



THE EBENEZER JAR

Ebenezer (n) eb·e·ne·zer: a commemoration of divine assistance; "Stone of Help"

The Bible references various examples of when stones were used as a memorial to remind generations of God's goodness and faithfulness.

In 1 Samuel, Samuel cries out to the Lord on Israel's behalf asking God to rescue his people from the hands of the Philistines. The Lord hears his cry and in great thunder, he throws the Philistines into a panic and the Philistines are defeated by the men of Israel. In commemoration of God's victory, Samuel took a stone and set it up, naming it EBENEZER, saying, "Thus far has the Lord helped us." (1 Samuel 7:12)

In Joshua 3 and 4, Joshua and the Israelites are crossing the Jordan on course to Jericho. Joshua tells the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." (Joshua 3:5) And that He did. The river was at flood stage but as soon as the priests' feet "touched the water's edge, the water upstream stopped flowing." (Joshua 3:15-16) The whole nation crosses on dry ground. At Joshua's command, 12 men took stones from the middle of the Jordan and brought them to their camp. The 12 stones were set up as a memorial so all could remember the amazing thing God had done.

Your EBENEZER Jar is a vessel for stones of help. Each stone represents a specific time and place that God showed his goodness and faithfulness in your story. Record the event's details and date on a stone and place it in the jar to commemorate His divine assistance. My prayer is that one day your children will ask "What do these stones mean?" (Joshua 4:6) and you can begin a beautiful conversation about God's grace. May this jar be a reminder of your EBENEZER.



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MATERIALS:

- 64 oz wide mouth, Ball Glass Mason Jar (or clear jar of similar capacity)
- Black acrylic paint marker (for writing on glass)
- Rocks

DIRECTIONS

1. Discuss as a family the idea of "Ebenezer" and read the attached information page.
2. Using your paint pen, write the verse from Joshua 4:7 ("These stones are to be a memorial...") or 1 Samuel 7:12 on the front of the glass jar.
3. Find a smooth stone from outside that is large enough to write on.
4. Write the date and a short phrase representing one way God has been good and/or faithful.
5. Continue to collect these stones of remembrance throughout the years and fill your jar. Take time to recount these memories as a family and share God's faithfulness!

