

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

Family Legacies



AISHA SCROLLED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA LATE ONE NIGHT. At first, it was just for fun. But the more she scrolled, the heavier her heart felt. Her friends were posting big birthday parties, family vacations, and happy group photos with both parents and grandparents. Everything looked perfect. Aisha's family did not

look like that anymore. Her parents had separated. Her dad had moved out. Money was tighter. Big parties were not happening this year. She missed how things used to be. She missed everyone being together.

At school, she told her friend group how she wished her family could celebrate like everyone else's. "I just want things to feel normal again," she admitted. One friend, Catana, gently reminded her, "Your family loves you. Remember when your house caught fire? Your relatives showed up with clothes, food, and everything you needed." Aisha stopped. She had forgotten about that. Her family cried together, prayed together, and rebuilt together.

That night, Aisha whispered, "God, thank You for reminding me. Help me remember the good things You have done for my family, even when life changes."

Before bed, Aisha opened her Bible app and read Joshua 4:21-24. God told the Israelites to set up twelve stones after crossing the Jordan River. The stones were reminders of what God had done. Aisha thought, *Maybe*

I need my own reminder stones. Instead of comparing her life to everyone else's life, what if she remembered the ways in which God had already been faithful?

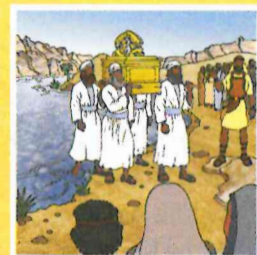
When life feels unfair or different from that of others, will you focus on what you do not have, or remember what God has already done?



WORD UP

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."



KEY VERSES:

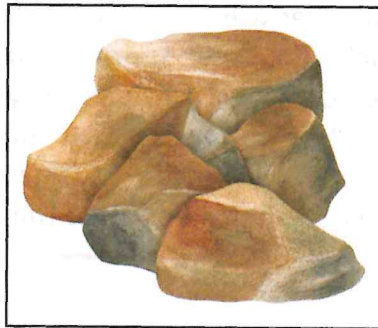
[Joshua said to the Israelites], "'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.''" (Joshua 4:21b-22)



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

WORK OUT

IN JOSHUA 4, GOD PERFORMED A MIRACLE. The Jordan River stopped flowing so the Israelites could walk across on dry ground. This happened on the tenth day of the first month. During the same time of year, they left Egypt forty years earlier during Passover (see Exodus 12). Passover celebrates how God rescued the people from slavery.



After crossing the river, Joshua set up twelve stones at Gilgal. Each stone represented one of the twelve tribes of Israel. These stones were reminders. God knew that one day children would ask, "What do these stones mean?" Parents would then tell the story of how God made a way through the river. The memorial helped future generations remember that God is powerful and faithful.

The miracle at the Jordan was like when God parted the Red Sea. Both events showed that God protects His people and keeps His promises. The stones also reminded Israel to "fear the Lord," which means to respect, trust, and honor Him.

God did not want His people to forget what He had done. Remembering builds faith. When we remember God's past faithfulness, it helps us trust Him with today's challenges.

The stones were like a memory app for God's people. They revered (feared) the Lord and showed their faith. The stones helped them remember His power and faithfulness.

Today, we can create our own "memorial stones." You could write answered prayers in a journal, save a meaningful Bible verse in your phone, or celebrate the day when God helped you through something hard.

Baptism and Communion are also reminders of what Jesus has done for us. When you intentionally remember God's actions, your faith grows stronger. Instead of focusing on what's missing, you begin to see how present and powerful God truly is.

INSIDE OUT



Respond to the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did God tell Joshua to set up the twelve stones?
2. What do the stones teach us about remembering God's power?
3. What did the Ark symbolize?
4. How was crossing the Jordan like crossing the Red Sea?
5. Why is it important to tell the next generation what God has done?
6. What has God done in your life that you do not want to forget?



When life feels confusing, unfair, or different from what you expected, pause and remember this: God has already been faithful to you. This week, choose one way to remember God's actions. Write down a prayer that He answered, a time He helped you, or a moment your family made it through something hard. When you feel discouraged, go back to that reminder. Let it strengthen you. The same God who helped you before is still with you now. He will carry you forward.



STEPPING OUT!

Think of one time when God helped you or your family. Write it down. That is your “memorial stone.” Now decide how you will remember it. Will you mark the date? share the story with someone? create a reminder on your phone? Do not let God’s faithfulness fade from memory. Remembering strengthens your faith for the future.



Media Mission



Share one story this week about something that God has done for you. Post it, text it, or tell it in person. When you speak about God’s faithfulness, it strengthens your heart and encourages others. Remember that God is your provider, protector, and promise keeper. When we create memorial stones, we keep His Word as a lamp for our feet, and it will be a light for our pathway. For more on this topic, visit the link below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKPUipAc-OM>



Create Your Memorial Stones

Your teacher will give you several small paper stones or cutouts. On each one, write or draw about a time when God helped you, protected you, or provided for you. Place the stones together to build a “memory pile.” You will have time to share your story. Then discuss with your classmates how your remembering God’s past actions helps you trust Him today.