



BECAUSE PEOPLE MATTER

REACH+EQUIP+GO

“REMEMBER THIS”

For use the week of November 20, 2011

Read to the group (5 minutes)

Memory. There are some people in our lives who have such vivid memories, we never can escape certain things we said or did. Every time you're with those persons, they remember and remind, sometimes to our great regret. Then, there are those people who never have *enough* memory. They leave you feeling like you're sole mission in life is to be their companion calendar. Aren't there times you simply want to shout, "Would you just write it down?" But then, they'd have to remember where that important item had been written in the first place!

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER (10-20 minutes)

Answer and discuss one of these questions:

1. Try to find your earliest memory that you know you have remembered directly from the experience. (Often, our earliest memories are created by what we've heard people tell us happened.) Briefly, what is that memory and why do you think it has stayed with you?
2. What factors do you think help or hinder peoples' memories?

STUDYING THE SCRIPTURE (20-30 minutes)

Was Jesus ever discouraged with His disciples? Our story this week might be one of those times. He gives His disciples a key teaching thought: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees," and they figure He's disappointed that they didn't bring enough food along... "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

⁵ *When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread.* ⁶ *"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."* ⁷ *They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."* ⁸ *Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"* ⁹ *Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?* ¹⁰ *Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?* ¹¹ *How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."* ¹² *Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matthew 16:5-12)*

- Where did this incident take place? (verse 5, 15:29)
- Who is present? (verses 5-6)
- What misunderstanding does Jesus confront? (verses 11-12)
- What two events does Jesus ask them to remember? (verses 9-10)
- What is the specific fact Jesus wants them to remember in both events?
- Read the 2 miracle stories Jesus reminds them of (Matthew 14:13-21; Matthew 15:29-39). What did he want his disciples and the crowds to experience and remember each time? Imagine you were present. What might be your most vivid memories?
- The disciples had forgotten, and all too quickly. Why do people forget important events and/or their lessons?
- When have your actions, attitudes or priorities suggested that you have forgotten spiritual truth?

GROWING TOGETHER (10-15 minutes)

- “Because people matter, build a memory.” What memories are you building in other people’s lives?
- Our Sunday message asked us to remember four spiritual truths:
 - You are rich in grace (2 Corinthians 8:9)
 - You are rich in excellence (2 Corinthians 8:7)
 - You are rich in joy (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - You are rich in Life (1 Timothy 6:18-19)
- Rank these four spiritual truths (1, 2, 3, 4; 1 being highest - 4 being lowest) for how well these truths are present and growing in your life.
- What is one thing you can do this coming week to express your #1 and #2?
- What is one thing you can do this coming week to improve your #3 and #4?

Pray together for God to help you “Remember This” - His truth and His presence in your lives.