

Examine Your Rock Pile

"The secret of survival in enemy territory? Remember what God has done." Max Lucado got my attention with this line in his book, "Glory Days." He reminds us that after Joshua led the entire nation of Israel across the Jordan on dry land, he had them, "...set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan." Then Joshua stated, "In the future when your descendants and their parents ask, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them." Tell them what? Tell them about how God dried up the Jordan and amazed everyone with His power!

I don't do a very good job of keeping track of all the ways God has shown Himself powerful in my life. I do journal (sporadically). That's when I try to capture in words those times God seems to roll back an edge of the curtain that separates me from Him to give me a tiny glimpse of His power, majesty and love. But the awe of those moments fades as the normal routine of life continues. I'm sad to say that I don't remember to share these stories with my children very often.

When's the last time you made note about a victory or blessing God gave you that illustrated His mighty power and love? If you were asked to pile up twelve rocks, with each one representing a time God revealed Himself to you in a powerful way, which times would you choose to commemorate? Could you come up with 12?

Last night, I challenged myself to come up with 12 illustrations of times God has shown up in my life in powerful ways. What a blessing it was to remember each and every situation as I examined my "rock pile." I was humbled and saddened to realize that my adult children may not even know some of these true tales of God's amazing grace He has shown me through the years.

So, what's the purpose of remembering and sharing these stories? There are three main things these stories may accomplish: 1. They may inspire faith in those who do not yet have strong faith. 2. They may encourage us to face future challenges with boldness, remembering God's proven faithfulness. 3. Most importantly, reviewing the first-hand experiences we have had with our heavenly Father gives us a chance to thank Him one more time for His never-ending love, and reminds us to bow before His holy presence and worship Him.

Let's face the future courageously by remembering to examine our huge rock pile periodically.

Stay linked to the Lord,
Charlene Giles
Director of Care and Marriage Ministries

Special congratulations to Dee Heavin and Connie Conrad who both attended Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in 2016! Connie is referrals coordinator and small group facilitator and Dee is small group facilitator and chaplain of the team. We are blessed to have them on our Asbury Stephen Ministry Leadership Team which includes: Kelly Dudney, Sheila Slater, Ric Bailey, Jeff Baker and Karen Mellen.

Emergency numbers to keep handy

- **COPES:** 918.744.4800 (phone consult re: helping those with mental illness, or onsite visit if necessary)
- **DVIS crisis line for abuse victims:** 918.743.5763
- **Suicide lifeline:** 1.800.273.TALK or 1.800.SUICIDE 911

Asbury Referrals:

To be given the names of competent Christian mental health professionals, call our Care and Professional Referrals line at 918.392.1199, ext. 270. Leave a message and receive a call the next business day.

Encourage hurting people who are seeking someone to listen and pray to learn about Stephen Ministry support by calling 918.392.1183 and leaving a confidential message.

Asbury Care Ministries:

- Care Card Ministry
- GriefShare & Bereavement Resources
- Healing Hats
- Quilting Ministry
- SMILE (Single Moms)
- Stephen Ministry
- Support Groups

Check these out...

- **GriefShare** (for those grieving the loss of a loved one) & **Beyond GriefShare** (for those who have completed GriefShare) - Wednesdays August 24 – November 30, 3 pm (no child care) OR 6 pm (child care provided), Room 2319, cost: \$15. Register online or 918.392.1191.
- **Hope for the Holidays Grief Workshop** - Grief is especially painful during these “family” times. Here’s a safe place to share our thoughts. Presenters: David & Claudia Thomas. No cost. Saturday, November 5, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, Parlor. Register online or 918.392.1191.

Wit & Wisdom

- Having a better life is not always about finding a new friend or job or external solution to our problems. It is first and foremost about making sure that we have the internal character and capacity to have a good life if one shows up. Henry Cloud in “The Daily Doctor Cloud”
- The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most. Charles Schulz
- I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all, but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess. Corrie ten Boom
- There are two kinds of people who fail—those who listen to nobody and those who listen to everybody. Thomas M. Beshere

Stephen Ministry Links

Supervision Meetings: All held in Room 1502 unless otherwise noted

Remember: Whether you have a care receiver or not, others are counting on you!

1st Thursdays: 6:15 pm (Come at 6 pm for fellowship!)

2nd Mondays: 9:30 am (Come at 9:15 for fellowship!)

Save the date! Christmas party to be held on Thursday, December 8! Details to follow.

