

Marks of Discipleship

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

March 7, 2021

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 or what was on the other side. There are a number of times in life when we find ourselves forced to cross a "river" and in those times we can look back on this event to give us hope because God would not ask us to do anything dangerous that would really harm us. Crossing the river will not put us in a place of ease but a place where we can find life. The Promised Land is a land that God calls us to journey to.

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, Bible, 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 event took place. The stones came from the last barrier - the river. Stones were taken so future 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 an object or a place that would recall your first 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,

Joshua passes on to the leaders of the Tribes God's instructions. It was the leaders responsibility to go back into the river to collect the stones. Before God asked them to go back into the river God has them go by the ark (the ark contained the tablets of the commandments) to be reminded that He was with them for 40 years in the desert.

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: I 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."

It does not take long for an event to be forgotten 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. One of the main responsibilities adults have is to pass on to the next generation not only the dates of key events but to communicate how important those 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 places the stones so that the people can return each year and be reminded of Gods fulfilled promise. The Israelites returned for a number of generations. For us today each time the scripture is read in the congregation we return to where God has acted in the past. Every time someone testifies how the love of God has touched them, we experience God in the present.

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