

THE BIG IDEA: Our blessings can pave the way for future generations.

The Take-Off

As a reminder, this series called Stones came from a simple question that God asked Moses in Exodus 4:2 that had a not-so-simple answer: “What’s in your hand?”

Last week we talked about how the **best thing we can do in a divided world is drop the stones** in our hands.

Yes, everything in us wants to throw them and punish the wrongdoer, but when we’ve heard the sound of dropped stones hitting the dirt, the only response is to pass that forgiveness along to others who need it.

Forgiven people forgive. This morning we’ll see that **blessed people bless.**

We’ll be hanging out in Joshua 4 and what we’re going to see is that **the best thing we can do in a hurting world is use the stones** in our hands.

Let’s pick this story up in Joshua 4:1-7 (NLT) and then I want to share 2 ways we can use stones

1. Use them to make a pile to remember

- a. In our passage, the stones from the Jordan represented God coming through for His people
- b. Said another way, the stones represented God’s blessings and faithfulness
- c. They piled them as a memorial of what God had done for them
- d. We can **use the stones we hold to make a pile to remember** how God has blessed us
- e. I need you to remember that you’re blessed, to recount all the ways you’re blessed!
- f. Let me remind you:
 - If you have a net worth of just over \$71k, you’re in the world’s wealthiest 10%
 - If you have just \$2,200 to your name, you’re richer than half the world!
 - 1% of the world’s population has the same amount of money as the other 99%
 - If you earn more than \$50k/year, you’re in the top 1% of income earners in the world
 - A third of the world lives on less than \$2/day. 1.2 billion live on less than \$1.25/day. Most of us spend more than that on coffee each day.
 - One more just to bring this closer to home: according to the City Data website, an average household in our county is 2 people with a median income of just over 48k. **That places that household among the top 5% of the richest in the world!!!**
- g. We are blessed and we can’t afford to forget it!

2. Use them to make a path that reaches

- a. Sometimes, though, we fall into the “memorial trap” - we only remember how blessed we’ve been
- b. But we know from Gen. 12:2-3 that we’re blessed so we can be a blessing
- c. Notice Joshua 4:6-7 ... “in the future ... “when your children ask” ... “tell them”
- d. Now jump down to verse 24 to see the answer: so that all might know Him and His power!
- e. When we take the blessings that we hold in our hands and use them to make a pile to remember, that’s not enough. It’s not enough to sit around and remember “the good old days!”
- f. We also must **use them to make a path that reaches** the world
- g. **Our blessings can pave the way for future generations**

The Landing

But don’t take my word for it!

Listen to the testimony of someone who saw his destiny changed because others took the blessings they held in their hands and used them to reach others.

[GUEST SPEAKER / Gerald Lorenzo]