

Joshua 4: Raising a Memorial

Getting started: What moral implications did you see with those defacing and tearing down historical monuments after George Floyd's death in 2020?

Read vv. 1-8

Gathering the Stones

1. When did God command Joshua to gather stones? How many stones were collected? Where were the stones to come from? Where were they to be laid? (vv. 1-3).
2. How were the men chosen to collect these stones? How were they to be carried? What significance might there be to having a stone from each tribe? (vv. 4-5)
3. What were the people to say when their children and grandchildren asked them about the stones? (vv. 6-7) Why would this memorial be important for the people and their children?

Read vv. 9-17

Coming out of the Water

4. What other memorial did Joshua have the men erect? (v. 9) Who was last to come out of the riverbed? (v. 10) Why?
5. Names some purposes God chose to part the Jordan for this generation of Israelites. (vv. 11-14)

6. What happened when the priests bearing the ark came out of the water? What was the status of the water in the Jordan when this miracle was performed? (vv. 15-18).
7. Where did the Israelites camp after crossing the Jordan? What happened to the stones that were carried from the river? (vv. 19-20). Without building pillars of stone in our backyards, how can Christians erect memorials to God's work in their lives?
8. Why might God have bookended the wilderness journey by two crossings: the Red Sea and the Jordan River? (vv. 21-23; see also 1 Corinthians 10:1-2)
9. What message were these crossings supposed to send to Israel's enemies? What message was it supposed to send to Israel? (v. 24) What message does this crossing send you?