11-22-2026

Now is the Time: Now is the Time for New Stones and New Stories
Jon Rychener

Joshua 4:19 (NIV): 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.

Joshua 4:20 (NIV): And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.

Joshua 4:21-23 (NIV): He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' 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."

Three Reasons Why We Must Tell Our Stories

Reason #1: So the Next Generation Will Hear God's Faithfulness

Joshua 4:21-23 (NIV): He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' 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."

Psalm 145:4 (NIV): One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

A. God Stories Shape Identity

B. God Stories Give an Anchor

C. God Stories Fuel Faith

Galatians 6:9 (NIV): Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Reason #2: So the World Will Know God's Might

Joshua 4:24 (NIV): "He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful…"

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV): As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Reason #3: So We Will Stand in Awe of God's Greatness

Joshua 4:24 (NIV): "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."

"We have a tendency to remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember." –Mark Batterson

Why Do We Set Up Stones and Tell the Stories?

So the Next Generation Will Hear God's Faithfulness
So the World Will Know God's Might
So We Will Stand in Awe of God's Greatness

Stones come on the heels of steps.

Northwoods.church/NowIsTheTime