

# Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading  
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual Friend-  
ship ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

# of Discipleship

May 24, 2020

## Day 1: Joshua 4:1

**When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua:**

The crossing of the Jordan was the last thing to be done before going into the Promised Land. They had to cross the water in the same fashion that they crossed the sea when leaving Egypt. It took faith to cross the river because they did not know if the waters would remain calm nor what was on the other side. The promised land was not one of ease and comfort but one where they could find life. The river crossing represented their commitment to go into the future and not back to slavery.

**Question:** What is the biggest river you have ever walked across?

**Challenge:** If God wanted to talk to you, what means could God use that you would listen to? A sign in the sky, the Bible, a retreat, friends etc.

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 23

## Day 2: Joshua 4:2-3

**"Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.'**

The stones were to help commemorate the place that the river crossing took place. The stones came from the last barrier - the river. Stones were used because they would be in place for a long time. Generations could come to this place and retell the story of what happened. Retelling the story at the spot it happened makes the event seem like a current reality.

**Question:** Do you like to collect objects from places you have visited?

**Challenge:** Think about a place that you had a spiritual experience.

**Scripture:** Exodus 18:20-22

## Day 3: Joshua 4:4-5

**Then Joshua summoned the twelve men from the Israelites, whom he had appointed, one from each tribe. Joshua said to them, 'Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites,**

The leaders of the tribes had to go into the river to collect the stones of remembrance. As they went into the river they passed by the Ark (the Ark contained the tablets of the Commandments) to be reminded that God is with them just like God was with their grandparents when they went through the Sea.

**Question:** What helps you recall that God is with you? A memory, a reoccurring event, a cross or other object?

**Challenge:** Is there something you can build that will remind you of God's salvation?

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:1-12

## Day 4: Joshua 4:6-7

**so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever."**

An important event can be forgotten quickly if it is not recalled each year. Think about birthdays in your family – how many would you recall if they were not celebrated each year. People will forget dates easily and after a while they will forget the actual events. As Adults one of our responsibilities is to pass on to the next generation how important past events were in shaping the present. For example if a husband and wife never met then you, the child, would not have been born. So the marriage of your parents is very important to you and should be remembered.

**Question:** How many generations can you name in your family?

**Challenge:** Write a short history of your family.

**Scripture:** Exodus 12:12-19

## Day 5: Joshua 4:8

**The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord told Joshua, carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there.**

Leaders lead by action. The whole nation heard Joshua tell the leaders to go and get the stones and watched as they went. The whole nation stood by and watched as the leaders went into the river (the dangerous place) and picked the stones. The leaders found that they met God again in the carrying out of the task. We meet God every time we follow God's commands.

**Question:** Have you ever helped build something?

**Challenge:** How would you describe home?

**Scripture:** Joshua 3:1-17

## Day 6: Joshua 4:9

**(Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle 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.)**

Joshua now sets up the stones so future generations know where they can return to celebrate and recommit themselves to follow God's commands. The Israelites returned for a number of generations. The scripture, when it is read in the congregation, has the power to return us to where God has acted in the past. When someone testifies how the love of God has touched them, we experience God in the present. Every time we go off in faith, we experience God in the future.

**Question:** What is the oldest thing you have ever seen?

**Challenge:** What makes a place a sacred spot for you?

**Scripture:** Joshua 4:1-19