

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Step In
Title: Stones of Remembrance
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: Joshua 4
Date: September 16, 2018



WARM-UP

Share about your favorite, personal "monument to the past." It might be a plaque, award, photograph, certificate, etc. that is significant to you because of something it represents in your own personal history. What is it, and why is it so meaningful to you?

DISCUSSION

Introduction

In this weekend's service we looked at Joshua 4, which tells the story of the Israelites completing the Jordan River crossing and setting up memorials in relation to that event. These monuments were to commemorate the way in which God had acting on behalf of the Israelite nation. Elsewhere in the Old Testament, in the book of Deuteronomy, we have a record of Moses' instructions to the people in close proximity to that same time. Prior to passing on leadership to Joshua, he too had words of preparation for the people in light of their imminent entry into the promised land.

Discussion

Read the instruction of Moses from Deuteronomy 8:1-20, 9:1-7. As you read, pay attention to words like "remember" and "forget" and how they work into the teaching.

- What do you notice about the instructions around "remembering" and "forgetting"?
- How do these actions or disciplines demonstrate a relationship between the past and the future in the life of faith?
- In considering the specific kinds of things that Israel was encouraged to remember, what might the modern day equivalents be for us?

The Israelites were instructed by Joshua to create a stone monument, with rocks from the Jordan riverbed, to facilitate a remembrance of God's deeds on their behalf, not just for them but also for future generations.

- Time to get creative! What are some tangible ways in which we could create modern day "memorials" –things that would trigger our memory of what God has done in the past in order to build our faith for the future? Consider answering that for yourself personally, for your family, and for our church.
- The monuments built in Joshua 4 were specifically described as functioning to help future generations be aware of the deeds God had done for the people. What kinds of things can we do to ensure our own experiences of God and his work are passed down to the generations that come after us?