

**“GOD’S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY
“Stones of Remembrance”
Joshua 4
Oct. 27, 2013 A.M. Worship**

“Watch yourself, lest you forget...the Lord” Deut. 6:12

We all need _____ or _____ in our lives to help us remember.

What are They For?

- 1. They are a reminder of the _____
- 2. They are a reminder of the _____
- 3. They are a reminder of the _____

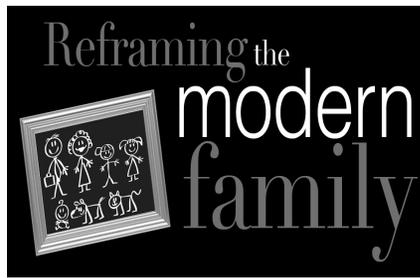
They remind us of...

- 1. God’s _____
- 2. God’s _____
- 3. God’s _____
- 4. God’s _____
- 5. God’s _____ and _____

Private Memorial Stones:

Family Memorial Stones:

Corporate Memorial Stones:



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MAKING FAMILIES WORK: FAMILY FIRST

“Homeland Security Part 3”

Joshua 4: 1-9, 21-24

October 27, 2013 AM Service

Is there anybody here this morning that is forgetful? I have the cure! How often we forget, we make a list to go the grocery store, post it notes everywhere, 2 calendars, palm pilots, phones, ipads, computers, things that send reminders, etc.

We don't mean to forget, we get unfocused, distracted, move on to something else bigger and better, we just don't care, grow apathetic We learn something and forget it (things from school days)

We make a list of commitments

We make a promise to the Lord, learn something about Him and how sad but true if we are not careful that we can quickly forget

Here is the good news right off the bat (and perhaps some of us wish that He would forget a lot more!)

God does not forget, even though we forget on a regular basis.

"For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. Deut 4:30-31

The only time in Scripture it tells us that He forgets is when we confess our sins and He forgives and then forgets it!!

Read Scripture, 4:1-9, 21-24

They set up that day, 2 sets of stones, memorial stones, spiritual markers in the life of the nation and for each family and individual.

Here the Lord paints a picture for them, by encouraging them to have a reminder of what God did, He knew how quickly they would forget. In fact, He told them this before they even get to the Jordan River to cross over. God knows us and how quickly we forget who He is, what He has done, and who we are called to be.

Lots of times in Deuteronomy God warns them, do not forget. *See sheet* **“Watch yourself, lest you forget...the Lord” Deuteronomy 6:12**

He knows us...that we forget, so He encourages us to remember by these spiritual markers in our lives and today it will be in the form of a Resolution on a piece of paper that will represent our commitment.

We need memorial stones or spiritual markers in our lives to help us remember.

Come in different forms, these memories or spiritual markers.

They can be places, people, experiences, physical gestures, memories, the Bible, sacraments (Lord's Supper, baptism),

My Bible, stuff from China, from Khaz, and Brazil, wedding ring, altars have great significance for me -

pictures from kids – D-Now nail, call to ministry, Baylor stuff,

Corporately corner stones, or time capsules, specific places, pictures, events, etc.

banner from FBBC during awakening,

What are They For?

1. They are a reminder of the past

Of all the incredible things that God has done in our lives and in this place, and in the lives of our families.

Our heritage, our foundation, (pastors on the wall), people who have faithfully carried the torch before us.

Also a warning here not to worship at them (Israel did)

For us worshiping tradition, our past, or our comfort level

As God continues to bless here and I pray the breath of the spirit of God continues to move, we will have to change and we adapt and not be tied down by the past.

2. They are a reminder of the present

Of what God is doing right now. This is where we are called to live our daily lives, not worrying about tomorrow or what happened yesterday. What a challenge.

And yet we must be careful to not focus too much, because if we only focus here, we can focus on the wrong things. Results, now not considering what the future will look like, what is the long term.

Example of go win, them but no plan to disciple them.

3. They are a reminder of the future

That God will not forget His promises, He will remember His covenant with His people, even though we forget all too easily.

It reminds us of that fact of who is in control and who is in charge. It forces us to look forward not stuck in the past, nor too consumed with the future.

We must be careful though to not live in the future, without seeing where we are right now and how we got here from the past.

Why all three, **because we need balance**, we get in trouble when we live in the past, or we only want to live in the moment right now don't think about anything else, or we forget the past and only want to think about the future not remembering where we came from.

All three are important in our lives, the past, present and the future,

They remind us of...

1. **God's Power**
2. **God's Provision**
3. **God's Protection**
4. **God's Presence**
5. **God's Purpose and Plan**

Our Response

One of the most important things about these spiritual markers, and one we have left out intentionally till now is because of its great importance. [Look back at Verse 6-7, 21-22](#)

Why is this here? What does this mean? Prompts questions

Our Children asking questions constantly – great thing! May these things prompt those questions in our children's lives...

What kind of questions do your children ask you?

This is why they are important and so very critical

Teaching the next generation of the faithfulness of God, his love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, promise are true.

What will your children or grandchildren remember, what will be there memorial stones that you leave behind to them.

Will it be that you made sure they had all the athletic opportunities, that they had the right clothes or car, that they had the right friends, had the money they needed, or will they remember for showing them Jesus, for making sure you did what was best for them even if they did not understand in the present, or nobody else was doing it

I urge you to set our spiritual markers for them, to see and ask questions, let them “catch you” reading your Bible, praying, sharing about spiritual things with them.

I urge you invest in the spiritual things, make them the priority above all other things. (Again there is balance to be sought), but make spiritual things, church a priority.

If spiritual things are an option for them, if it you go to church when it's convenient or easy, when there is nothing else to do, when other things arise, that takes priority, be careful for you are leaving them a spiritual marker. I want my children to not have the drug problem to church – but instead that we model in front of them, just like it was in my home, not I have to go but I had that desire and deep love passion and affection for the things of God and being with the people of God! That won't happen just by showing up once a week either!

This morning, I would ask you to spend some time thinking about yourself and then your family, and the our church as to some spiritual markers for you in the past, where you are right now and what spiritual markers you want to leave in the future. Right them down.

Private Memorial Stones – Relationship with Christ, be saved today

Family Memorial Stones - commitment to build spiritual foundation by signing this Resolution today in front of your family and your church family!

Corporate Memorial Stones - be a part of a church family – you need one and so do I!

What was the ultimate reason for the memorial stones. To remember what God had done in their lives personally and in their nation and most importantly so that all the people of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.

In other words, this church, our lives are to be a spiritual marker for other people to see and know, to recognize and understand who God is, how great He is and how much He desires a relationship with Him.

We are not here to be a memorial, but instead a Lighthouse shining brightly for all the world to see!!

That our community will know this church stands as a spiritual marker, it is alive, it is not dead, Jesus is alive, we are here to proclaim that there is freedom in Christ, there is love here and we care and we want them to know there is hope.

ILLUS: The Life Saving Station May we be that life-saving station.

“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.” Deut 4:9

“So watch yourselves, that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which the LORD your God has commanded you. "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” Deuteronomy 4:23-24

“then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” Deut 6:12-13

“Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end. "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. "It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them,” Deut 8:11-19