<sup>1</sup>When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup>"Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup>and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." <sup>4</sup>So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, <sup>5</sup>and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan.

Joshua 4:1-9, 18-24 TNIV

Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' 7tell 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." 8So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; Joshua 4:1-9, 18-24 TNIV

and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. <sup>9</sup>Joshua **set up** the twelve stones that had been 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.

<sup>18</sup>And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before. <sup>19</sup>On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan Joshua 4:1-9, 18-24 TNIV

and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup>And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. <sup>21</sup>He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' <sup>22</sup>tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' <sup>23</sup>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 when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over.

Joshua 4:1-9, 18-24 TNIV

<sup>24</sup>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 4:1-9, 18-24 TNIV

#### Memorial Stone Historical Definition:

A structure or object intended to commemorate a person or event by preserving or evoking their memory.





## Memorial Stone Definition:

A Memorial Stone is the conscious memory and declaration of the miraculous deeds of the Lord.

We must remember the miracles of the Lord, for the sake of the next generation, and for the steadfastness of our own hearts.

# RAISE UP THE MEMORIAL STONES

#### Memorial Stones Are Personal

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 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 own shoulder.

Joshua 4:4-5

## Raise up Personal Memorial Stones:

- Remember God's Redemption
- Remember God's Deliverance
- Remember God's Healing
- Remember God's Provision

<sup>5</sup>When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. 6"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 7They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread." 8Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?" Matthew 16:5-10 TNIV

<sup>9</sup>Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>10</sup>Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Matthew 16:5-10 TNIV

Faith is fueled at the memorial stones.

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. <sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:1-5 TNIV

# Memorial Stones Are Purposeful

...to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. <sup>7</sup>The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. 8Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. 9And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. Judges 2:6-12

<sup>10</sup>After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. 11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger; Judges 2:6-12

What we have in God must be real, for our children's sake.

- We are charged to teach our kids the victory comes from knowing and following the Lord.
- Personal memorials are crucial to the next generation.
- Memorials must be visible.

In this social media saturated culture, this generation finds it difficult to distinguish what is important.

We celebrate what we value.

<sup>2</sup>Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; 3the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country; <sup>7</sup>But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done. <sup>18</sup>Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Deuteronomy 11:2-3,7,18-21 TNIV

19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Deuteronomy 11:2-3,7,18-21 TNIV

One of the greatest ways we can serve the next generation into greatness is by declaring the wondrous works of God.

<sup>4</sup>We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, <sup>6</sup>so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. <sup>7</sup>Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. Psalms 78:4-7 TNIV

## Memorial stones are sacred to God.

<sup>2</sup>"Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup>and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, **from right where the priests are standing**, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."

Joshua 4:2-3 TNIV