

Let us Return to the Lord : Life Remembering God



1. Praise

“What a Beautiful Name” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>

2. Prayer (by the leader or a member)

3. Scripture Reading Joshua 4:15-24

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Joshua, ¹⁶ “Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.” ¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.” ¹⁸ And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before. ¹⁹ On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ ²³ For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

4. Sharing

What are some objects that have special meaning to me? Let’s share what kind of things and people you remember when you see them (ex. souvenirs, gifts you received, family photos, keepsakes, etc.)

5. The Power of Remembering

The Bible emphasizes the importance of remembering. When David faced Goliath, he won with the power of remembering. When he fought a lion and a bear while guarding his father’s sheep, he remembered how God rescued him from the claws of a lion and a bear. David gained faith and confidence that this God would make him overcome Goliath. The power of remembering God made David overcome Goliath. Those who live by remembering God will have the amazing power to defeat and triumph over the giant barriers. Memories of past failures make us cowards, but the memories of success and triumph from God will make us spiritual heroes. Remembering God when facing the difficulties is the secret to victory. Therefore, it is wise to write today’s worries on the sand and carve the memory of God who gave us the victory on the stone. - “The Power of Remembering” / Rev. Sung Do Huh

6. Background

After Moses died (Joshua 1:1), God raised Joshua as the leader of Israel and proceeded with a plan to bring the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan. The people who reached the plains of Moab had to cross the Jor-

dan River to enter Canaan. However, it was the harvesting period (Joshua 3:15). During this season, the melted snow from Mount Hermon flowed into the Jordan River, and the water level of the Jordan River filled the hills and overflowed with water. You can hardly cross this river without a boat.

At that time, God called Joshua and told him a special way to cross the Jordan River. When Joshua and the people obeyed God's Word, a miracle happened, and everyone crossed the river safely. It is an event that made us know that God is the One who guides and saves his people with power in a situation that seems impossible for human.

God made them come out with 12 stones as they passed through the Jordan River. He made them stand at [Gilgal], the entrance to the land of Canaan. By looking at the stones, God made all the tribes of Israel to commemorate and remember God's power and salvation. Also, when their descendants asked about this stone, God told them to let their descendants know who God is and how God led them to salvation. Through this, God made all families and communities of Israel remember and worship God of salvation from generation to generation because remembering God of salvation and covenant at all times is strength and power.

7. Dive into the Scripture

1) How did God taught the Israelites to cross the Jordan River? (Josh 3:15-17, 4:17-18)

2) After cross the Jordan River, what did Joshua do according to God's command? (Josh 4:2-3)

3) What is the reason why God told them to build a stone at Gilgal?

- To let all who have experienced God's salvation continues to _____ God. (Deut. 7:19)
- To teach their descendants to become a generation that _____ God. (Deut. 6:6-7)
- To let them _____ the mission that they have in this world as the missional communities to show God's salvation and protection to the world. (Jos. 4:24a)
- To _____ God's true intention to bless our families and communities. (Deut. 28:2)

4) The incident crossing the Jordan River reminds us of crossing the Red Sea at the time of the Exodus. What is the reason why God reenact the work of salvation in the past to them? (Exodus 19:5-6)

8. Applying into our lives

1) Let's share the memories when we experienced God's grace deeply. What am I doing to remember it? What may be the reason why we forget?

2) How do you teach and remind your children about the God I met?

Pray together

- 1) Pray for God to help me live every day by remembering the grace that God has provided in my life.
- 2) Pray that our children to believe God and remember the covenant of salvation and guidance through Jesus.
- 3) Pray that our church to be the community that remembers God and fulfill the mission as the missional church to show God to the world.