

JOSHUA 4:1-24

28 FEBRUARY 2021

ICE BREAKER: Describe a tradition your family practices or often does.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 1-7) As soon as the Israelites miraculously crossed over the stopped up, rushing Jordan River, what did God command them to do? They were not told to go on and conquer the Promise Land, but rather to **stop**. To stop and **go back** into the River and **gather twelve stones**.

God's people were to gather twelve stones and build a **stone monument**. This monument was 'to serve as a **sign among you**'.

1. Why would **physical, visible life signs** or **landmarks** be important for **people who walk by faith**?

(Read verses 6-7) The Israelites were to gather the river stones and build a monument **to remind** themselves and their children, so as to 'tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off'! These stones were to remind them whenever they questioned God's presence in their lives, or doubted God's power when they faced a fearful obstacle, or struggled to believe God loved them.

These stones were gathered and made into a monument so that the Israelites would **never forget...ever**. They were 'to be a **memorial to the people** of Israel **forever**'. Why? Because the moment we forget God's purpose, love, or power for us is the moment we begin to fall.

2. What must you **never forget**, and **must often be reminded about with the LORD**?

(Read verses 10-11) Do not think crossing the Jordan was easy. Put yourself in the Israelites' position. Before your very eyes, you saw the rushing mighty River miraculously stopped up. At any moment the blocked River could break forth and rush headlong toward you, sweeping you away to certain death. (Remember, as a lifelong desert wanderer, you were never taught to swim.) Now you know why 'the people **hurried over**'!

So, who were the select, brave few to first step into the mighty, rushing Jordan? The **priests**. They were commanded to transport the Ark of the Covenant, so their hands would have been forbidden to be used to swim if the Jordan broke through. They were **the first God called to step into** the River Jordan and **the last to leave**. It's a great picture of what it means **to lead**.

3. In what way or area of your life do you sense the **LORD calling you to take the lead**?

(Read verses 4-8) After the nation Israel crossed over the Jordan, twelve were commanded to return back into the River. These twelve men were chosen by each of the twelve tribes that made up Israel (3:12) and confirmed by Joshua. They were to go back into the middle of the Jordan to each pick up a **boulder**.

The **weight** of the boulder required each man to carry it upon 'his shoulder'. They would each know that to carry these memorial stones required they put their back into it, their whole body into it. Moreover, these boulders were not simply relocated elsewhere in the River. They were to be carried out of the River to their next destination. The twelve 'carried them over with them to their camp'.

4. How do you sense the Lord calling you to **carry the weight of His Gospel to others**, to where they are?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week.)
