



## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." (Joshua 4:5-7 ESV)

The Israelites had seen God do some amazing things: delivering them from Egyptian captivity, splitting the Red Sea, providing manna in the desert, and giving them the ten commandments. Now they were finally crossing the Jordan River into the promised land. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, they were finally arriving in the land of Canaan. God did not want them to forget this moment, so He commanded them to make a "memorial" out of twelve stones taken from the midst of the Jordan River.

The word "memorial" is translated from the Hebrew word "zikkaron" which means a "sign, symbol, or marker that evokes remembrance." Zikkaron is about more than merely recalling historical information from the past. This memorial or act of remembrance is about remembering the past in such a way that it impacts our present and even our expectation of the future.



3. How did you see then or how do you see now how God was involved through each of those events to shape you to who you are today?
  
4. Who was with you when those events happened? Talk to that person this week and jog their memory of the story by saying, "Remember when..." and conclude your conversation with that person by giving thanks to GOD for what He did!
  
5. How do you best remember a special trip or a special event in your life? – journaling, taking a picture, buying a trinket of some sort, learning a word from that area, watching old video tapes, telling a story, finding a rock and writing on it key words?



6. What is one story in your life where GOD showed up, that if it was the only story that people would know about you and remember you by you would want them to hear?



7. How does remembering what God has done in the past help your faith today?

### **Application:**

1. How can you combine numbers 1-3 with number 5 so that you REMEMBER what happened in numbers 1-3 and don't forget?
  
2. Tell one of your God-stories to your spouse, to your child/ren, to a family member or to a close friend this week. Practice telling what "happened" when GOD showed up.
  
3. Pick a place in your house to be your "memorial" place: a shelf, the coffee table, a wall, a cupboard. Put items that will help you REMEMBER those GOD moments so that when people come into your house, or your kids or friends or family see these random objects together (a picture, a trinket, a word, a candle, a rock, a journal, a photo book) they ask about it and you can REMEMBER and tell them about what GOD did!

**Missionaries:**

1. Briefly share with the group what ministry you are involved in and where you serve.
2. How long have you been a part of the Village Bible Church legacy?
3. What is your favorite thing about working where you are? What is your biggest God-moment so far?
4. When ministry and life gets hard, what do you do or what do you remember to remind yourself that you are right where God wants you to be?
5. What do you want the people you are working with to REMEMBER most of you?
6. What verse(s) do you cling to most in your daily walk with God?

**Pray Together:**

- Praise God for who He is!
- Confess any ways in which you have been a poor steward of God's mercy and love to you.
- Give thanks for the man or woman who led you to the Lord. This is where your legacy began!
- Pray for those who are serving overseas on our behalf. Ask the Lord to use them for His glory.