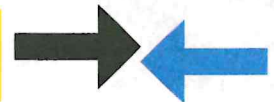


INTERSECT

TODAY'S PASSAGE IS ABOUT BUILDING A LEGACY THAT CAN BE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. Joshua wanted to ensure that generations after him would know, love, obey, and fear God. People can "talk" about what happened, but the message becomes more real when there is something concrete and symbolic to re-inforce the story.

Thirty-nine years before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land, their parents had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. God chose the Israelites to be His people, and He promised them the land of Canaan. When the Israelites fled slavery in Egypt, God directed Moses to part the Red Sea so that they could cross on dry land to the other side. Now, their children were at the Jordan River. God directed Joshua to do the same. Joshua was exalted and revered in all of Israel because everyone knew he had God's favor through his faith and obedience. Joshua did not want this event to die or be forgotten. He asked twelve men to collect twelve stones from the Jordan River. When they crossed the Jordan River, he set up the stones as a memorial. This was their legacy. This was their memorial. People would ask about the stones, and they would learn how God was with them at the Red Sea and at the Jordan River. Then they would love and fear God.

Inside Out



Read each statement and determine whether it is true or false. Write your answer on the line.

1. Joshua led the Israelites across the Red Sea on dry land. _____
2. Joshua requested that twenty men gather twelve stones from the Jordan River. _____
3. The gathering of the stones was to set up a memorial to remember crossing the Jordan River on dry land. _____
4. God exalted Joshua because of his faithfulness and obedience. _____
5. Joshua successfully fulfilled God's promise by leading the Israelites to capture and inhabit the Promised Land. _____



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

How can we apply the lesson today to our lives? Family legacies and traditions are so important. We pass on our legacy by talking about our family members and what they have achieved. But it is the pictures, trophies, certificates, jewelry, etc., that make us feel closer to our legacy. These tangible things are etched into our memory, and we can always go back to them to refuel (if need be). Imagine browsing through a family photo album and a young child asks, "Who is that? She looks like me." It could be an aunt, a grandmother, or even a great-grandmother. Keep and share the family legacy handed down for generations to come.



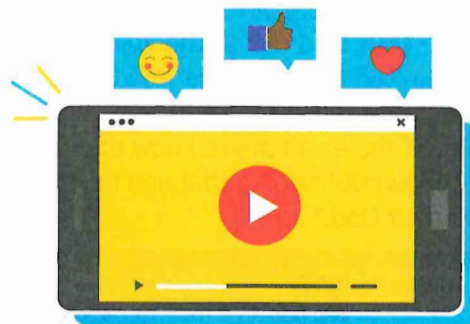
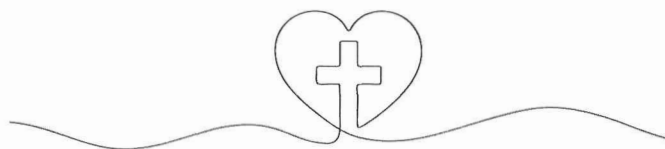
CONNECT

Do you have anything passed down to you from your parents or another family member? Jewelry, pictures, clothes, antique cars, and paintings are just some of the things that family members pass down to the next generation. Memories are the other important thing. You may not have anything tangible to share with your siblings or other family members, but you have memories. Share stories (funny and emotional) of family events. Start taking videos now of family reunions and other events and post them to family chats, Instagram, or Facebook. These will become family conversations for years to come.



STEPPING OUT!

Take a moment to write down the similarities and the differences in these two events—the crossing of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River. Start by identifying who, where, what, how, and why. What event happened after they crossed the Red Sea and the Jordan River?



MEDIA MISSION

Find a person or a song that demonstrates family love and legacy. "Family Reunion" by the O'Jays is a great example of a song that demonstrates this. Be sure to listen to the end of the song (found at the link below) because it speaks of a larger family.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kub9gN_ciQ