God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Remember What Jesus Has Done

Speaker: Jill Smith

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Mark 8:1-9**

  Jesus sees the hunger of a crowd that has stayed with him for three days. He gives thanks, has the disciples distribute seven loaves and a few fish, and feeds the people until they are satisfied. Jill invites us to notice his compassion as well as his power. This particular miracle reveals who Jesus is; it is not a formula promising that every shortage, illness, or financial concern will end in the way we request.

- **Mark 8:17-18 (NASB 2020, excerpt)**

  "Do you not yet comprehend or understand? Do you still have your heart hardened?"

  The disciples have seen Jesus provide, yet their concern about bread keeps them from understanding his warning and recognizing who is with them. Jesus calls them to use their eyes and ears and to remember. Jill's challenge is to let remembered mercy shape present trust. We can bring real needs and honest questions to Jesus while leaving the timing and form of his answer in his hands.

Discussion Questions

- Recall one specific occasion when Jesus cared for you. What were you afraid of, what actually happened, and what did you learn about him?
- The disciples witnessed the feeding but still struggled to understand. What can keep an experience of God's care from shaping the way we face the next difficulty?
- How is remembering a past answer different from expecting God to repeat the same outcome? How might that distinction help someone who is still waiting?
- When a need feels overwhelming, what assumptions about Jesus begin to influence your thoughts? How could his compassion and power in this passage help you examine those assumptions?
- Jill asks whether we bring Jesus into our daily challenges. What would trusting him look like in one ordinary concern this week, including the practical help you may need?

Reflection Challenge

For the next three days, keep a short record of remembered mercy. Begin with the situation Jill asked you to recall. Let that memory lead you to gratitude and prayer about one present concern, without turning it into a prediction about how everything must work out.

Ask yourself:

- What do I remember clearly about God's care, and what am I assuming about the future?
- Am I paying more attention to the size of my resources than to the character of Jesus?
- What unanswered question or continuing pain do I need to bring honestly to him?
- Who could help me remember what is true when fear makes it hard to see beyond the problem?

Try this:

- Write down what you prayed for, what happened, and how you experienced care. Include ordinary help, strength, or an unexpected answer rather than looking only for dramatic events.
- Read Mark 8:1-9 and 17-18 slowly. Notice Jesus' compassion and the questions he asks the disciples.
- Keep one brief reminder where you will see it. When worry returns, pause, thank Jesus for his past care, and tell him what you need today.
- Share one remembered mercy with someone you trust. Ask for prayer and any practical support needed for your present situation.

Remember

- Remembering God's care can turn yesterday's gratitude into today's trust.
- Jesus sees people and their needs; his compassion matters as much as the size of the miracle.
- Past answers reveal reasons to trust him, not a method for controlling the next answer.
- Fear and unanswered questions can be brought to Jesus honestly.
- Faithful remembrance leaves room for waiting, wise action, and help from others.
- Keep the focus on who Jesus is, not only on what you hope he will provide.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the ways you have cared for me, including help I did not recognize at the time. Open my eyes to your mercy and keep me from forgetting it when a new need feels larger than my resources.

Help me understand who Jesus is and trust his compassion. I bring you my worries, my unanswered questions, and the people and situations I cannot control. Give me gratitude for what you have done, patience where I am waiting, and wisdom for the step I can take today.

Teach me to remember without demanding that the past repeat itself. Let your faithfulness shape my response to this day.

In Jesus' name, Amen.