

RE – Week 1

Remember

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO REMEMBER?

Anyone who feels neither responsibility towards the past nor desire to shape the future is one who forgets!
–Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Remembering God's faithfulness in the past:

1. Allows us to trust Him in the present.

You may say to yourselves, "These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?" ¹⁸But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. ¹⁹You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear. Deuteronomy 7:17-19

2. Directs our actions in the future.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine..." 1Samuel 17: 34-37

HOW TO REMEMBER

1. Write it down!

"Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶to serve as a sign among you..." Joshua 4:5-6

2. Tell it to others!

"...In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' ⁷tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." Joshua 4: 6-7

TALK IT OVER

- Share some stories of how you have experienced God's faithfulness.
- What's a present concern that would be easier to entrust to God after remembering who God is and what He has done?
- What step can you take this week to write down the ways God has been faithful to you?

You can remember this message better by talking it over with a friend. Download a full study guide for your LifeGroup or watch a short video discussion at

<http://resources.lifechurch.tv>.

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What is one of your favorite memories? Why is this memory so special to you?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Deuteronomy 7:17-19 and 1 Samuel 17:34-37.

These passages show us that remembering God's faithfulness allows us to trust Him in the present and allows Him to direct our actions in the future.

- Many times we remember the wrong things and forget all the right things. What wrong things do you need to forget? What right things do you need to remember?
- Why do you think remembering is so important to God?
- Where do you need to trust God more presently? How will you go about doing that?
- What are some of the lessons you've learned from your past that have shaped you into the person you are today?

Read Joshua 4:1-24.

God instructs the Israelites in this passage to remember all God has done for them by writing it down and telling others.

- What are some of the ways you've consistently experienced God's faithfulness? How has God's faithfulness strengthened your faith in Him?
- Who do you need to tell about God's faithfulness? How will you go about telling that person?
- How do you want to be remembered? Do you feel the way you live your life reflects how you want to be remembered?
- What steps will you take this week to begin writing down the ways God has been faithful to you?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you remember the many ways that God has been faithful to you.

Dive deeper into the message this week by reading the "Remembering All God Has Done" Bible reading plan at YouVersion.com. This five-day reading plan will give you an opportunity to remember God's faithfulness, His power, Christ's sacrifice, and the people God has placed in your life that have shaped you into the person you are today. Each day includes a scripture reading and a short devotional. You can start the reading plan at <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/remembering-all-god-has-done>.

Remember God's faithfulness in your life by doing what God commanded in Joshua chapter 4 by writing down the many ways He has been faithful to you. You might consider writing it down in a journal or creating an online blog or diary to share with the rest of the world. No matter how you decide to capture your memories, keep them in a place where you can easily read them and add to them on a regular basis.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Thank God for His continued faithfulness in your life. Tell Him how it has impacted you.
- Confess to God those areas of life where you need to trust Him more. Ask for His guidance and wisdom.
- Commit to God that you will share His faithfulness in your life with someone else this week. Pray for that person.
- Tell God how you would like to be remembered. Ask God to develop that legacy within you.
- Commit to God that you will never forget His enduring faithfulness in your life by writing it down and reflecting on it often.

RE-2 Repentance

REPENTANCE IS NOT GOD WANTING YOU TO FEEL LIKE A FAILURE

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Acts 3:19

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

1) REPENTANCE IS A CHANGED MIND.

...yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Metanoia (*met-an'-oy-ah*); A change of mind that leads to changed behavior

“Break my heart for what breaks Yours”
from the song Hosanna

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

2) REPENTANCE IS A CHANGED DIRECTION.

"Therefore say to the people of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!'"

Ezekiel 14:6

A divinely changed mind will always result in a changed direction.

But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first...

Revelation 2:4-5 NASB

3) REPENTANCE RESTORES RELATIONSHIPS

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:17-24 NIV 2011

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4 NASB

TALK IT OVER

- How do you view your own sin—as a personal annoyance or as something that breaks the heart of God?
- What sin do you need to repent of immediately? What will be your first step to change your heart about that issue?
- Which relationships do you hope to restore as a result of your repentance?
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Turn a life-changing message into real life-changing steps by talking it over with a friend. Download a study guide for your LifeGroup or watch a short discussion video at www.lifechurch.tv/tio-questions.

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- What's one of the best lessons you've learned that came out of a big mistake you made?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Acts 3:19, 2 Corinthians 7:8-13, and Romans 12:1-2.
These verses show us that repentance results in a changed mind.

- Why do you think repentance has become such a forgotten concept in today's world?
- What does repentance look like in your life? How has it impacted you?
- How do you view your sin? Do you view it through your own inconvenience and annoyance or do you view it as something that breaks the heart of God? Explain.
- How has your mind been changed as a result of your repentance?

Read Ezekiel 14:6, Revelation 2:4-5, and Luke 15:17-24.

We learn in these passages that repentance results in a changed direction and it restores relationships.

- A divinely changed mind will always result in a changed direction. How have you seen the truth of that statement in your life?
- What relationships do you need to restore as a result of your repentance? How will you go about restoring those relationships?
- What's the hardest part of repentance for you?
- What sin do you need to repent of immediately? What will be your first step to change your heart?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you better understand the life-changing power of repentance.

Dive deeper into this week's message this week by reading the "Acts of Repentance" YouVersion reading plan. During this 5-day reading plan, you'll read a daily Bible passage and a brief devotional designed to help you focus on the important role repentance plays in your walk with Christ. You can access the reading plan at this YouVersion address: <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/acts-of-repentance>.

Break free from the bondage of sin by repenting of your sins. First, repent before God in prayer. Ask for His forgiveness and for Him to change your mind. Next, repent before those that you have hurt as a result of your sin. Allow your repentance to be the first step in restoring these broken relationships. Pray and ask God to help restore your broken relationships.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Confess your sins to God and truly repent of them. Ask for His forgiveness and renewal.
- Ask God to help you see your sins as He sees them and not through your own selfish eyes anymore.
- Commit to God that you will strive to restore any relationships that were broken because of your sin. Seek His strength and help.
- Thank God for His forgiveness of your sins. Tell Him what the new life you have found in Christ means to you.
- Ask God to continually change your mind and guide your direction so that your sins will no longer hold you back.

RE—3
RENEW

WHAT DOES GOD NEED TO RENEW IN YOU?

_____ Spiritual Consistency
_____ Spiritual Strength

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Colossians 3:10 NLT

renew: *anakainōō*; (a-na'kie-no-oh)—to make like new, to give new strength, to refresh, to renovate, to rejuvenate

put on: *enduo* (en-doo'-o); to sink into clothing, clothe oneself.

WHAT WILL GOD RENEW IN YOU?

1) GOD WILL RENEW YOUR SPIRIT.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Psalm 57:7

2) GOD WILL RENEW YOUR STRENGTH.

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.⁹ You have six days each week for your ordinary work,¹⁰ but the seventh day is a

Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. Exodus 20:8-10 NLT

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Matthew 11:28 AMP

TALK IT OVER

- What does God need to renew in you? How will you invite God to renew you this week?
- In your relationship with God, how have you lost sight of the source?
- What are some ways you can become better connected to God?

Make the renewal that this message offers last longer than today by making time to talk it over with a friend. Download a study guide for your LifeGroup or watch a short discussion video at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv>.

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- In what ways do you feel exhausted and worn out in your life?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 3:5-11, Psalm 51:10, and Psalm 57:7.

These verses show us that God can renew our spirit.

- What causes you to become exhausted in your spiritual life? How do you typically deal with your spiritual exhaustion?
- In what ways do you need more spiritual consistency in your life?
- Describe a time when you experienced God renewing your spirit. How did that renewal impact you?
- In order to experience renewal, you must be connected to the source. In your relationship with God, how have you lost sight of the source?

Read Isaiah 40:31, Exodus 20:8-10, and Matthew 11:28.

These verses tell us that God can renew our strength when we are tired and weary.

- In what areas of life do you need your strength renewed by God?
- What are some ways you can become better connected to God?
- How have you experienced God renewing your strength during difficult situations?
- Why do you think it is so difficult for most of us to take the time we need to rest so that God can renew us?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you experience God's renewal in all areas of life.

Learn more about God's renewal in our lives by reading the "Experiencing God's Renewal" YouVersion reading plan. During this five-day reading plan, you'll receive a daily Bible reading and a brief devotional that explores the many ways God renews us spiritually, mentally, and physically. You can access the reading plan here: <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/experiencing-gods-renewal>.

Take an inventory of your life this week and seek out where you need to experience God's renewal. If you need God to renew your spirit, then spend more time with Him this week than you usually do in prayer and in reading His word. Strive to strengthen your connection to Him. If you need your strength renewed, then take time to rest. Find a way to rest that best fits your need for His strength. Take time to spend with God as you rest.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Tell God how you need Him to renew your spirit. Ask for His renewal.
- Confess to God where you feel least connected to Him. Commit to God that you will strive to deepen your connection with Him.
- Tell God where you need Him to renew your strength. Ask for Him to give you strength and comfort in whatever trial you are facing.
- Thank God for the many times He has renewed your spirit and strength. Praise Him for all He has done.
- Commit to God that you will take the time you need to rest so that He can renew your spirit and strength.

RE—4
REMAIN

ARE YOU SOMETIMES OR OFTEN

_____ UNLOVING
_____ DEPRESSED
_____ WORRIED
_____ IMPATIENT
_____ RUDE
_____ SINFUL
_____ HARSH
_____ UNFAITHFUL
_____ SELF-INDULGENT

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

“REMAINING” CONNECTED TO CHRIST

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

remain—*menee* (men'-ay); to stay, to abide, to dwell, to remain.

PROMISES FOR THOSE WHO “REMAIN” IN CHRIST

• **YOU WILL BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT.**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

• **YOU WILL POSSESS SPIRITUAL POWER.**

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. John 15:7

DIFFERENT WAYS TO “REMAIN” IN CHRIST

- 1) **REMAIN IN GOD’S WORD.**
- 2) **REMAIN IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.**
- 3) **REMAIN CONSISTENT IN PRAYER.**
- 4) **REMAIN AMAZED BY GOD’S CREATION.**
- 5) **REMAIN FAITHFUL IN SERVICE.**

WARNING IF YOU DON’T “REMAIN” IN CHRIST

If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. John 15:6

TALK IT OVER

- In what area of life do you feel most disconnected from Christ? What has caused you to become disconnected?
- Where do you need to experience more of God’s power in your life?
- Which of the five different ways to remain in Christ do you need to focus on? How can you start today?

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- What are some negative qualities you possess that you sometimes or often display? How have these negative traits affected your relationship with God and others?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Galatians 5:13-26.
Paul contrasts the acts of the flesh and fruits of the Spirit.

- What type of fruit are you currently producing? Is your fruit the kind that honors God?
- What type of fruit do you think you should be growing in your life but are not? What steps can you take to begin to see this fruit in your life?
- What does walking by the Spirit mean to you? What does that look like in your day-to-day relationship with Him?

Read John 15:1-17.

Jesus tells His disciples the parable of the vine and the branches in this passage.

- What are some of the consequences you have experienced as a result of not staying connected to the vine?
- In what area of life do you feel most disconnected from the vine? What has caused you to become disconnected?
- Where do you need more of God's power in your life?
- How different do you think your life would be if you developed a deeper connection with God?
- Which of the five different ways to remain in Christ do you need to focus on?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you remain connected to Christ.

Learn more about how to apply the parable of the vine and the branches to your life by reading *Secrets of the Vine* by Bruce Wilkinson. In this short book, Wilkinson explores John 15 by giving us a better understanding of how God works in our lives to bear fruit and how we can develop a closer relationship with Him because of the connection we have with Christ. This book is available at most Christian bookstores and online book retailers. Small group study guides are also available.

In his message, Pastor Craig gave us five different ways to remain in Christ. If you feel disconnected to Christ currently, then focus this week on improving in the areas where you need the most work. The five ways to remain in Christ are remaining in God's Word, remaining in Christian fellowship, remaining consistent in prayer, remaining amazed by God's creation, and remaining faithful in service.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Ask God what fruit He wants to produce in you. Commit to Him that you will prepare yourself to produce that fruit.
- Confess to God where in life you feel most disconnected from Him. Ask Him to help you develop a deeper connection.
- Thank God for the fruit He has already produced in your life. Ask Him to continue producing fruit through you.
- Commit to God that you will strive to remain in Him in all areas of life.
- Ask God for more of His power in your life. Share with Him where you need more of His power.