

WordOne Bible Study

What Makes You Stand?

by Heidi Werner

Text: Matthew 17:1-9 for the Transfiguration of Our Lord, Lectionary Series A

Objective

Participants will:

- Be led to rejoice in the gift that God has given them.
- Have a better understanding of the power Christ wishes to have over their life.

Materials Needed

A large pile of rocks or bricks

Two small pieces of paper per person

Pens

Group Guidelines

This Bible study has been designed for groups of about 5-7 youth. The youth with blue shoes will be the leader. The leader will be in charge of directions as well as the question-asking process.

Building Community

1. Share with the group a memorable time which has meaning to you from the Bible.
2. Share an important time in your life which stands out more than any other moment. (Youth should take a few moments to write down and then share with the group.)

Looking at God's Word

1. Read Genesis 28:13-19. We see that God has made a promise to Jacob. What is that promise? Why then do you think that Jacob set the stone up as a pillar?
2. Read Genesis 35:9-15. God again makes a wonderful statement to Jacob. "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel." Who is Israel, and what do they mean to God? Why do you think that Jacob set up a pillar again?
3. Read Exodus 24:1-4. This time we see Moses setting up twelve stone pillars. Why do you think he has done this?
4. Read Joshua 3:9-16, 4:8-9. What happened in these verses to have Joshua make a pillar?
5. From all of the verses you have read, why did the people pull big stones to the middle of nowhere and leave them there?

Reinforcing What Has Been Learned

1. Read Matthew 17:1-9. What would your response have been?
2. What did this event represent to the disciples and to God?
3. Today we have learned that the people of God erected standing stones to represent important events. Every time they looked at these stones, they would begin to remember God's promise and His sovereignty. Today I have rocks/bricks with me. In your small groups, I would like you to make your own standing stones. You have another piece of paper. Please take a few minutes to write down one thing God has done in your life that is extremely powerful. This can be an event or a person, etc.

Closing

Once you have completed this, grab a stone and place it in a pile so that we, too, can raise up our own standing stone. This stone is always a sign to us of God's love and His promise to us, to always be with us and to always do the good of those who love Him.

Originally published in Discovery Bible Studies 11, 1998.

Updated for thESource in February 2014

youthESource is published on the Web by the LCMS Office of National Mission—Youth Ministry. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; 1-800-248-1930; www.youthesource.com. Editor: Sherrah Holobaugh Behrens. VOL. 11 NO. 2. February 2014.