

The Power of Testimony

Joshua 3 & 4

Key Points

In Joshua 3 and 4, God brings his chosen people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River, by parting the river so they can cross on dry ground. As a memorial to this amazing act, God instructs them to pile up twelve stones as a memorial to what God has done.

Jane talked about the way that the Israelites were called to remember God's faithfulness. There are plenty of places in the Old Testament that the Israelites forget his promises and goodness, and end up wandering off the straight and narrow, and these stones are one reminder to them.

Jane then asked how we remember God's goodness in an intentional way; how we make sure we take note of the times in our lives that we have been especially aware of God's presence and faithfulness. How do those things influence how we approach God in the here and now, and how we share our faith?

She also talked about the things we memorialise when we maybe shouldn't: the things in our past that have taken on more significance than they deserved - such as others' opinions of us, or difficult times in our lives - that we suspect God wants us to sift through and find more peace about.

How do we use stories and memories of God's faithfulness to share our hope and faith with others?

Questions

1. Joshua tells the people in 3:5 to "purify yourselves" – also translated as "consecrate"/"make yourselves holy". (a) What does that look like for the Israelites and (b) what might it look like for our church community/you as an individual as you seek to follow God?
2. Have you ever consecrated yourself to the Lord before taking a big step of faith in your life? (And if, so, what did that look like?)
3. We see here how God puts his people's feet on "dry ground." When has God put your feet on "dry ground?" When has God made a way for you when there seemed to be no way?
4. In 4:5-9, the people gather up stones as a reminder of God's faithfulness. Are there times in your life you have been especially aware of God's faithfulness? How have you marked those times? Do you continue to mark them?
5. Are there times and seasons in your life that you might need to seek healing in relation to? What might that look like?
6. How might you share stories of God's goodness with those who don't yet know him?