



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Holiday Series, Lesson 1

Lesson Title: Memorial Day Weekend

Take Home Point: Never forget the good God has done.

Warm-Up:

In my family and circle of friends, I am rather well known for my ability to remember things. That is not because I am really good at it, but because I am really not good at it! So when I say, "I won't forget," or, "I'll remember," the usual reaction is, "Did you write that down?" Of course, writing a note is not the only way I receive the assistance I need; my children remind me when their birthdays approach, and the loving presence of my wife reminds me that we have an anniversary to celebrate. But I have learned that if I am to remember something, I need a reminder – a calendar note, a shopping list, or another visible means of jogging my memory. My poor memory is also why I take and keep so many photos. I want to be sure to have a physical reminder around me of special times, places, and people.

Read: Joshua 3:1, 2, 5, 12

Observation (What happened?):

Who selected the stones and where did they come from?

What was the purpose of the stones?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Joshua had the people choose one person from their tribe to get a stone?

Why was it important to get the stones from the middle of the Jordan River?

Insight:

As my mother ages, her memory gets worse in some ways (like where she put her purse!), but remains sharp about things from her distant past. We recently went through old photographs of her parents, grandparents, and other relatives long gone. As we did, she related many stories that had nothing specific to do with the photos and everything to do with them as people who lived years ago. Those photos are important to me, not because of the specific images, but because of the memories they bring out in her and pass on to future generations. The same was true for Israel's stones from the Jordan. The land of Israel is very rocky, so those twelve stones would not have stood out as special rocks. They stood out because of their purpose as a reminder. As God's people on this side of the cross, we also have a unique, visible, permanent way to remember what Jesus did for us – it's called the Lord's Supper, or Communion. Jesus told his disciples (and that includes us) to do this to remember him. But Communion is far more than a memorial. Each time we partake, Jesus actually comes to us, in us, with his presence and power, to strengthen our relationship with him and give us power to live for him.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Name one item you keep as a memory reminder of God's goodness. Thank him for it.

Pray for the children in your small group to be aware of God's goodness and remember it.