



encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

disciple:

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

01 Print the PDF.
-or-

02 Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally
-or-

03 Use the PDF transcribe into a notebook or journal.

5 marks of a disciple.

- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally
- Know Jesus Intimately



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Week of: Dec 26th // Conversation: Jan 1st
"Stones of Remembrance"

The New Year is a time for reflection – a chance to look back and remember what God has done over the past 12 months.

In the Bible, there were times when the children of Israel set up piles of stones to mark times when God showed up in amazing ways. One of these is in the book of Joshua. It begins by God commissioning Joshua to lead the people of Israel over the Jordan River to take possession of the land God had promised to them. Let's take a closer look when Joshua and Israel took the ark of the covenant and crossed the Jordan.

pray.

Before you dive into Scripture, pray to God first. The Word is God-breathed (2 Tim 3:16 - NIV), so talk to the author and ask Him to open it up to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide, counselor and teacher during this time. Trust that God will reveal truth to you straight from His Word, and that He knows exactly what you need to pull out from this little study.

observe.

Marking key words in passages of Scripture helps to draw your attention to the main ideas/themes. It causes you to slow down and absorb what you're reading.

- 01** Underline every reference to the Jordan River, including "water(s)".
- 02** Mark references to Israel with a star of David, including "the people".
- 03** Put a triangle over every reference to God including the "Lord"



JOSHUA 3:14-17 (ESV)

14 So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

JOSHUA 4:5-8 (ESV)

5 And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.” 8 And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the Lord told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there.



JOSHUA 4:21-24 (ESV)

21 And he [Joshua] said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, 24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

apply.

04 Why were the Israelites crossing the Jordan?

05 What was the river like at this time of the year? How deep were the waters?



apply.

- 06** What was the significance of the 12 stones? Why were there 12? Why did they lay them down? What were they to bring to remembrance? (Look at Joshua 4:24.)
- 07** Do you have your own “pile of stones” to remember a time when God showed Himself to be mighty in your life?
- 08** How can these times give you faith and confidence when trials present themselves in the future?



bring it together.

God had the Israelites cross the Jordan River at the time of the barley harvest (March/April). Its banks were overflowing and the river was at flood stage. Would they believe His promise to deliver them to the promised land? Or would they cower in fear at the sight of a raging river?

How about you? When the odds seem stacked against you, and your “river” is at flood stage, will you believe God’s promises to you? What if these times are opportunities to erect your own pile of stones as a remembrance of how God showed up in a mighty way?

God not only brought Israel and the ark across the Jordan safely, but he stopped the waters upstream, piled them up at a town called Adam and cut off other sources so they stopped flowing into the Jordan completely (Joshua 3:16). So many factors came together all at once – the timing of the crossing was such as to show the mighty power of God, the wall of water was held in place long enough for all of Israel to pass through, the soft muddy ground became dry enough to walk on, etc.


Isn't it just like our God to move in mighty ways in our lives, if we believe His promises by faith?

connect.



are available to answer any questions you might have.

info@gtwy.church

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your  relationship with God.

www.gtwy.church/groups