



PARKSIDE CHAPEL

LIFE NEWS

REMEMBER WHEN . . .

by Gordon Lanpher, Children's Pastor

The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel
parksidevisalia.org

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This summer, I traveled to one of my favorite places, if not my favorite on earth, **Big Sandy Camp**. You might often see me wearing BSC clothing. I have a blanket, coffee mugs, art on my walls, and even an umbrella from Big Sandy. For me, Big Sandy has lots of memories. I grew up going there almost every summer from 2nd to 12th grade, and I worked there for three summers during college. There are gorgeous sunsets over the lake every night, areas where I did all kinds of things like climb a rock wall, paddle boating, archery, and even crafts. There were recreational games that left deep impressions on me... and a few scars. There were tons of inside jokes and lifelong friends made, and I also proposed to my wife there! As you can see, I could go on and on about my love for Big Sandy Camp.

All the things I listed above are so much fun and have lots of great stories attached, but the thing I truly loved about summer camp was the way God shaped and changed my life there. I can take you to the place in the old chapel where God called me into ministry. I can show you the spot on the chair-swing where God met me time after time in the wee hours of the morning before my campers got up. I can show you the docks where deep, meaningful conversations with staffers took place. If you showed up at the new chapel, I would take you to the area on the stage where the director prayed over me. Needless to say, I cannot tell my history with God without mentioning Big Sandy. These spots around the grounds have become testimonies of what God has done in my life (and countless others at camp).

Israel has a great history of God, especially during the time of wandering in the desert. In fact, this time of wandering had come to an end, and Moses had died. It was time for Joshua to take them into the promised land. We pick up the story in Joshua 3; it was time to cross the Jordan River, and they gathered and consecrated themselves as a nation.

The next day they got to the river, and the LORD told Joshua to go before them with 12 men and the priest carrying the ark of the covenant. As soon as the soles of the priest's sandals touch the water, the water began to pile up, and the nation could cross.

Then in Joshua 4, they took the twelve men as representatives of the twelve tribes and had them gather twelve stones. These stones were to be piled on top of each other as a memorial. Every time children asked about the stones, they were to tell the story—the testimony—of what God had done for them. They were to explain God's faithfulness to them. This was evidence of God's work in their lives.

Do you have your own "memorial stone spots" where God met you in a powerful way? Do you have things around your house that, if asked, you can explain how God met you in that? If you do, take some moments to thank God for the different testimonies of his faithfulness in your life. Tell someone the story. I would love to hear the story, too! (gordon@parksidevisalia.org) Whether you have old stories or not, spend this summer on the lookout for how God is meeting you. If there is a specific meaningful experience, maybe place a memorial stone as a way to remember what God has done.

"Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me." Psalm 66:16