

Compass Bearing #27
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
"Memorial Stones"
Saturday, May 23, 2020
by Pastor Mark Ellcessor

This is Memorial Day weekend, a time originally set to commemorate American troops lost in battle, and now more widely used to remember all deceased military personnel. Our nation today is indebted to the many armed forces who have served over the centuries. Remembering our past is an important way to embrace our present and future.

The same can be said for the nation of Israel in the Bible. After 400 years of Egyptian captivity and 40 years of wilderness wandering, a whole new generation of Israel was finally preparing to enter the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, the successor of Moses. God did not want this seminal event to be forgotten, so He declared a "Memorial Day" for the people to observe.

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ² "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³ 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" (Joshua 4:1-3). Joshua gave the people these instructions, and said, "These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever" (Joshua 4:7).

These memorial stones were to be an everlasting monument, reminding the people of all that God had done in the past and all that God would do in the future. In our own lives, we should gather our own memorial stones as a way to never forget what God has and will do in our lives. So, find a way to get creative for you and your family:

- Plant a tree in your yard and measure its growth each year.
- Visit a cemetery and thank God for your loved ones.
- Bury a time capsule of what God is doing in your life right now. Dig it up in 5 years.
- Write a letter and send it to your grandparents. They will save it, I promise.
- Visit someone you know in a nursing home (through the window of course!)
- Plant some perennials. When each blooms at various times, do something special.
- Build something in the backyard.
- Be creative!

God wants us to mark the moments in our lives. Let these "memorial stones" be a reminder that the Lord is with us yesterday, today, and forever!