



GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is your fondest memory in life and what makes it so memorable?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will devote myself to learning with a repentant spirit.
- I will evaluate whether I receive teaching as a student or a consumer.
- I will learn in a spirit of humble responsiveness.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Who you are depends on your ability to remember. For three years, Jesus and his friends, the disciples, were inseparable. They abandoned their jobs, their homes, and their families in order to follow him. He turned their world upside down and now they've about to watch him die. In establishing the practice of communion, Jesus said to them, "Eat this bread to help you remember me. Drink this cup to help you remember me." He is concerned about spiritual forgetfulness.

Why do you think God tells us to remember so often? We have two memory problems. The first is that we forget what we should remember. According to the writers of Scripture, what is especially astounding about us is our capacity to forget God- the capacity of human beings to forget the God who made and loves them.

The second memory problem is that we remember what we should forget. The real problem of human beings is we remember what we cannot forget. Our sin is so irrelevant to God's attitude to us that it's as if he's forgotten it. It's as if God has taken on voluntary amnesia for us. Jesus said that God's heart, desire and intention toward you is that you not be tortured by guilt anymore. God's forgiveness for you is utter, complete and sufficient. We don't fully understand and will not fully understand until we make it to heaven, but in communion, Christ's body is being remembered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is it about human nature that makes it so easy to forget the God who made and loves us? Describe a time in your life where you had forgotten God.

2. Share with the group a memory you have of something God has done for you and why it's so significant for you.

3. Read Psalm 103:12. If this is true, why is it sometimes so hard to forget past choices or actions? How can the truth of this verse be embraced and applied to forgetting our past? Is that even possible?

4. Read the passages below and discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood"? How does the new differ from the old?
 - a. Exodus 24:3-8
 - b. Deuteronomy 30:15-18
 - c. Heb 8:3-12
 - d. Heb 9:18-26

5. Read John 6:53-58 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. How would you describe the meaning of the bread and the cup to someone unfamiliar with communion?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will work to forget the shame and guilt from my past.
- I will remember the cross and the freedom found there.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 11:23
- Deuteronomy 32:18
- Psalm 103:12