

25th Anniversary



Church of the King

Stones of Remembrance DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Welcome to our special 25th Anniversary Weekend celebration! It's been an incredible journey since Church of the King began in 1999, marked by God's supernatural miracles every step of the way. As we celebrate the past quarter-century, we look forward with faith to what God has in store for the next 25 years. Just as the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, we, too, are stepping into a future filled with God's promises, building our faith on the memories of His faithfulness.

Discussion

One of the most powerful habits we can develop in life is learning how to properly reflect and remember—specifically remembering all God has done in our lives. To remember means **to call to mind, to recollect, to ponder or think about**. As we reflect on God's faithfulness, it gives us faith for our future and helps us build foundational stones—memories—upon which our faith can be built for the future.

- How can reflecting on God's past miracles in our lives strengthen our faith for future challenges?

Memorial Stones Signify:

1. God's Faithfulness

Joshua 4:5-7: *and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel. That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."*

God instructed the Israelites to gather stones as a lasting testimony of His faithfulness in leading them across the Jordan River. These stones served as a reminder to future generations of God's miraculous acts, emphasizing His role in their deliverance and blessings. Similarly, we should remember and share the stories of God's faithfulness in our lives, passing them on to our children and others as a foundation for their faith.

- Why do you think God asked the Israelites to create a physical memorial with stones to remember His faithfulness? Why is it important to create and share "Stones of Remembrance" in our own lives?
- How can this practice strengthen the faith of future generations?

2. A Renewed Personal Commitment

Joshua 4:8-9: *And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.* Not only did Joshua place twelve stones on the side of the Jordan, but he was also instructed to place twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan itself. This was a reminder of their encounter with a personal God and His power working on their behalf. When God's presence comes down and visits you, you are never the same again – the testimony of your experience is a stone of remembrance that God will use to build your faith. When God visits you, you're changed. You realize your life is never the same again. Your level of commitment to Him increases greatly because you sense His presence and see your destiny more clearly.

- Why do you think it was important for the Israelites to physically carry the stones from the Jordan River, and how does this act of obedience relate to our own faith journey?
- How might the visible and hidden stones represent both public and private aspects of our walk with God, and why are both important?

3. A Rolling Away of Old Defeats

Joshua 4:19-22: *Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land.'"*

It was the dawn of a great new beginning in a new land. The days of refusing to respond to God under Moses were gone; complaining was ended, and hopeless wandering in the wilderness was behind them. They were now a people with a powerful new sense of purpose and were determined to take new territory for God. Likewise, for us today, we can look back and see those monumental occasions which stand out as times in which God changed our direction, took away our shame, and gave us new hope, and a new sense of purpose. This is a time when we surrender ourselves to God, step out boldly in faith, leave our defeats behind, and move forward into the unknown to take new territory with Him.

- What are some personal examples of God's faithfulness in your life that you can share with others as a testimony of His power and grace?

Life Challenge

Revelation 12:11: *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."* The strength of us moving into our tomorrows is based upon remembering God's faithfulness in our yesterdays. Take some time to write down and reflect on God's faithfulness in your life.