



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 14

Lesson Title: Remember the Rescue

Take Home Point: Remember what God has done for you. Tell it to others!

Warm-Up:

In the hallway of our house is a growing collection of framed photo sets from our family vacations. We enjoy looking at them and recalling special times. My children will say, "Remember when..." and refer to an experience they remember. It's easy in our technological times to keep images, videos, papers, and sound recordings to remind us of significant events. But before all those things were readily available, people needed other ways to help them remember. Oral tradition was common, but physical reminders such as building a memorial of some kind were also used.

Read: Joshua 3:7 - 4:18

Observation (What happened?):

At what moment did the Jordan stop flowing?

Why did God order twelve stones taken from the river bed?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How many of the Israelites crossed safely over the Jordan on dry ground?

What do you think parents told their children when asked about the stone memorial on the bank of the Jordan?

Insight:

God's direction for Israel to build a memorial to their crossing the Jordan River on dry ground was given for generations to come. He knew how easy it would be for them to forget as time passed and they encountered difficulties in the Promised Land. How well did they do? "The people served the LORD throughout Joshua's lifetime, and throughout the lifetimes of the leaders who had outlived him, and who had seen all the spectacular works the Lord had done for Israel. That whole generation had joined their ancestors in death. So another generation grew up after them. They had no personal experience with the Lord or with what he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:7,10) Why didn't they know what he had done for Israel? Why didn't they have a personal experience? No one had told them! What a terrible commentary on Israel. How are God's people doing today? Through people like you, the next generation is hearing about the Lord and what he has done. Thank you for teaching our children the reality of God and his rescue!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one specific thing the Lord has done for you recently. Tell your story to a family member or friend this week. Take a few minutes to thank God for what he has done for you.