

Joshua 4

What are some of your favorite family memories from when you were a child?

Why do you suppose those are the memories that stick out to you?

Our strongest memories are often connected to sights (witnessing the event), sounds (words, laughter, yelling...), and emotions (joy, fear, anger...) – why would this have been his design? Why do you think God created us to become storehouses of memories?

4:1-7 – Why would Joshua have had one man from each tribe?

The stones were to remain with the men where they lodged until the building of the memorial. Each tribe carried a stone until arriving at Gilgal. Only when the men from each tribe came together would the memorial have been ready to build. How does this show the unity of God's people? In what way would this have reminded the tribes of their common family heritage?

What things has God given to remind us that we are all part of his one family? Do any verses come to mind?

From where did they collect the stones? How would this have made the memorial more significant and memorable?

4:8-13 – Where did Joshua set up the first memorial?

4:14 – How did God lift up Joshua as the leader?

What were the people's response to Joshua?

Hebrews 13:7 – What does it look like to follow God’s leaders today?

4:15-18 – The miracle finishes as the priests’ feet leave the riverbed. The author clearly marks each aspect of the miracle. Building anticipation, articulating each step, and then leading to the dramatic conclusion of the water being held back until the ark exits the river. Why would God want every aspect highlighted and recorded at this stage of their history?

4:19-24 – They make their last stop in Gilgal before moving on to Jericho. The conquest is soon to begin. Faith is about to turn into action. Here they set up their memorial of 12 stones. How will this monument influence future generations?

Our family keeps a “treasure chest” of God’s faithfulness (It’s actually an ugly tackle box). We have pictures, stories, symbolic objects, letters... I will periodically pull it out, pick out things, and tell stories.

How can you set up memorials for your family (and the next generations) to proclaim the power and goodness of God?

4:23 - What is the significance and importance of connecting this event to the Red Sea miracle?

4:24 – “that all the people of the earth may know...” The sin of Babel resulted in the scattering of people into nations with separate languages all over the world. When God picked Abram, did He give up on the rest of the world?

Israel was chosen to be God’s “city on a hill” to demonstrate his holiness and goodness to a watching world. The Old Testament is the story of Israel’s struggle and idolatry – ultimately pointing to the world’s need for a Savior! What is the consistent message communicated in Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14?

How does Jesus communicate this same commitment and passion for the nations in Matthew 28:18-20? In this context, why is Rahab inclusion in Christ’s lineage so significant?