



Our country is celebrating a special holiday Monday. Do you *know* what it is called? (*Memorial Day*) Why do you think we celebrate Memorial Day? Memorial Day is a special occasion to remember the men and women who served this country in the military. We remember the sacrifices they made, leaving their homes and families behind, to put their lives on the line. Some of those heroes were wounded. Some of them died. For all of them we say God Bless you and thank you for your service.

In the Old Testament of our Bibles God's people also had a time of memorial to remember what God had done for them. Open your Bibles to Joshua 4. God's people had been in slavery in Egypt and God used Moses to lead his people out of slavery and across the Red Sea. Then, God led them to wander through the wilderness for forty years, but every day He was faithful to give them what they needed. Then God finally led the Israelites to the land He had promised them when He led them out of Egypt. That brings us to today's story. Read Joshua 4:1-20 "This is the story of how God led His people across the Jordan River on dry ground and into the Promised Land. God wanted a man from each of the twelve tribes to pick up a stone as they crossed the Jordan.

After you read, think about this:

Why were these twelve stones important?

The Israelites were to keep the twelve stones as a way to remember how God led them safely across the Jordan River. When they looked at the stones they could remember God's faithfulness in Egypt, through the wilderness, and now in the Promised Land.

These were memorial stones. God wanted them to have something to look at so they would not forget how He had taken care of them.

What are some good things God has done for you that you want to remember?"

The most important thing God has done for us is given his son Jesus. Jesus came to earth to live a perfect life and die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. This is the best thing God could have done for you and for me, so that we are no longer separated from Him by our sin. We need to always remember how God gave us Jesus."

Activity:

Take a walk and find a stone of your own to decorate so you have your own memorial stone as a reminder to you of how God gave us Jesus. When you look at your stone you can remember how Jesus died on the cross for your sins and you can thank God sending His Son Jesus to die in your place."