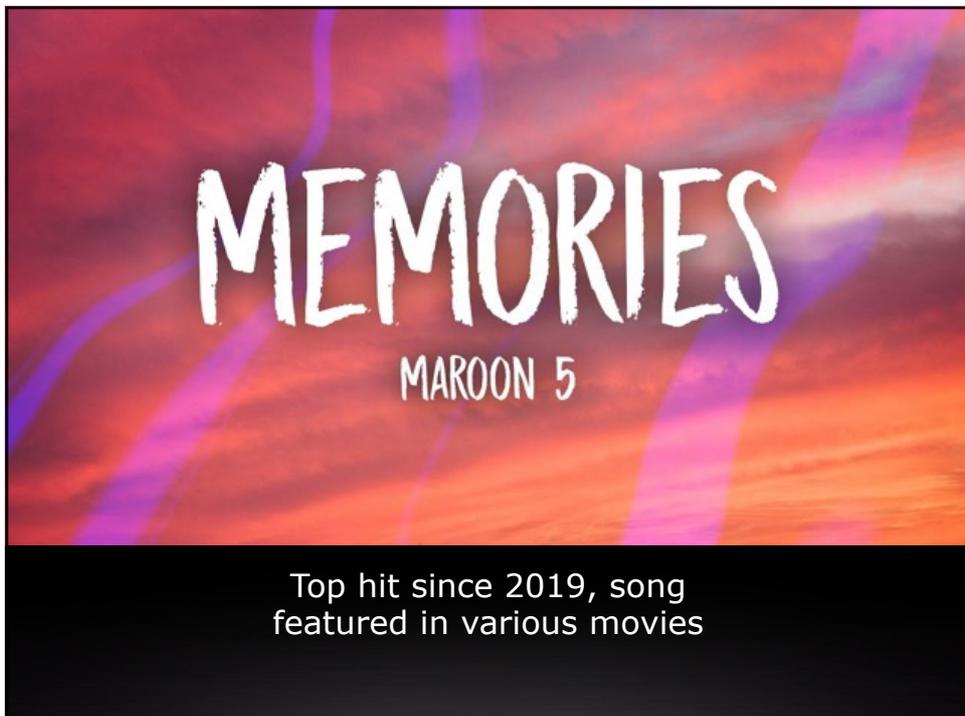


Joshua 4: In Remembrance

1



Top hit since 2019, song
featured in various movies

2



*Here's to the ones that we got
Cheers to the wish you were here, but you're not
'Cause **the drinks bring back all the memories**
Of everything we've been through*

3



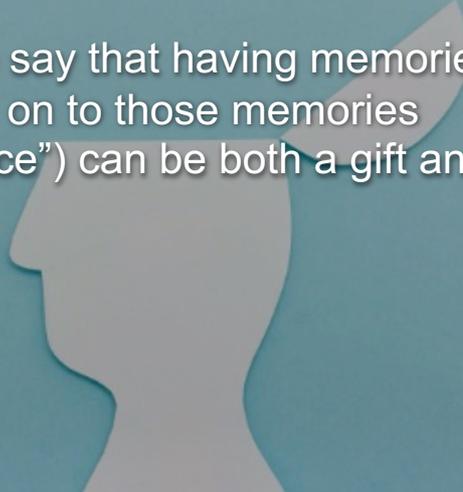
*Toast to the ones here today
Toast to the ones that we lost on the way
'Cause **the drinks bring back all the memories**
And the memories bring back, memories bring
back you*

4



Gift and Curse?

Some people say that having memories or the ability to hold on to those memories (“remembrance”) can be both a gift and curse.



5

- 
- God's
 - Example for remembrance
 - Provision for remembrance
 - Command for remembrance

6



Joshua 4

- 4 When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²“Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, ³and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” ⁴Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe.

7



Joshua 4

- ⁵And 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, ⁶that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’”

8



Joshua 4

- 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.”

9



Joshua 4

- 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.

10



Joshua 4

- ⁹ And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day. ¹⁰ For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua.

11



Joshua 4

- The people passed over in haste. ¹¹ And when all the people had finished passing over, the ark of the LORD and the priests passed over before the people. ¹² The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them.

12



Joshua 4

- ¹³ About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. ¹⁴ On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.

13



Joshua 4

- ¹⁵ And the LORD said to Joshua, ¹⁶ **“Command the priests bearing the ark of the testimony to come up out of the Jordan.”** ¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, **“Come up out of the Jordan.”** ¹⁸ And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.

14



Joshua 4

- ¹⁹ The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. ²¹ And he 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.’”

15



Joshua 4

- 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.”*

16



God's example for remembrance

- God brought Israel across the Jordan river through a miracle that rival that of the miracle at the Red Sea.
- At the Jordan River, God's amazing miracle helped Israel to advance towards enemy territories,
- While the Red Sea experience was one where Israel escaped from their enemies.

17



God's instructions were:

2 "Take twelve men from the people, from **each tribe a man**,³ and command them, saying, '**Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan**, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and **lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.**'"

18



- God did not allow any of the tribes to perish.
- God was faithful to carry out His covenant with Abraham to establish the nation of twelve tribes in the Promised Land.

19

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Despite men's unfaithfulness and even rebellion, God is faithful to the end.

20



- When the Levitical priests were commanded to carry the ark and be the very first to cross into the middle of the Jordan river, **This act was God's very personal example of faithfulness and might.**
- God showed Himself to be the shining example of faithfulness so that **Israel could remember such a vivid object lesson and be inspired.**

21



Application

How do we apply?

- When God made a promise to His people, He made sure to carry it out in its fullness.
- God does not do half measures. What He said, He will do.

22



Application

- God's idea of "faithfulness" is not just about keeping once-off promises.
- But "faithfulness" as in being committed to relationships, responsibilities, being a member of the Body of Christ, even when such endeavours meet with temptations or difficulties.

23



Application

- Word of God tells us that faithfulness is an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit.
- Faithfulness is a godly behaviour expected of every believer; and meant to bless our relationship with one another.
- Faithful in our relationship with Him. Faithful in our relationship with our family members. Faithful in our relationships within the Body of Christ.

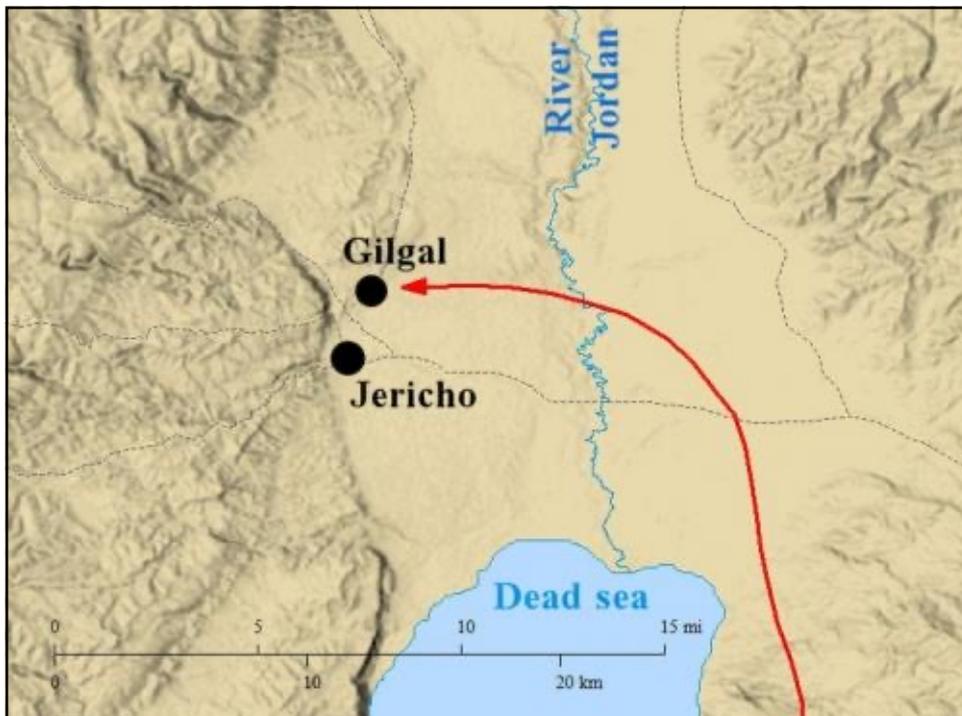
24



God's provision in remembrance

- God also provided the signs for remembrance.
- God instructed Israel to send twelve men to take one stone each on their shoulder (big and heavy) from the ground where the priests stood with the ark of covenant.
- The twelve men were to place the stones at the place of lodging, which turns out to be Gilgal, along the eastern border of Jericho.

25



26



- God provided the visual signs for Israel to remember. To remember God's mighty miracle that the Jordan river was cut off so that Israel could pass into Jericho.

27



- The twelve stones at Gilgal marked the start of their conquest and settlement in the Promised Land.
- It marked the might and faithfulness of God; so that Joshua and Israel could be strong and courageous.

28



Application

- If memorial stones were provided by God to help Israel remember His faithfulness and might; what are some memorial stones that God had given to us in our journey with Him?

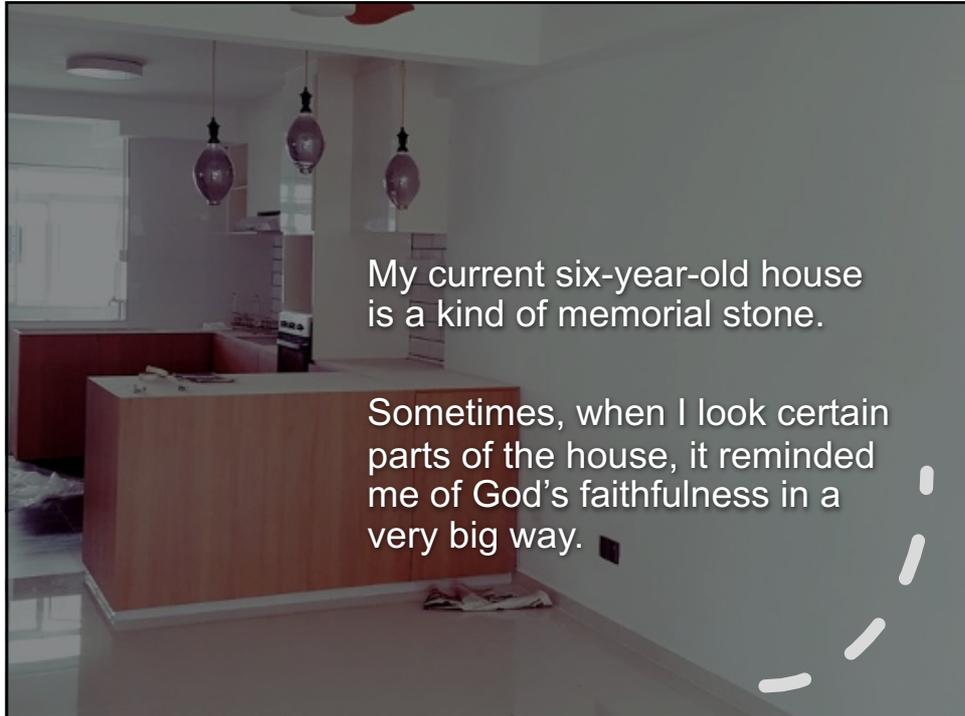
29



Application

- What are some of your memorial stones today, what will you show me?
- Or maybe you can do this in your next DG meeting. Have everyone to bring something that reminds of God's faithfulness and share the stories.

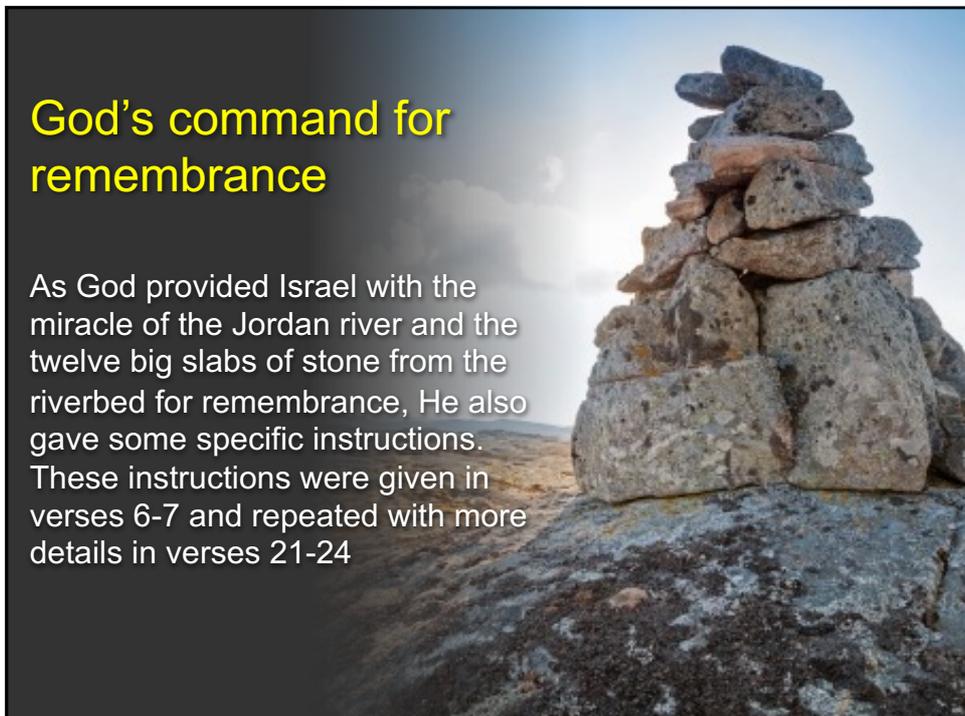
30



My current six-year-old house is a kind of memorial stone.

Sometimes, when I look certain parts of the house, it reminded me of God's faithfulness in a very big way.

31



God's command for remembrance

As God provided Israel with the miracle of the Jordan river and the twelve big slabs of stone from the riverbed for remembrance, He also gave some specific instructions. These instructions were given in verses 6-7 and repeated with more details in verses 21-24

32



God's command for remembrance

²¹ And he 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."

33



- God's instructions for Israel, as He provided the example and object lesson of faithfulness was for them to:

1. Understand that Joshua was the exalted one after Moses
2. Be faithful and learn to be God-fearing
3. Disciple their children to be likewise

34



- Firstly: God needed Israel to know that Joshua was then the one in charge.
- Not because Joshua was naturally great; but because like Moses, Joshua was to lead under the grace and power of God.

35



- When God exalted Joshua to be the spiritual authority in Israel; the spiritual forces of darkness as well as all the enemies of Israel set their sights on him and his household.
- Joshua was constantly reminded by God to be dependent upon Him and His word. The nation was also reminded to support Joshua in all the ways they could.

36



Application

- Similarly, it is important for the church leadership to learn to serve under the Lordship of Christ.
- And for the church to uphold all leaders in your prayer, accountability and care.

37



- Secondly: God's intention for asking Israel to locate the memorial stones at the border of Jericho was also **to help Israel remember that they were called to be a God-fearing nation.**

38



- The memorial stones of our life were not meant to help us feel good about ourselves. They were not meant to give us stories to boast to fellow believers.
- They meant to point us to God; reminding us that we need Him and to grow in our relationship with Him.
- Reminding us that He is the Mighty One and we ought to worship and show reverence to Him.

39



- Thirdly: the memorial stones were also meant to be a discipleship lesson to their children.

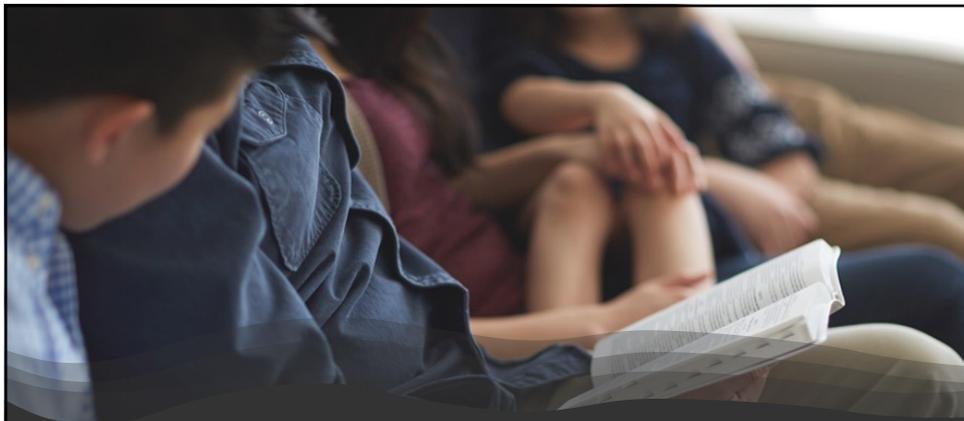
40



- When the children ask their parents about the mysterious structure of stones, the parents were to answer:

'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."

41



- Discipleship is to happen (first) within the family.
- All believing parents have the mandate and responsibility to teach our children in the ways of the Lord.

42



- Discipleship of the next generation must happen within a Christian family. Parents are to make sure we have our own walk with God; and take the mantle of discipling our children in the ways of God, even when they are very young.
- This is so that when they see certain mysterious “memorial stones” in our midst; they will take the initiative to ask: “Mum/Dad, what does that mean?”

43



Gospel

- Jesus also provided for us to remember what He had done on the Cross and the miracle of the empty tomb .
- The Post Resurrection memorial stones come in the form of the bread and the wine – the instituted Lord’s Supper, which we partake every first Sunday of the month.

44



Gospel

- The very words of Jesus in Luke 22 confirms:

*¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. **Do this in remembrance of me.**" ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

45



Discussion questions

- Give/Share a personal example on how God has been faithful in your walk with Him.
- Why do you think God continues to be faithful even in times when we are not?
- Do you think you have ever taken God for granted? Explain. How do you think we can do better?
- Why do you think being able to regularly recognise God's faithfulness and power in our life is so important?
- Have you been nurturing the faith of the younger? In what ways have you done so? Or not done so?

46