

Deuteronomy 8
November 24, 2024

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker: What is the perfect sandwich? Be as specific or as general as you'd like.

What is something that you feel like you are constantly forgetting?

Read Deuteronomy 8

1. The Path to Forgetting

V2 — *And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.*

Question: What are some of the specific warnings that God gives throughout the chapter?

Discussion: The passage talks about two things that are forgotten — we forget who has given us everything and who has saved us.

Question: What is it about being provided for and having a surplus that is actually pretty spiritually dangerous?

Discussion: Consider Psalm 127:1

"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

What is the specific way that Solomon refers to this idea of forgetting God?

Discussion: Remembering God is an active practice. Forgetting God can be also in the sense that we choose to willfully neglect Him. Consider some of the ways that this might be a temptation:

- In-depth Bible reading plans and prayer journals sound great, but I have to get stuff done, respond to another crisis, and survive the week.
- Sometimes, I'd rather just be mad than to remember God. Remembering Him would probably make me feel guilty and then I'd feel like I'd need to change my attitude.
- I get so wrapped up in my work that I live like God's blessing on my work isn't necessary
- Sometimes I have moments where I remember God, but I'm sure that I don't have the right words to say, so I just don't say anything at all.
- Other

2. The Path to Remembering

Answer I: Remember Your Past

"lest you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery," (v14)

Question: What was the experience of Israel in slavery like? What about their experience in the wilderness?

A recurring line in the book of Deuteronomy is this — "*You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.*" (Deut. 5:15)

Discussion: Why is this so fundamental for God's people to remember and not lose sight of this fact?

Answer II: Remember Who He is to You

Another recurring phrase in the book of Deuteronomy is the phrase "the Lord *your* God."

Consider this in light of v5 — "*Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.*"

Discussion: What is the first thing that usually pops into your mind when someone talks about "discipline?"

Discussion: How is the discipline of the Lord different? What does it actually confirm about how He relates to us (think of Heb. 12:6-7)?

Answer 3: Remember that He is Not Holding Out on You

Question: Give a rough estimate in vv7-10 of all the things that God is giving to His people. Consider and discuss the significance of some of those things.

Question: What is the confirmation that we have as children of God that He is not holding out on us?

Discussion: One of the ways that this gets into our spiritual bloodstream is by cultivating contentment. How does "remembering God" help to produce lives of contentment?