

ALL IN: PRIORITIZE PASSING YOUR FAITH

If we're going to win the heart of the next generation it's going to take all of us, going all in, with all we have.

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:15-17

Running Story

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,⁵ and said to them, "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,⁶ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'⁷ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

Joshua 4:4-7

On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?'" ²² tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ²³ For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea^[b] when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

Joshua 4:19-24

Successful Passes:

1. PRACTICE THE PASS

- Successful relay runners have spent many hours practicing the one moment: the pass
- It doesn't matter how well they run if they can't execute the pass

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

Joshua 3:5

- Joshua didn't just throw the people out there with no frame of reference
- He had his ear turned to Heaven on behalf of the next generation and God gave him the battle strategy beforehand
- Practicing the pass is living in light of tomorrow- not just my tomorrow but the next generations' tomorrow.
- I must choose to be responsible to prepare the next generation for their tomorrow.
- Where do they need to see me following the presence of God?
- We expect them to walk across the Jordan but we haven't prepared them to consecrate themselves so they CAN see the Lord do miracles.
- I don't want the first time my kids have to see the hand of God in their lives to be when I'm gone. I want them to have walked beside me in my own Jordan before they ever get to theirs.
- Practicing the pass looks like living an open life with the generation behind me. Walking with them, Worshipping with them. Praying with them. Being WITH them, not just FOR them.

2. NAIL THE ZONE

- the place of the pass is just as important as the pass
- if you pass outside the correct zone, then your whole team is disqualified

"When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. ⁴ Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.

Joshua 3:3-4

- we have a place of pass, too...the presence of God
- there is a time to pass and a time to hold- it's by being in the presence of God that we know the right times
- if both runners are not synced up, running together during the yellow zone, then neither is positioned to win
- where is our "yellow zone" with the next generation
- we discover that place when we are running together, following the presence of God

3. KEEP RUNNING

- the most successful passes occur when both runners make it through the pass zone and the passer's momentum continues to carry them forward/ making it a space where, even after the pass, both runners are running
- if both runners have positioned themselves well, they should be able to run closer without fearing a collision if both runners have positioned themselves well, they should be able to run closer without fearing a collision

Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been^[a] in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.
Joshua 4:9

- If we practice the pass and nail the zone, then we get to keep running
- The works of God in and through our lives are like these stones- set for all generations to come
- Our batons are these stones- every rock declaring the goodness of God
- His displayed goodness in my life is like a living rock, crying out to all future generations that the Lord is good and He works on our behalf
- What stones are we leaving? What altars are we building for the next generation?
- What will they see when they stand next to me? Am I building memorials to His goodness that will stand for generations?

I'll let you in on the sweet old truths, Stories we heard from our father, counsel we learned at our mother's knee. We're not keeping this to ourselves, we're passing it along to the next generation—God's fame and fortune, the marvelous things he has done. He planted a witness in Jacob, set his Word firmly in Israel, then commanded our parents to teach it to their children so the next generation would know, and all the generations to come—So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.
Psalm 78:2-9

The result of passing our faith = HOPE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

RESPONSE TIME:

1. Meet Jesus- He wants to make your life like a memorial to His goodness
2. Pick up your baton- be intentional about passing your faith
3. Grab one of these stones from the altar today- keep it with you as a reminder to prioritize passing your faith