



Road Trips VI: Memory Lane

OPENING PRAYER

Invite a member of the group to lead prayer.

Read Judges 2:6-12

“When Joshua dismissed the people, the Israelites all went to their own inheritances to take possession of the land. The people worshipped the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred and ten years. So they buried him within the bounds of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them, who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and worshipped the Baals; and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them, and bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.”

What happens to a generation when the stories of faith are no longer being told? Unfortunately, the statistics show us that each successive generation is becoming less and less churched. Twenty eight percent of millennials attend church at least once a week, compared to 51 percent of the Greatest generation. Here are so many young people who find themselves in a spiritual wilderness; they are hungry and thirsty. They are longing to be filled by something. Fathers play an important role in passing on the stories of the faith so that their children may know God, the God who rains manna from heaven and gives living water from a Rock.

Judges Chapter 1, starts with the death of Joshua and then reports the successes of the southern tribes who were able to push out the inhabitants of the land with exception of the tribe, followed by the limited success and then complete failure of the northern tribes. Judges Chapter 2 is a flashback in time, it provides the context for their tribal military failures. The people went from one army under the leadership of Joshua, to smaller tribal forces who fought for their individual pieces of land against the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. God had kept his covenant with the people, but God asked that the Israelites not covenant with the people in the land, and they were told to tear down the altars to the false Gods. Once Joshua, and the elders who outlived Joshua died, the people turned away from God.

GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Share where you've seen God at work in your life this week.

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Why did the people turn away from God?

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What role can fathers play in directing their children toward God?

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Share the most impactful lesson you've learned from your father, or father figure.

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What are the fatherly attributes of God?

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What was the most impactful takeaway you had from the podcast, sermon or curriculum?

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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please go around the group and have each person share a praise for this week and a prayer request/concern.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Have a volunteer lead closing prayer: asking for prayer concerns and lifting up the needs of the group.

DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please answer these during your personal devotional time at the end of the day or do it as a couple or family.

Where have you seen God today? For the children, we say, "what made you happy today?"

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What broke your heart or made you sad today?

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What good thing did you do for someone else today?

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What are you thankful for today?

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