As a part of the rhythm of Life Group, we want to encourage groups to stop and celebrate. Our culture doesn’t do the best job at celebrating, but when we look at scripture we see God’s people regularly stopping to celebrate what God had done in and through them. So, use this as a time to reflect on the work you have done, celebrate the growth you have seen, and wonder about what might be next for you as your group moves into the next outcomes.

1. Reflection

As a group read through this passage in Joshua to set up the group discussion and activity.

Leaders, to prepare for this exercise, bring children’s building blocks or rocks and jars or note cards (pictures attached) for everybody to start building a “stone of remembrance” of what God has done in their lives. Each person will write one thing per block / rock / card and then share.

- One place we see God’s people stopping to remember and celebrate what God has done is in Joshua 4:1-7. God has just brought His people to the Jordan river (out of the desert where they have been living for the past 40 years) and they are preparing to go into the promise land. God has just made the waters of the Jordan river stop flowing so the people can cross and that is where Joshua 4 picks up.

Joshua 4:1-7  

When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the L ORD said to Joshua, 2  “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, 3 and command them, saying, 4 ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’  Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. 5 And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the L ORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ’What do those stones mean to you?’ 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the L ORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”
Tell your group that today we want to STOP and REMEMBER what God has done over the past several outcomes. We will build our own memorial, or stones of remembrance to help us reflect and celebrate how we have grown.

Select one or two of the following questions to help your group members identify the areas of growth in their lives:

- What new insight and understanding have you gained through studying the outcomes and discussing them with others?
- What kind of change can you identify in your life?
- How do you experience more freedom now than before?
- How has our perception of yourself changed during this season?
- In what areas of life have you taken new steps of faith?
- What kind of answers have you received for your prayers or questions?

Have each person write down 1 or 2 things they want to celebrate and remember on their block, index card, stone, etc.

2. Celebrating - each other

After everyone has shared what God has done in their lives, take some time to encourage each other. Pick one of the following ways to help people do that:

- How has God used others in this group to encourage and help you grow?
- How have you seen God at work in each other’s lives?
- What do you appreciate about each other? You may do this as a chain: one person starts by sharing about another, who then in turn shares about another etc. until everyone has shared and everyone has received encouragement.

3. Anticipate

Ask the group one of the following questions or lead them through one of the following exercises. This will help your group get excited about what God might be up to next!

- What do you want to be true of you by our next celebration?
- Take 10 or 15 minutes of quiet and ask the Holy Spirit what He is highlighting for you to focus on in this season moving forward.
- A letter to God. In a moment of silence, write down how you want to thank and praise God for what he’s done and who you have experienced him to be. He loves to hear what’s in our heart!
Make your own memorial/stone of remembrance

Gather old blocks from members in the group to build a stack for each person to write down what they are learning and celebrating.

Buy index cards to hand out for people to write down their learning/celebration.

Gather stones from outside and old spaghetti or jam jars. Write words that will help you remember how you are growing and what you are celebrating.