

JOSHUA 4:1-5:1 STUDY NOTES (2/20/22)

Joshua's Big Theme: The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

Today's Context: Joshua 4 brings us to and through the Jordan River. God commands the Israelites to set up stones near the river as a sign of remembrance for future generations.

Additional Study Notes:

- Joshua is the sixth book of the Bible, immediately following the Pentateuch (Genesis - Deuteronomy). It continues the narrative of Israel's journey home.

For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request

Discussion Questions

CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 3? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

TODAY'S TEXT

KNOWING God

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: How does this passage relate back to what you've read in Genesis and Exodus?
- (6) Where else do we see monuments of remembrance in the Old Testament (and New)?
- (7) Compare and contrast this passage with Deut 6:20-24 and Exodus 12:24-27. What do you see? What's the significance?

GROWING Together

- (8) **If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (9) Time and time again, God calls His people to "remember". What might this mean? Why is this important for followers of God? How do we practice "remembrance" during Sunday worship?
- (10) In chapters 1-4, thus far, God has made a big deal out of exalting Joshua as Israel's new leader. We see this same desire from God with Moses and other leaders in the Bible. Why do you think this matters to God and Israel? Is it relevant to how we should view our leaders today?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

SHOWING God to Others

- (12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (13) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 5:2-12. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (14) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) Why did God have the tribes take stones from the Jordan? Do you have anything that helps remind you of God's miracles? If you do, what do you have and why? If you do not, has this inspired you to create some?
- (16) The stones are to remind generations to come to "fear the Lord your God forever." Does knowing God split the sea make you fear Him? What does it mean to be "God-fearing?" How can you share this with people in your life who don't know Him?