



Celebrate the Past – Message 1

Warm-up

Name an object, a story, or a tradition that has been passed down generationally in your family. This can be a symbolic piece of jewelry, a special recipe, or a family narrative.

Overview

We're celebrating 20 years of *reaching people and building lives* at Church of the King! In this series, we are going to celebrate all God has done, is doing today, and will continue to do through us. In the first of three messages, we begin by focusing on the great things God has done over the years.

Word & Application

Reflecting on the faithfulness of God in our *yesterdays* allows us to move toward the future with confidence and excitement. Joshua 4 perfectly demonstrates the power of remembering the miraculous works of God.

Read Joshua 4:1-9. After the children of Israel crossed the Jordan, God told them to gather twelve stones and build a memorial. These stones of remembrance were to testify to God's character.

Why were these instructions so important to God? What happens when we forget the incredible things God has done in our lives? What are other examples in the Bible in which God commands His people *to remember*?

Memorial Stones Signify

1. God's faithfulness.

The twelve memorial stones represented how steadfast and unchanging our God has always been to His people. As a church, we experienced His unwavering faithfulness Hurricane Katrina and other life storms.

Read Joshua 4:6-7. What impact does remembering have on the generations to come? Why is it so important to recognize where we come from when we are entering the fulfillment of God's promise?

2. A renewed personal commitment to the vision God gave us.

It's been said that "vision leaks," meaning we have to constantly be reminded of the vision or the promise we started with. For Church of the King, God gave us the vision of *reaching people and building lives* and it's important for us to renew our commitment to the vision.

Can you remember a time when God visited you? It could be in worship service, during prayer, going for a run, in your car, etc. What did that moment reveal about the character of God?

How can you make sure to keep fresh what God has revealed to you and remember the things He has done for you? What are some practical memorials we can make to remind ourselves?

Life Challenge

Identify one way you are going to integrate the discipline of remembering into your life this week? Make a point to Share your "remembrance stones" with your family and others.

Prayer

Father, I am so grateful for Your faithfulness in every area of my life. I am specifically reminded of the miraculous and great things You have done for me! I will remember and praise Your wondrous and mighty works. I will tell of Your steadfast and unchanging ways! I look with confidence in the future because Your Name is Faithful and Truth.

Pray for the specific needs of the group.