

JOSHUA

Miracles and Memories

A common struggle we face is the problem of spiritual amnesia...

They forgot what He had done, the wonders He had shown them. (Psalm 78:11)

Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. (Joshua 3:15-16)

Remembering God's work in our lives...

- **Encourages our faith** – “When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.’” (Joshua 4:1-3)

‡ **God never changes but He is always changing things** – “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you.” (Joshua 4:5-6a)

- **Teaches our children** – “In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD... These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” (Joshua 4:6b, 7b)
- **Spreads God's fame** – “In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ ...He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful...” (Joshua 4:21-24a)
- **Preserves our worship** – “...and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.” (Joshua 4:24b)

After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:17-19)