GROUP GUIDE

Highlands Fellowship

Lessons from the Valley

Joshua 4:1-7

5/24/2020

**Main Point**

In the valley, some things need to be removed, some rekindled, and some refined.

**Introduction**

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Are there any objects of significance that have been passed down through the generations in your family? What makes that particular item special?

Are you planning to pass it on to anyone else? When? How will you do it?

Why is this tradition important in a family?

We can be a forgetful people, but associating special objects with certain memories can help us remember important things. When we see an object, we have a story to tell about why it’s special. In Joshua 4, God commanded His people to set up piles of stones in order to help them remember where they had come from. Reflecting on where we’ve come from prepares every generation to follow Jesus wherever He will lead.

**Understanding**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

ask someone to read Joshua 4:1-7.

Why were the Israelites crossing the Jordan River? Where were they coming from? Where were they going?

Why is this important to understand why God gave them these instructions?

It had been a long road to the Jordan River. The people had been slaves in Egypt for some 400 years until God miraculously delivered them. Then they had spent 40 more years wandering in the wilderness due to their lack of faith. But now, at long last, they were crossing the Jordan River into the land God had promised Abraham hundreds of years earlier. God wisely commanded them not just to cross the river, but to set up a monument that would serve as a reminder of that crossing into the future.

What things in your past help you better understand your present and your future?

Did you place ‘stones’ as a memorial to help you remember what God did at a specific time?

What traits of God’s character were the Israelites reminded through this memorial?

What about you? What do your memorials remind you of regarding God’s character?

As we follow Jesus into the future, there is no doubt He will lead us through difficult times. It’s during these times we question whether God is truly good, or powerful, or even faithful. However, we know to look back at our deliverance from those situations to see the providence of God. If He provided for us once, He will be faithful to do so again.

**Application**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What has God revealed about Himself, about you, and about life during these past few months that you want to hold on to? What needs to be removed? What needs to be rekindled? What needs to be refined?

How can you integrate the discipline of remembering God’s provision in the weeks ahead?

What is one part of your story of God’s faithfulness that you need to share with those closest to you this week?

**Prayer**

Lord, we thank You for your faithfulness, in the past, in our present and in our future. As we walk with you, help us to lean on that faithfulness, remembering that You are good and your plan and purpose for us is good. Amen.