

## Scriptures for Today: Joshua 4:1-24 – A memorial is established to teach future generations

Today's Message: Soul Saving Questions – We must not hide God's truth from the next generation.

### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we witnessed the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River – and the awesome power of God. We were challenged to take a step of faith in order that we might experience God's promises. Today, we will witness God's incredible \_\_\_\_\_ for leading future generations to His truth. That plan will include memorials, history lessons and inquisitive children. Now, consider how God has made children. As they grow, there comes a time when they ask many, many \_\_\_\_\_. God knows; He made them that way! And, God planned to capitalize on this to teach them Bible \_\_\_\_\_ so they would fear and trust Him personally. Our next generation is being fed a diet of the devil's lies and the world's vanities. We must teach them God's truth and \_\_\_-Story. Their souls and eternity are at stake!

### LEARNING TOGETHER

#### 1. The Text Joshua 4:1-24

- **God's plan revealed** – God spoke to Joshua with a plan to \_\_\_\_\_ future generations.  
 4:1-3            *"...the LORD spoke to Joshua... Take you hence out of... Jordan"*
- **Twelve men chosen** – Joshua told the \_\_\_\_\_ that the stones would be for a memorial.  
 4:4-7            *"Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had prepared..."*
- **Twelve stones twice** – Joshua set up his own future \_\_\_\_\_ of twelve stones in Jordan.  
 4:8-9            *"Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place..."*
- **Every thing finished** – The priests were faithful to \_\_\_\_\_ until Joshua said, "Come ye up."  
 4:10-18        *"priests... stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished"*
- **God's plan taught** – Joshua pitched the twelve stones and taught them \_\_\_\_\_ it was done.  
 4:19-24        *"When **your children shall ASK...** saying, What mean these stones?"*

#### 2. The History Exodus 12:26 (Children's Questions); Exodus 12:3 (Lambs taken)

- **Children** – This memorial of twelve stones is 1 of 4 instances called out in the Scriptures as questions that **will** be asked of their children. The others are the Passover

service, the redemption of first-born children, and God's written Word.

*Exodus 12:26-27; 13:14; Deut 6:20-21; Psalm 44:1-8; 71:18; 78:3-8*

NOTE In each of these passages, God makes it clear that the children of His people will no doubt be asking these questions. Now, imagine what would happen if they failed to teach their children WHY all these things were done and how great and glorious God had been in His-Story. What if the world taught them otherwise??

- **10<sup>th</sup> day** – The Bible says (4:19) the people came up out of Jordan on the TENTH day of the first month of the year. This is the EXACT day that the lambs were to be taken for the Passover as established by God for their exodus from Egypt.  
*Exodus 12:2, 3; Mt 21:4-5; Mk 11:9-10; Lk 19:37-38; Jn 12:13-15*

NOTE During our study of Mark, we learned that the "Triumphal Entry" of Jesus Christ during His first coming was on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan. The day prior is when the people began to take their lambs and bring them for inspection. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, Jesus will no doubt take the same route; the same day!

### 3. The Lessons **Psalm 145:4-7; Hebrews 13:8; Proverbs 22:6**

- ✓ *God had a plan to provoke the next generation to ask questions that His Word can answer.*
  - **A memorial for ever** – God was intentional in creating opportunities to teach the children.  
**Psalm 145:4** *"One generation shall praise thy works to another..."*  
**Truth:** Glorious \_\_\_\_\_ can abound if one generation faithfully teaches another.  
**Learning:** **If we do not teach God's answers, the devil will teach them his lies.**
- ✓ *God wanted the next generation to experience the power and majesty of prior generations.*
  - **As the LORD did** – God wanted the children of His people to know history is His-Story!  
**Heb 13:8** *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."*  
**Truth:** By connecting God's blessings to His past, we know God is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Learning:** **We must inspire another generation to believe God's promises.**
- ✓ *The hope of future generations would be in the hands of faithful parents of God's people.*
  - **Train up a child** – God created a plan that would send the children to their fathers...  
**Psalm 78:4-7** *"That they might **set their hope in God**, and not forget the works..."*  
**Prov 22:6** *"**Train up a child** in the way he should go: and when he is old..."*  
**John 13:35** *"**By this shall all men KNOW that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love...**"***  
**Truth:** Children are an heritage of the LORD. Truth \_\_\_\_\_ be taught \_\_\_\_\_ caught!  
**Learning:** **Parents are accountable to walk with God; lead and teach the children.**