

Message Notes

Stones at Gilgal

Joshua 3-5

April 2, 2006

Message Outline

Stones at Gilgal

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- I. **The MOMENT of Remembrance. . . WHEN God commands it**
 - A. Behind them. . .

 - B. Before them . . .

- II. **The MEANS of Remembrance. . . HOW God commands it**
 - A. Two stone monuments (4:1-24)

 - B. Circumcision (5:2-7)

 - C. The Passover feast (5:8-12)

- III. **The MEANING of Remembrance . . . WHY God commands it**
 - 1. To encourage reflection of God's faithfulness
 - a. His Presence (stone monuments)
 - b. His Promises (circumcision)
 - c. His Provision (Passover)

 - 2. To illicit praise, honor, and glory and the worship of God.
 - 3. To bring reformation and covenant renewal.
 - 4. To unite their little story to God's "BIG STORY."
 - 5. To showcase the Gospel of God's Grace.
 - 6. To expose their dependence: The battle belongs to the Lord!
 - 7. To build their unity.
 - 8. To testify to the next generation of children. (4:21)
 - 9. To encourage evangelism of the surrounding peoples. (4:24)
 - 10. To inspire steadfast faithfulness and courageous faith. (4:24)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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Joshua 3-5

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1. Read Joshua 3-5 again. Summarize in your own words what is happening in this text. What was “behind” the children of Israel? What was “before” the children of Israel?
2. Why is this a moment of great transition for the children of Israel? A moment of great uncertainty? A moment of great possibility?
3. Where was the Ark of the Covenant in relation to the people as they crossed the Jordan? Which verses tell us? What does the Ark symbolize? What does its placement symbolize? What does the Jordan symbolize in literature and song?
4. What are the “three rites of remembrance” that God commands in these chapters and what is each about?
5. Circumcision is appalling anyway you slice it. (pun intended!) But what is especially appalling about the time and place of circumcision in Joshua 4?
6. Without looking at the outline, try and recall some of the 10 reasons why God commands the children of Israel to remember on this occasion. How many can you come up with? Now go back and read through the outline again and make sure you see how each of the ten is supported in the text. Make sure you understand each.
7. How does this text showcase and foreshadow the Gospel? (I can think of at least 3 ways!)

Growth Group Application Questions

Stones at Gilgal

Joshua 3-5

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1. What is most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. What does this text have to do with our 75th Anniversary Celebration? After hearing this challenge from Joshua 3-5, has anything changed in your understanding of, or outlook toward the 75th Anniversary?
3. Why does the 75th Anniversary marker provide a fitting and significant “moment of remembrance” for us? How is this a moment of great transition for Grace Church? A moment of great uncertainty? A moment of great possibility?
4. While we won’t be circumcising anybody in coming weeks, how can our 75th Anniversary celebration be “days at Gilgal” for us? (Take some time to look at the large 75th Anniversary panel in the “Life @ Grace” and review the layout of the celebration.)
5. What are our stone monuments here at Grace. . . enduring memorials of God’s faithfulness and presence with us? What promises has He given and fulfilled for the people of God at Grace over the years? How has He faithfully provided for the people of Grace over the years?
6. Look at the list of 10 reasons why God commands our remembrance. Which grabs you most? Which will you pray happens for you personally over our 75th Anniversary? Which will you pray happens for us collectively?