

Joshua 4

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Do you keep a record of the prayers God has answered? Do you write down the wonders God has done in your life? We are so quick to forget all the work that God has done for us. This forgetfulness is detrimental to our faith and our future in possessing all the promises of God. In Psalm 103:2, David exhorted his *soul* to *forget not all His benefits*. It has been said God's past faithfulness in our lives is the fodder for our future faith. It is essential that we remember and not forget all the great things God has done for us!

God knew the children of Israel would need visual reminders of the wonders He did for them when He led them across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. These visual reminders would not only keep them from forgetting God's marvelous faithfulness toward them, but also embolden their faith to possess the land. The work of God was also to be memorialized in order to establish faith in their children.

*Ask God to help you recall His past faithfulness
so that your faith will be strengthened!*

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 4:1–3

1. The LORD had parted the Jordan River so the people could cross over. What did the Lord say to Joshua *when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan?* Joshua 4:1–2

a. Why do you think *one man from every tribe* was called?

2. Use Joshua 4:3 to answer the following:

a. What were the *twelve men* commanded to *take*?

b. Where were they to take them *out of*?

(1) What had happened in that *place*?

c. Where were they to *carry them*?

(1) Why do you think they were to leave the *stones* in this *place*?

(2) What do you find most interesting about this command?

3. From Joshua 3:17, recall the miracle that made the collection of these stones possible.

4. Consider that each man, having already crossed the river, had to return to gather a stone. Share a time God called you to do something out of the ordinary.

THIRD DAY: Read Joshua 4:4–7

1. After Joshua called the twelve men, *one man from every tribe*, what did he command them to do? Joshua 4:4–5

2. These *stones* were to serve as *a sign* (Joshua 4:6). According to Joshua 4:7, what were they to *answer* their children concerning these *stones*?

- a. Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(1) Deuteronomy 4:9

(2) Deuteronomy 6:20–23

3. This *memorial* was one of eight recorded in the book of Joshua. Why do you think memorials were a high priority for Israel?

a. Use the following Scriptures to comment on why we need memorials of God's work in our lives:

(1) Deuteronomy 6:12

(2) Judges 3:7

(3) Psalm 78:10–11

(4) Ephesians 2:11–13

4. The children of Israel chose twelve memorial stones to commemorate the work God had done on their behalf. We also have instances of the Lord's work in our lives. Briefly list twelve of your own memorials.

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 4:8–14

1. The place the children of Israel camped was eight miles from where they crossed the Jordan. With this in mind, use Joshua 4:8 to remark on the obedience of the children of Israel.

2. According to Joshua 4:9, Joshua took *twelve stones* of his own. What did he do with them?

a. Why do you think he did this?

b. What do you find noteworthy about the fact that *they are there to this day*?

3. Consider the scene in Joshua 4:10–13 and record your observations concerning:

a. The *priests*

b. The *people*

c. The *men* of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh (see also Joshua 1:12–15)

4. What did the LORD do *on that day*? Joshua 4:14a

a. How is this a fulfillment of God's promise to Joshua? Joshua 1:5, 3:7

b. Record and remark on the result of this. Joshua 4:14b

c. Compare this with Exodus 14:31. What do you see?

5. What is your greatest takeaway from your study today?

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 4:15–24

1. After the people crossed the Jordan, God told Joshua to *command the priests* to come out of the Jordan (Joshua 4:15–17). Why do you think it was vital for the priests to wait for this *command*?

2. Capture the drama of the scene in Joshua 4:18.

3. *On the tenth day of the first month*, the people *camped on the east border of Jericho* (Joshua 4:19). What did Joshua do in Gilgal? Joshua 4:20

a. Commentators note that Gilgal became the base of operations for the conquest of the Promised Land. How does this increase the significance of Joshua's act?

4. Use Joshua 4:21–23 to write, in your own words, the testimony the people were to pass on to their children.

- a. Link this with Psalm 78:4–8. Share your thoughts.

(1) Why do you think this is imperative?

5. From Joshua 4:24, list the two main purposes for this miracle:

a.

b.

6. Considering the undertaking that lay before Israel, how would this testimony prepare them for the possession of the land?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. How has this lesson ministered to you concerning:
 - a. Participation in God's work
 - b. Purposes of God's work
 - c. Preparation for God's work
 - d. Preserving the testimony of God's work

2. What testimony do you desire to pass down to the next generation to inspire them to take possession of God's promises?