

A WEEK OF REMEMBERING

Monday 5.30.2016 Read Luke 22:14-20. The most intimate moment Jesus shared with his disciples was around the table. The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is an outward reminder of the unseen grace present because of God's gift and as present in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *Why did Jesus tell his disciples to "remember?" Why that word? What things about God should we remember when eating at the dinner table? What should we remember when we take Communion?*

Tuesday 5.31.2016 Read Exodus 20:1-21. In the 10 Commandments, God gives a set of rules. When it comes to the Sabbath, God says to "remember." Otherwise God says, you will do this or you will not do that, but the Sabbath is a call to remember. Why not just say, "Keep the Sabbath?" Perhaps this is about the balance of following rules and needing space to keep them in perspective? If we work so hard at being good, at some point we will need rest, for our physical exertion and for our emotional and spiritual focus. *What ways do you forget to keep Sabbath or to rest? How can you "remember" to take care of yourself so that you are stronger to take care of others?*

Wednesday 6.1.2016 Read Isaiah 43:25-28. In the Eucharist, Christ calls us to remember Him. In Isaiah, God tells us that we are remembered by God but not by our sins. Our mistakes do not define us and God deletes them forever. Two monks were traveling and came across a pretty woman. Their vows prohibited them from being in her proximity but the older monk asked if he could help. She shared that she could not cross the stream to the other side so the monk picked her up and carried her across. An hour after they had parted ways with the woman, the younger monk said, "I cannot believe you touched that woman!" The older monk replied, "I set the woman down an hour ago. Why do you still carry her?" *What things are you holding onto that would be best to let go or set down? What might life be like if we didn't punish ourselves for mistakes but truly accepted God's grace and forgiveness?*

Thursday 6.2.2016 Read Joshua 4:1-24. The stones came from the Jordan river as a reminder of God's faithfulness along the way of deliverance. The 12 stones were rich with symbolism and story. *What symbols and stories of faith do you preserve to hand down? Are there specific family stories you pass down each generation? What might you "remember" to pass down to a younger generation?*

Friday 6.3.2016 Read 1 Samuel 7:3-15. The Israelites became terrified of the Philistines. They had forgotten about God and God's promise of guidance and protection. Samuel gathers them together and sacrifices a lamb, an offering meant to get the people to focus on God. God shows up and the Philistines are defeated. The stone raised by Samuel is called "Ebenezer," which means, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." The stone stood as a reminder for the next time the people were afraid. *The Ebenezer was a means to refocus the people when they were afraid. What is your Ebenezer?*

Saturday 6.4.2016 Read Ephesians 2:11-12. This is a wonderful passage as it is Paul's call to remember. Remember the way you were before God brought you through grace so that you might rejoice in the cross. You'll work to make your life and the life of others better if you remember where you came from. Saved by grace through faith into a life that bears the testimony of the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Leland McCarty Sr. (Lee's Dad), Mary Schmidt, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensch, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark