

## Remember God's Deliverance

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### JOSHUA 4

#### This Week's Core Competency:

**Worship:** I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

*Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD; shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song. For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His. The sea is His; He made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care. (Psalm 95:1-7)*

#### Using This Study

##### ① EXPERIENCE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. Ask God to help you focus on the passage and hear from Him as you read His word.

##### ② EXAMINE His Word

The words God uses to communicate matters. Go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ③ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface both the Divine and human author's point in the passage.

##### ④ EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

##### ⑤ EMBRACE His Word

We study God's word to hear from Him. Embracing God's word is when we personally RESPOND to Him in obedience.

#### Introduction

Do you have any memorials to God in your life? Memorials are symbolic objects or actions that remember or recognize significant events for perpetuity.

Every Friday evening, with a large bucket of shrimp in hand, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker visits a broken down pier along Florida's eastern coast. Dozens of sea gulls flock to him in frantic anticipation and he feeds them generously from the bucket. Why? It is his memorial to God.

In October, 1942, this pilot and crew got lost on a mission somewhere over the South Pacific. Out of radio range and dangerously low on fuel, the men ditched their plane in the ocean. For nearly a month in a feeble raft, Captain Eddie and his companions fought the water, the sharks, the weather, and scorching sun. In spite of all their enemies at sea, one proved the most formidable: starvation. Eight days out, their rations were gone or destroyed by salt water and the men knew that it would take a miracle to sustain them.

One day, after a brief devotion by a crew member, Captain Eddie's own pen records what happens—

“After a prayer, and with my hat pulled down over my eyes to keep out some of the glare, I dozed off. Something landed on my head. I knew that it was a sea gull. I don't know how I knew, I just knew. Everyone else knew too. No one said a word, but peering out from under my hat brim without moving my head, I could see the expression on their faces. They were staring at that gull. The gull meant food... if I could catch it.”

*-Heaven Bound Living.*

Captain Eddie caught the gull and the men ate its flesh and then used the bird's intestines to catch fish. God delivered his life that day; he doesn't want to forget. Now every Friday evening feeding the gulls is his memorial to God's deliverance. What is yours?

#### This Week

God delivers his people, but how are future generations to remember? Discover from Joshua 4 the value of remembering God's deliverance.

## 1 EXPERIENCE His Word

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Read the passage and experience God's word personally.

1 After the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD spoke to Joshua:

2 "Choose 12 men from the people, one man for each tribe,

3 and command them: Take 12 stones from this place in the middle of the Jordan where the priests are standing, carry them with you, and set them down at the place where you spend the night."

4 So Joshua summoned the 12 men he had selected from the Israelites, one man for each tribe,

5 and said to them, "Go across to the ark of the LORD your God in the middle of the Jordan. Each of you lift a stone onto his shoulder, one for each of the Israelite tribes,

6 so that this will be a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean to you?'

7 you should tell them, 'The waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the LORD's covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the Jordan's waters were cut off.' Therefore these stones will always be a memorial for the Israelites."

8 The Israelites did just as Joshua had commanded them. The 12 men took stones from the middle of the Jordan, one for each of the Israelite tribes, just as the LORD had told Joshua. They carried them to the camp and set them down there.

9 Joshua also set up 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing. The stones are there to this day.

10 The priests carrying the ark continued standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that the LORD had commanded Joshua to tell the people, in keeping with all that Moses had commanded Joshua. The people hurried across,

11 and after everyone had finished crossing, the

priests with the ark of the LORD crossed in the sight of the people.

12 The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh went in battle formation in front of the Israelites, as Moses had instructed them.

13 About 40,000 equipped for war crossed to the plains of Jericho in the LORD's presence.

14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him throughout his life, as they had revered Moses.

15 The LORD told Joshua,

16 "Command the priests who carry the ark of the testimony to come up from the Jordan."

17 So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up from the Jordan."

18 When the priests carrying the ark of the LORD's covenant came up from the middle of the Jordan, and their feet stepped out on solid ground, the waters of the Jordan resumed their course, flowing over all the banks as before.

19 The people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and camped at Gilgal on the eastern limits of Jericho.

20 Then Joshua set up in Gilgal the 12 stones they had taken from the Jordan,

21 and he said to the Israelites, "In the future, when your children ask their fathers, 'What is the meaning of these stones?'

22 you should tell your children, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, just as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over.

24 This is so that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD's hand is mighty, and so that you may always fear the LORD your God."

**What are your first impressions?**

## 2 EXAMINE His Word

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✎ Bracket each occurrence of "12 men", "12 stones," and "12 tribes."

✎ Circle "sign" and "memorial."

✎ Underline each question in the passage.

✎ Place a cross by each command Joshua issues.

### **③ EXPLORE His Word**

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1. What did God tell Joshua to do in v.v. 1-3?
2. What reasons does God give for these specific instructions?
3. What reason is given in v. 24 for this event?

### **④ EXPAND His Word**

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4. Compare 4:19 with Exodus 12:2, 3. What significance do you see here?
5. In v. 23, Joshua compares crossing the Jordan to crossing the Red Sea. Read Exodus 14:10-31. Looking at these two crossings, what can you observe about God's nature or his character?
6. Read Psalms 95:1-7. How would you relate the act of worship to memorializing God?

### **⑤ EMBRACE His Word**

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The Bible reveals God's word and the Holy Spirit uses it to instruct, correct, encourage, and mature people into fully-devoted followers of Christ. Responding to Him means living in light of His Word (obedience).

7. Why do you think we, as humans, forget God's miraculous acts on our behalf?
8. How did building this 12-stone memorial help prepare Israel to conquer the land?
9. As you are busy doing your God-given tasks, do you take time to remember what God has done for you? If not, what steps could you take to create a "memorial" to God's miraculous intervention in your life?

10. When we worship God, who benefits?

11. What could you do to help your children or the next generations of believers learn about God's miraculous work in your life or in the life of other believers?

**Journal your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

**Sermon Notes:**

# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.