

CHURCH CONNECTION

AUGUST 2023



WHAT DO THESE STONES MEAN?

In Joshua 4:1-9 we read that after Israel had crossed the Jordan river, a member from each tribe was to take a stone and erect a memorial of their crossing. The stone memorial was to be a generational reminder of God's miraculous parting of the river so that the people might cross over. The expectation was that children would ask their fathers about the memorial and that fathers would explain what God had done for them as a people.

God wanted to ensure that there was a visible memorial to His miraculous leading and protection of the children of Israel as they crossed the Jordan River to begin occupying the land God had promised them. The memorial wasn't just for the generation that had actually witnessed and lived the miracle; it was for the succeeding generations—with the responsibility put on the older generations—on the fathers in particular—to be sure the younger generations knew Who God is and what He had done.

The abiding principle that we glean from this event is that God wants us to know Who He is and to remember and rehearse His ways, His blessings, His glory, His miracles, His working in our lives and on our behalf. Generational reminders do not happen by accident. They require intentionality and commitment.

God's expectation for the Israelites was that fathers would diligently teach their children about Who God is and what His will for them was. In fact, fathers were commanded to do this (Deut. 6:6-7). Believing fathers are similarly commanded to bring their children up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Clearly,

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Please Pray!

Keeping in mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:13-14, pray that the children in your families will put their faith and trust in Jesus, that they will learn to love and serve Him, that they will not fall prey to the darkness in our culture, that families will walk with the Lord, and that fathers will be spiritual leaders in the home.

More than ever, our elected leaders need the faithful prayers of God's people. Pray for their salvation (I Tim. 2:4). For those who are believers, pray that they will be good ambassadors for King Jesus.

Pray for God's will to be done in your family and in your church.

In the spirit of II Chron. 7:14, pray for God to heal our land.

STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children.... Deut. 6:6-7a



the place this should be happening is in the family. To help with this responsibility, maybe dads in particular and certainly moms—and extended family—should begin to keep track of answered prayer, of God’s obvious blessings of provision, healing, and more. One suggestion is to develop and maintain a “12-stones journal” or some other way to record the reality of God working directly in your family’s life.

Another practice that we strongly recommend is for your family to have a regular time when you read God’s Word, talk about what you read, share prayer requests and pray together. This would lay the foundation for a 12-stones journal or any other way a family chooses to memorialize God’s ways, His wonders, and His goodness to them. A family’s spiritual depth and vitality is the parents’ responsibility. Certainly, participating in a solid Bible-preaching and Bible-teaching church is also vitally important (Heb. 10:25). But the church isn’t ultimately responsible for your family. That responsibility belongs to dads and moms.

What could be more encouraging than to see God at work in the individual family members and in the family unit? What should be rehearsed more than how God has answered specific prayers, how He has intervened in a crisis or how He met a seemingly insurmountable need? Getting our children excited to know, love, and serve the Lord begins with us adults! It also will strengthen our children against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11). May God grant us a revival of father-led families with 12-stone memorials!

THEY ARE COMING FOR OUR KIDS

A few years ago, one of our staff members sat with a group of pastors who viewed a Facebook video of a teacher in a public school in Madison coming out to his students as transgender. It was very clear that this individual wanted his students to view his “transition” as something perfectly normal and natural. Our staff member made the observation, “They’re coming for our kids.” The passing of time has reinforced that conclusion. In fact, at a recent “pride” event out east, a group of LGBTQ activists was recorded chanting, “We’re here; we’re queer; we’re coming for your children.” Make no mistake. The threat to families is real. The best thing we can do is surround our kids with the truth of God’s Word and the reality of God’s amazing activity in our lives. Our adversary, the devil, is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But we need not fear the darkness if we walk in the light of Truth.

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers, and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God’s plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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