



grow. pray. study.

May 24, 2020 “In Remembrance”

Scripture: Psalm 9:18 (NIV), Deuteronomy 5:15 (CEB) and 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (NRSV)

Questions in this GPS marked with an arrow bullet point are particularly recommended for group discussion. Group leaders may add other discussion questions, or substitute other questions for the marked ones, at their discretion.

A day of remembering—in every generation

MONDAY 5.25.20 Exodus 12:1-14

This was (and, to a great extent, still is) Israel’s defining story. Moses told Pharaoh that if he stubbornly refused to free God’s people a deadly plague would kill every firstborn child in Egypt. But the story’s focus was on God’s provision to “pass over” Hebrew children (the origin of the word Passover). Using a hyssop branch to put the blood of a sacrificed lamb on their doorposts delivered them from death into life. Saved by God’s power, they marched out of Egypt as free people.

- Three symbols were at the core of the Passover memorial. They sacrificed a lamb “without blemish,” its blood protected the Israelites from death, and eating the lamb was a way to set them apart as God’s people. How can the meanings of the Passover symbols of lamb, blood and eating add deeper meaning for you in your life as a Christian, including (but not limited to) the Lord’s Supper?
- It seems like a trivial detail—“eat it along with unleavened bread.” That preserved the memory of a departure so rushed that there wasn’t time to let the bread dough rise, of a moment when God’s people had to respond NOW, not later. Have you ever faced a situation in which delay was practically the same as refusing to move at all? How can you live ready to respond to God, even if it leads to unexpected changes in your life?

Prayer: Lord God, you asked your people to remember how you set them free, protecting them by the blood of the sacrificed lamb. Help me, as their spiritual descendant, to hold that remembrance precious, too. Amen.

Sabbath: remembering creation and liberation

TUESDAY 5.26.20 Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Most mainline scholars believe Exodus and Deuteronomy compiled traditions and stories from earlier in Israel’s history, and put them in the form in which we have them today in the 6th or 5th century before Christ. * The setting for Exodus was Mount Sinai after Israel’s deliverance from slavery, while Deuteronomy’s was about 40 years later just before entering the Promised Land. That helps explain why the two versions of the 10 Commandments gave different reasons for remembering the Sabbath.

- Exodus 20 said to rest on Sabbath because “the LORD made the heavens and the earth...but rested on the seventh day.” “The Sabbath’s purpose was to give the Israelites time to reflect, not on their works, but on God’s works. They were to find refreshment in knowing that their physical needs were supplied not by their toil, but by the God who had created the universe and had given them life.” ** In what ways does remembering God’s creative work move you to thankful worship?

- In Deuteronomy 5, the reason for Sabbath was “you were a slave in Egypt, but the LORD your God brought you out of there.” The creator God also acted to rescue God’s people from slavery, from human violence and cruelty. “The principle of the Fourth Commandment on the need for time to reflect upon God’s glorious work never changes. Yet it is interpreted differently from one generation to another.” ** What glorious, freeing acts of God have mattered most to you?

Prayer: Creating, freedom-giving God, thank you for the gift of life and for the gift of freedom from the slavery and guilt of sin you give me. Help me never to forget your mighty works done for me. Amen.

* See the introductions to Exodus and Deuteronomy in *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, pp. 81OT and 259OT.

** Both comments by John Maxwell, *The Preacher’s Commentary Series, Volume 5: Deuteronomy*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987, pp. 103-104.

Remembering God’s deeds when in trouble

WEDNESDAY 5.27.20 Psalm 71:10-11, 14-16

Psalm 71, as verses 10-11 clearly showed, grew out of a frightening situation. But remembering God in that situation gave a clearer outlook. “In Psalm 71, the expressions “all day long” and “forever” and “always” recur....The psalm looks back to the way God has been the object of hope and trust....Since youth God has been the object of the praise to which the psalm refers; God has been the psalmist’s teacher; and God’s faithfulness has been a sign to other people that they can take the risk of trusting in God.” * (If you have time, [click here](#) to read all 24 verses of Psalm 71.)

- Sometimes trouble and fear make us forgetful. But in those times, we especially need to remember God’s role in our whole life. “The psalm talks in terms of ‘always’ (no psalm makes more use of this word). In the past, ‘my praise has always been of you.’ In the present, I need you to be ‘a shelter to which I can always come.’ In the future, ‘I will hope always.’” ** How can you more deeply ground yourself in God always being with you?
- “Three times, too, the psalm speaks of what is true ‘all day long.’ Looking to the past, ‘my mouth is full of your praise, of your glory all day long.’ In the future in light of the way God will continue to protect and rescue, ‘my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness, your deliverance all day long’ and ‘my tongue will talk of your faithfulness all day long’ (no Old Testament passage talks more about God’s faithfulness).” ** Pastor Hamilton advises using our five fingers to remember to pray at least five times a day. *** How do you go about remembering to connect with God all day long?

Prayer: Lord God, you are always there for me, every day, all day long. But if I forget you, that doesn’t help me much, so keep training me to do a better job of remembering. Amen.

* John Goldingay, *Psalms for Everyone, Part 1: Psalms 1–72*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014, p. 221.

** Ibid., p. 222.

*** Hamilton, Adam. *The Walk*. Abingdon Press, 2019. Kindle Edition.

What God is gracious enough to forget

THURSDAY 5.28.20 Jeremiah 31:31-34

This week our focus is on the importance of remembering. But one vital gift God gives us revolves around God’s pledge to forget! “The effects of sin to spoil relationships are completely done away with in the incredible claim that God will no longer remember them (and their destructive influence).... What is “new” about the new covenant is not the covenant partner but the quality of the community created by God’s amazing acts,” especially the act of never again remembering our sins. *

- Jeremiah linked the promise that God would “engrave” God’s instructions on our hearts (an echo of God engraving the 10 Commandments on stone tablets—cf. [Exodus 31:18](#)) with God mercifully forgiving and

“never again remembering” our sins. Why would God’s mercy change the way a person lives? How has your gratitude for God’s forgiving mercy in Jesus moved you toward living as God wants you to live?

- God’s new covenant is a gift, but not one we just passively accept. “The metaphor of writing on the heart suggests a context of revelation: God’s law will be revealed by Israel as they live out its principles.” ** Jesus taught us to pray “Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us” (Matthew 6:12). How do God’s instructions, God’s principles engraved on your heart, show themselves in your day-to-day living?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to remember and live into the gracious way that you so thoroughly set aside my sins that I am free to leave them behind me. Thank you for sometimes choosing to forget. Amen.

* J. Andrew Dearman, *Jeremiah in The NIV Application Commentary*, p. 291. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002, p. 288.

** Zondervan, NIV, *Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*, eBook (Kindle Locations 174937-174938). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

A legacy of service from remembering Jesus' words

FRIDAY 5.29.20 Acts 20:17, 32-37

The apostle Paul was traveling to Jerusalem. He and his companions carried an offering from Greek Gentile Christians to help their hurting Jewish companions in the faith. But Paul also knew that in Jerusalem he’d likely be arrested and imprisoned. Saying farewell to the elders in Ephesus, he carefully recounted how he had done the work God called him to do and sketched the tasks he trusted them to carry on when he was gone.

- Today’s passage included the only direct quote from Jesus that is not in the four gospels (verse 35). The apostle introduced it by talking about the value of remembering the Lord Jesus’ words. What habits (the daily GPS may be one, since you are reading this!) have you formed that help you to remember Jesus’ words? What value do you see in remembering at least some important words without having to look them up?
- As he left this group of church leaders, Paul said, “I entrust you to God and the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all whom God has made holy” (verse 32). As he walked into an uncertain future, Paul saw those devoted Christian leaders as a key part of his legacy in the world. Who are some people you have been able to influence for good and would count as one part of the legacy you rejoice in giving the world?

Prayer: King Jesus, you have given so much for me and to me. Keep shaping me into a person who does not simply take from you, but who seeks actively and creatively to share you with others. Amen.

Our central act of remembrance

SATURDAY 5.30.20 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

We began this week reading about the origin of the Passover remembrance. In today’s reading, Paul told the Christians in Corinth how Jesus expanded the meaning of Passover into the act of remembering we know as the Lord’s Supper. (Since Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians before any of the four gospels, this is the earliest record we have of what Christians believed Jesus said and did on the night before the cross.) Jesus asked his disciples to remember, and to “broadcast,” his death. Jesus chose to memorialize this most painful part of His story. He wanted us to remember not only the resurrection, but also the sacrifice before the resurrection.

- Jesus told his disciples, “Every time you drink it, do this to remember me.” The apostle added, “Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes.” Jesus’ enemies meant the cross as a disgrace, a cause for shame, but Christ’s followers honored the memory! How does it shape you spiritually to remember Jesus giving himself for you? Sometimes at a

communion service, we hear Jesus' words, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" without sensing their import. He was pointing back to [Jeremiah's promise](#) we read on Thursday. He was saying, as scholar William Barclay translated it, "This cup is the new covenant and it cost my blood." * How can you deepen your grateful worship of Jesus by remembering and honoring the price he paid to create a new covenant of grace and forgiveness with you?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, my Passover lamb, thank you for offering yourself to save me. Walk with me each day, helping me to live as a truly redeemed subject of your kingdom. Amen.

* William Barclay, *Daily Study Bible Series: The Letters to the Corinthians* (Revised Edition). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1975, p. 103.

Prayer Requests – cor.org/prayer *Prayers of peace and comfort for:*

Kyle Caudill and family following the death of John Caudill (brother), 4/28/2020

Lynsey Atkinson and family following the death of Jere Justice (father), 5/6/2020

David Bleakley and family following the death of Charles E. Bleakley (father), 5/11/2020

Beth Trimmer and family following the death of Diane Booth (mother), 5/11/2020

Sandy Campbell and family following the death of Shirley Irwin (mother), 5/15/2020

Teresa Crocker and family following the death of Hilda Crocker (mother), 5/15/2020

Patricia Harland and family following the death of Eugene Harland (brother-in-Law), 5/15/2020

Randy Meyer and family following the death of Duane Meyers (father), 5/15/2020

Suzy Trowbridge and family following the death of Ray Trowbridge (husband), 5/15/2020

Joan Clary and family following the death of Jean Thuma (mother), 5/17/2020

Kathy Austin-Guilliatt and family following the death of James "Jim" Guilliatt (husband), 5/17/2020

Matt Burgess and family following the death of Betty Jo Burgess (grandmother), 5/17/2020

Peggy Harmon and family following the death of Marie Webb (mother), 5/18/2020