



Don't Forget To Remember | Jill Johnson| 10.28.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

You get 5 seconds to go forward or backward in time and tell yourself anything you want. Are you going forward or backward? How far? And what would you say?

What's on your mind this week?

What does your relationship with God look like this week? How are you feeling about where you're at?

GROW

During week eight of our Alive & Free series, we had the privilege to hear Pastor Jill Johnson's message titled, *Don't Forget To Remember*. As we go through seasons of hills and valleys, the strength in which we hear God's voice and frequency in which we see his movements and miracles changes. Sometimes great lengths of time pass where we seem to hear and see nothing in seasons when we need God's voice and presence the most. Jill reminded us that these are the seasons when it's most important to *remember*. Remember God's faithfulness to the Israelites time and time again. Remember that Jesus is who he said he was and did what he said he was going to do. Remember your prayers from long ago that have since been answered. And remember that his love never fails.

As we look at what's in front of us, we each see something different. Some of us see new and exciting seasons, some see answered prayers, some see barriers and obstacles, and some may not be able to see anything because current circumstances are so unclear. Regardless of what's in front of you, Jill encourages us to remember to look back at what God has brought us through and how he has been faithful. She shares these three points:

1. Remember to *share God Stories*
2. Remember that *God Keeps His Promises*
3. Remember the *God Moments & Miracles*



By remembering these three things, we can create a reinforcement loop that gets stronger and stronger as we remember. When we look and learn from the stories in scripture - stories of God shared with us - we build our faith by getting to know the heart and character of God more. As we build our faith, we begin to trust that God keeps his promises yesterday, today, and forever. This builds our hope in things to come. Then we experience the moments & miracles of God firsthand in our lives; things we've been waiting and praying over for some time. These things become part of our own personal testimony which become part of the larger story of God that continues to be shared in our homes, throughout our neighborhoods, and across the world for generations to come. This cycle continues on and on as long as we *remember*.

Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-24

Here we can see the three things Jill spoke of coming to life in scripture. The stories of God are shared (v.12), then his promises are remembered (v.15), and finally, the moments and miracles are remembered through bold proclamation (v.24).

What stuck out to you while reading this passage? Make a few observations.

What do you find difficult or challenging about this passage or the concept of finding hope in remembering?

Where are you feeling “stuck” in your life or in your faith right now? Explain.

Now take a moment to “remember” all the times God was faithful to you in other seasons you felt stuck. What do you see? What patterns emerge?

MOVE

One of Jill's greatest strengths as a pastor is her ability to communicate deeply profound expressions of God's love that stir up the heart of each listener through her simple statements. Rather than bog you down with a large lesson here, we thought we'd give Jill's statement space to speak to you: "On the darkest nights of your soul, great is God's faithfulness." Read that again a couple times and take a few moments to let that sink in.

Read Psalm 107:1-16 TPT

What spoke to you most in this passage? Was something convicting? Revealing? Did something bring you peace or hope?

Take a moment to "remember." How has the Lord showed up in your life better than you ever could have asked for or imagined?

What prison doors or chains are you waiting for the Lord to smash wide open and set you free from?

PRAY

This week, Ask God to help you be more aware of his presence as you navigate your week. When you're feeling stuck and don't see a way forward, take a moment to look back at God's faithfulness. As we pray for breakthrough in our current circumstance, and trust in the good plans to come, may our hope grow stronger as we're reminded of God's faithfulness in our life every step of the way.

ACTIVITY

1. Sometimes it can be hard to remember who we are and how we're loved by God on our own. As you go about your week, if someone pops into your head, give them a call or shoot them a text of encouragement or affirmation. Let them know what they mean to you, how they're loved by God, or what you see in them.
2. Practice gratitude this week. Set 1-3 minutes aside each day and write down a couple of things you're grateful for. Share your findings with your group next week.
3. Get away with God and "remember" this week. Matthew 6:34 says not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. This week, if you find yourself "worrying about tomorrow," set some time aside to sit and remember how God has been faithful in your life. Write down some specific examples, and then pray for God to show up and do what only he can do, having trust and faith that your current situation will be a moment in the future in which you can look back on and proclaim God's faithfulness.