

# 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.

Often in our fast paced world we can easily forget moments when God has revealed Himself, His faithfulness, His will, or His calling to us in a significant manner. It's important for us to make time to establish spiritual markers in our hearts, minds, and even more concrete ways such as pictures, journaling, or blogging, so that we will not forget these divine moments. Looking back at spiritual markers often gives us a better perspective on what God wants to do in the present and His direction for the future. Remembering these spiritual markers also helps prevent us from moving backwards, and can serve as inspiration for others during difficult times. Most importantly, these markers remind us and others of who God is:



And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan on dry ground.' For the Lord your God did to Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 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 4:20-24 ESV)<sup>1</sup>

Ask your missionaries the questions designated with an "M". Find the remaining missionary questions on page 4.

## GROUP INTERACTION

When your children ask you, "What happened here?" ...REMEMBER what God has done!



#### **Questions:**

- 1. Name a time in your life that you know the only reason you "got through the waters" was because GOD showed up.
- 2. What are some major events that you think define who you are today?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> shortdailydevotions.com

- 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 you 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.