



## Discussion Guide The Art of Remembering LEADER GUIDE

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*Hey leaders! Before we begin our new sermon series next week (see description below), we will look at "The Art of Remembering". This sermon explores the call to remember God's works and promises.*

*In "Stories Worth Sharing", we'll help our church see the character of Jesus, see ourselves in these stories, and see that we all have impactful stories to share. Just like we'll hear the Gospel in these stories, people can hear the Gospel through our stories!*

*Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!*

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

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**"A saint is not someone who is good, but someone who experiences the goodness of God."**  
[Brennan Manning]

**LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
  - God instructs His people and guides them with His Word. The failure of God's people to remember God's character and His works will always be disastrous. Though they failed him, He remained faithful. While the people fell short, God never failed His promises, and even in the midst of trials, He remained the good shepherd.
- **Psalm Ch. 78 Commentary & Telling Secrets to Your Children**
  - Use the commentary and short video for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share with your group before you gather.
- Psalm 78 Worship Song → **YouTube & Spotify**
  - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

**ICEBREAKER || Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to build joy and gratitude together.*

Describe a wondrous memory that you remember from your childhood (or later on in life).

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note** *Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all you have done;  
I reflect on the work of your hands. I spread out my hands to you;  
I am like parched land before you."*

[Psalm 143:5-6]

**BIG IDEA || Leader Note** Read this aloud so your group knows what the theme of today's discussion is.

Life's challenges may cause us to stumble, but we must always remember that God's faithfulness gives us hope and His character remains steadfast.

**PASSAGE || Leader Note** Have someone read the passage aloud slowly. Consider having another person read it aloud again (possibly in a different translation) or use **Dwell** to listen to the passage read aloud.

- Psalm 78:1-16, 38-39

**DISCUSSION || Leader Note** Your role is to FACILITATE the conversation, so keep your group moving and encourage multiple people to share, looking for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two REMINDERS: 1) Every question does NOT have to be answered ... there is freedom to go where the Spirit leads! 2) The answers do NOT have to be read aloud ... they are simply there for guidance!

1. In the sermon we heard, *"What we remember (intentionally and repeatedly) will begin to shape us."* How have you been shaped by something you have remembered over the years? (in good OR bad ways) *This is a good opportunity for you to go first!*
2. Why does the psalmist begin by calling the people to listen to the teaching? *The psalmist is emphasizing the importance of paying attention to God's words and teachings. It sets the tone for the urgency and significance of what is about to be shared, highlighting the necessity of passing down this wisdom.*
3. What responsibility is placed on the current generation according to verses 3-4? *The current generation is responsible for passing on the stories of God's deeds and commandments to their children. This duty ensures that each generation remembers and remains faithful to God's covenant, thereby perpetuating a legacy of faith and obedience.*
4. When you "look back and remember", who do you recall articulating the faithfulness of God to you? What impact did that have on you? *This is a good opportunity for you to go first!*
5. How can we practically "tell the next generation" about the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord? *We can share God's deeds through storytelling, Bible studies, worship, and living out our faith in daily life. Engaging in family devotions, teaching children about biblical stories, and witnessing to others about personal experiences of God's faithfulness are practical ways to fulfill this command.*
6. How do (or can) you point those you have influence with towards Jesus?
7. What impact does knowing God's works and laws have on your hope and trust in God? *Answers will vary, but may include: knowing God's works and laws strengthens our hope and trust in God by providing a firm foundation of His faithfulness and righteousness; reassures us of God's enduring presence and guidance; encourages us to rely on Him in all circumstances.*
8. In the sermon we heard, *"Israel remembered their past, but they did not remember God "in" their past."* In what ways have you been tempted to minimize God's faithfulness towards you? What kinds of things have (i.e. practices, rhythms, relationships) helped you remember His faithfulness?
9. In what ways can the negative example of the ancestors serve as a warning for us today? *The negative example serves as a warning against disobedience, rebellion, and unfaithfulness. It reminds today's believers of the consequences of turning away from God and the importance of maintaining a faithful and obedient relationship with Him.*

10. In what ways can the truths in this passage inspire personal spiritual growth and communal faithfulness? *Answers will vary, but may include: encouraging reflection on God's faithfulness and a commitment to obedience; promoting communal faithfulness by highlighting the importance of teaching and mentoring; fostering a sense of responsibility for nurturing faith in others; and maintaining a vibrant, God-centered community.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

When we forget what God's done, we'll find ourselves asking: "What have you done for me lately?" Our failure to remember His character and works will always be disastrous! Based on the Holy Spirit's prompting today, **what is a step of obedience that you can take?** Here are a few questions to consider as we intentionally and repeatedly remember God's faithfulness, character, and goodness:

- How can I *practice gratitude* daily and encourage others to be grateful?
- Who can I *thank for sharing* about God's faithfulness with me?
- Who can I *share my own stories* of God's faithfulness with?
- How can I be more intentional about *sharing my "God story"* with others? **HERE** is a tool to help you share your story! ([rockbridge.cc/sharing-your-story](http://rockbridge.cc/sharing-your-story))

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.*

**PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray for the focus below. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!*

### Remembering God's Faithfulness

- Pray that as a church we remember, faithfully, what the Lord has done in us, for us, and through us in our world, and speak that truth to others.
- Be thankful and aware that the Lord desires to build a monument to his faithfulness in our lives, that others might see His faithfulness and be drawn to Him!

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE \*Optional\*** *We include a monthly spiritual practice that can be shared with your group after you gather. Our hope is for this to enhance what we're learning and discussing together, so share about your experience with the practice at the beginning of your gatherings or throughout the week!*

Writing a psalm of remembrance can help you grow in your trust and love for God by giving you a way to fix your attention on who He has shown Himself to be in your life. By purposefully writing a brief, powerful summary of His faithfulness, you will follow in the footsteps of His people who have written songs and poems to celebrate specific ways God showed His power on their behalf.

- **[Writing a Psalm of Remembrance](http://rockbridge.cc/writing-a-psalm-of-remembrance)** or [rockbridge.cc/writing-a-psalm-of-remembrance](http://rockbridge.cc/writing-a-psalm-of-remembrance)