

# Hopeful Memory

*a Memorial Day Message*

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 26, 2024

“Hopeful Memory”

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this study. Help us engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Joshua 4:1-9 (NIV)

*When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup>“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup>and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”*

*<sup>4</sup>So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, <sup>5</sup>and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup>to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>7</sup>tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”*

*<sup>8</sup>So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. <sup>9</sup>Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.*

#### 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

*<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Memorial Day is a day when we are called upon to remember and respect those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Although the holiday is not expressly religious, it can serve to promote a value that is elevated throughout the Scriptures, that value being the importance of remembrance.

Throughout scripture we see the importance of remembering. However, too often we are tempted to glorify the past. The problem with looking back to a ‘Golden Age’ is that we distort the past and we come to believe that the best days of life have already gone by. Scripture calls us to hopeful memory. The Lord’s Supper is a hopeful memorial: it helps us remember what the Lord did in the past, but it propels us into the future. This Memorial Day, focus on hopeful memory in light of the resurrection of Jesus.

## QUESTIONS

1. What do you enjoy the most about the Memorial Day weekend? Do you have any family traditions around this day?
2. Read Joshua 4:1-9 (on page 1). What are some ways you remember what the Lord has done for you?
3. When you go through crises does it help to remember what God did for you in another time of crisis? Why?
4. Do you tend to glorify the past? What decade do you feel was much better than today?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (on page 1). Is taking communion important to you? Why or why not? In the sermon, Pastor Eric said the Lord’s Supper is a hopeful memorial. Do you agree or disagree?
6. Can you name any other “hopeful memorials” besides the Lord’s Supper?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What can you do this week to find hope in the future by remembering something from the past?