



Day 4

And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. 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.'"

— JOSHUA 4:20-22

Cross the Jordan and Remember

The moment finally came for the ancient Israelites to enter the Promised Land and experience the life they'd been longing for. But God's instructions sounded terrifying. God told the two or three million people—with all their animals and possessions—to follow the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant and boldly cross the Jordan River.

Which was in flood stage. With no bridge.


It would be like every household in Cincinnati, Ohio, gathering all their things, stepping into a storm-churned Ohio river, and somehow crossing into Kentucky.

Can you imagine the people's skepticism and fear? Lord, I was already worried about how we would drive out the giants in the Promised Land. But how are we going to get everyone over there to begin with? This doesn't make sense!

We've all been there, haven't we? God has amazing things for us. Yet we're afraid to obey as we look across the churning water.

Remember





With the Israelites, the moment they stepped into the Jordan, the waters backed up. The entire nation crossed over on dry land.

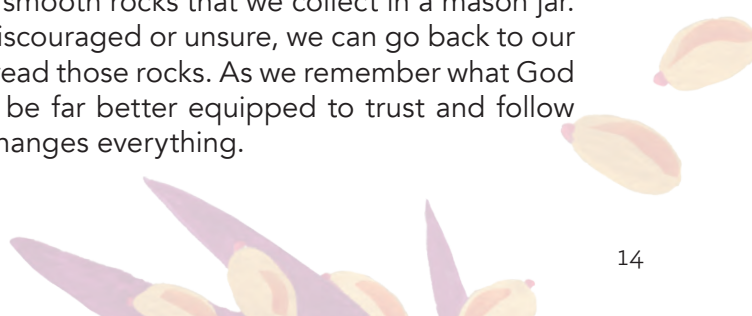
Then God told them what to do next: take stones from the center of the river and pile them where everyone could see. Every time they looked at that cairn, they would remember this astounding thing God did. Which was essential, because crossing into the Promised Land wasn't the end of the story—it was the beginning. There would be years of efforts to fight the scary giants and follow God in the midst of a culture that mocked Him.

Sound familiar? But with each fight, each trial, the people of God could look at the pile of stones taken from the center of the river. Remembering what God did in the past would help them obey in the future. It would help them overcome fear and skepticism and replace it with a sense of expectancy.

Sisters, we may have no idea how God will accomplish something He's leading us to do. All we know is that He has something great on the other side. We need to believe God and not our fear, step into the water, and then watch what He does! Watch for each next step.

Then, remember. We need to memorialize His faithfulness!

It might be as simple as scrawling a few sentences in a journal. Or writing a few words on smooth rocks that we collect in a mason jar. The next time we are discouraged or unsure, we can go back to our journal. Or tip out and read those rocks. As we remember what God did the last time, we'll be far better equipped to trust and follow God the next time. It changes everything.



Reflect

When was the last time you reflected on God's faithfulness to you? What method will work for you to record what God has done? Right now, pray about it, commit to a method, and write that decision below. Watch your love for God grow as you remember what He's done.



Remember



Day 19

The Lord GOD is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places.

— HABAKKUK 3:19, NASB

Steady and Sure in Our High Places

A few years back, Jeff and I were driving to speak at a retreat center in the Rockies. We drove between towering cliffs into a secluded valley and gasped out loud. It felt like entering a paradise. A grassy plain spread in front of us, quartered by a burbling river and stream, surrounded by rocky walls.

As we drove around the perimeter, I gasped again, this time in alarm. At least fifty feet above us, on what looked like a sheer cliff, was a large goat. "Oh no—a goat is stuck!" Just as I began to wonder how to get a rescue operation underway, I saw another goat. And then another one. And another one.

Bemused, I thought, *How in the world did they get up there? How do they avoid falling off? And why are they up there anyway?*

I was quickly reminded of the verse in Habakkuk that says: "God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places." A *hind* is a mountain goat or deer: the verse was being illustrated right before our eyes. As I watched the

Trust with Confidence



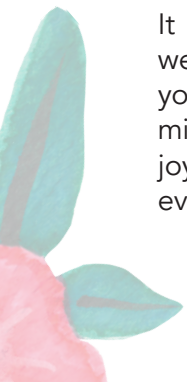


goats, I realized: they aren't afraid—they do this all the time! There were narrow paths along the cliff face, and this was where they were *supposed* to be. They constantly traveled up and down, back and forth, with total confidence.

To us, it seems scary. We imagine being filled with fear, balancing precariously on narrow ledges. But here's the thing: that cliff is not *our* high place. It's not what we're designed for. From the mountain goat's perspective, this is totally what they're designed for. Imagine the goat's freedom, the exhilaration of being exactly where it meant to be.

That can be us, sisters. Our high place is our own area of responsibility and purpose. It might look a bit scary to others (or even to us at first), but it is where God has called us to be and is what He's built us for. Whether it's a particular skill set, passion, job, ministry, role in life, or all of the above, our high place is something that someone else might find stressful, but which gives us life.

It also may be something we've avoided stepping into because we've talked ourselves out of it. Don't! Instead, ask God to show you if it is something He has built you for and called you to. If so, it might look scary at first, but your feet will be sure. You'll have the joy of walking in a way others may not be able to, and trusting Him every day—knowing He has equipped you for exactly this!



Reflect

What are you built for? What areas of life or ministry might make others exhausted or nervous, but really light you up and make you happy and excited?

(Do you love speaking publicly? Homeschooling? Crunching numbers?) List those areas, thank God for them, and pray about whether God wants you to do more with those gifts and callings.



Trust with Confidence




Day 20

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne. . . . And [the Seraphim] were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook.

— ISAIAH 6:1,3-4

Holy, Holy, Holy



Have you ever woken up with a praise song on your lips or in your heart? Maybe it's stuck in your head from the radio or from church. Or maybe you've never woken up praising God, but would love to. A minister friend says that when we become believers, our spirit becomes alive. Our spirit is constantly in tune with God and constantly worshiping Him. What a beautiful image!

The bedrock of joy is coming to grips, in the deepest parts of our being, with God's goodness, majesty, power, and love.

Imagine for a minute the magnitude of worship in front of the throne of God, worship so overwhelmingly glorious that it shakes the throne room. I once stood in a stadium of 50,000 people all singing hymns together to God as the very walls echoed and shook with the sound. It was so powerful, I spent most of the time in tears of joy! And that is but a tiny, poor echo of what it must be

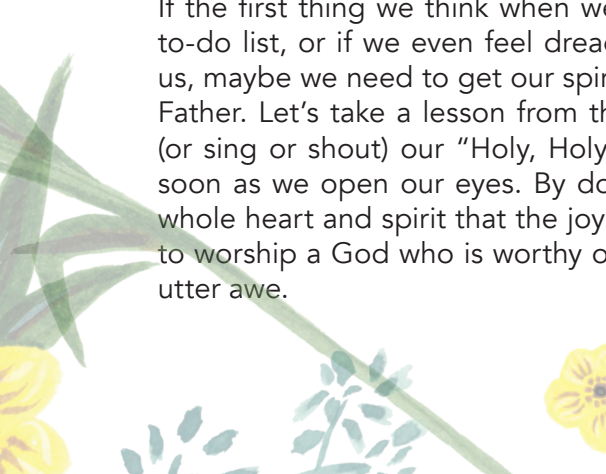
Live in Awe

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like when the angelic host sings “Holy, Holy, Holy” in the presence of our God.

The angels have a front-row seat to His holiness—and cannot help but worship. It is one thing to cry out about how mighty and strong and powerful a king is. It is quite another to *worship* Him. That means that this awe-inspiring God is not only mighty and glorious: He is GOOD. He is *worthy* of their worship—and ours.

It’s easy to get sidetracked from worship. We get caught up in the chaos of life. Or we allow our moods to change based on how we feel at the moment. Or we get annoyed or sad when we don’t get the attention or love of others.

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But our eyes are meant to be constantly gazing upon the King. How often we forget that we were created to focus our attention on and worship our God. He deserves it, and we receive joy from giving it! If the first thing we think when we wake up in the morning is our to-do list, or if we even feel dread or apathy at the day ahead of us, maybe we need to get our spirit back in sync with our heavenly Father. Let’s take a lesson from the angels and gratefully whisper (or sing or shout) our “Holy, Holy, Holy” to the Lord Almighty as soon as we open our eyes. By doing so, we can believe with our whole heart and spirit that the joy of the Lord will be ours. We get to worship a God who is worthy of nothing less than our total and utter awe.

Reflect

What is the first thing you do when you wake up? Check your phone? Pray? Sing? Grumble? Take a few minutes now to pause, close your eyes, and sing or hum whatever praise song or hymn comes to mind. How might doing that first thing when you wake up (even if it is in a whisper, so you don't wake others up!) help you connect more with God?



Live in Awe