

Main Idea

Remembering what God has done in the past strengthens our peace in the present and unlocks our potential for the future.

1. Why Remembering Matters

- Thanksgiving invites us to pause and remember “the glorious gifts of God,” as President John F. Kennedy wrote in 1963.
- Gratitude isn’t just a feeling—it’s a spiritual discipline that shapes how we see today and how we step into tomorrow.
- Throughout Scripture, forgetting God’s work leads to fear, disobedience, and lost potential.
- What are one or two “glorious gifts of God” you are most thankful for this year?
- Where have you seen God’s faithfulness in your past that you need to remember right now?

2. A Lesson From Ephraim (Psalm 78)

Psalm 78:9–10: The warriors of Ephraim turned and fled in battle; they abandoned God’s covenant.
Why?

Psalm 78:11–12: *“They forgot what He had done—the great wonders He had shown them.”*

- Ephraim had strength, resources, and history—but forgetfulness caused defeat.
- Ultimately, the tribe was conquered by Assyria in 722 BC.
- Asaph responds by recounting the miracles:
 - The Red Sea parting
 - God’s presence in cloud and fire
 - His deliverance and provision

Principle: *When we forget God’s past faithfulness, we forfeit present peace and future potential.*

- In what ways are you similar to Ephraim—armed, capable, but tempted to forget?

3. Remembering Our Faith Story

We stand in a long line of men and women who saw God move in power. Their story strengthens ours.

- **Garden of Eden:** God’s design and intention for relationship.
- **Abraham:** God calls imperfect, unlikely people—and still fulfills His promises.
- **Joseph:** Even betrayal and injustice can be turned for good (Gen 50:20).
- **Moses & the Red Sea:** God breaks chains we cannot break on our own.
- **The Wilderness:** Complaining kills potential; trust creates movement.

- **Joshua & the Promised Land:** God invites us to step into the “more” He has prepared.
- **Three Kings & the Split Kingdom:** Even after great victories, pride can undo us.

Lesson: You are part of the same story.

- Which part of the biblical story (Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, etc.) most connects with your current season of life? Why?

4. How Remembering Shapes Us Today

- Scripture gives us the **most comprehensive, consistent, compatible, and compelling** story for life.
- Jesus is at the center—from Genesis to Revelation.
- The more we internalize God’s story, the more clearly we see our place in it.
- **Romans 8:28:** *God is working all things together for good for those who love Him.*
- What practical step can you take this week to cultivate remembrance—journaling, Scripture reading, conversation, worship, etc.?

Application & Conclusion

1. **Practice Remembering:**
Set aside intentional time this season to reflect on what God has done—biblically and personally.
2. **Immerse in the Story:**
Commit to reading or listening through the story of Scripture as the year ends and a new one begins.
3. **Consider Seeing the Story Firsthand:**
If able, join the Israel trip next summer to walk the land where these events occurred.
4. **Respond in Worship:**
As we take communion and pray, we remember the ultimate act of God’s faithfulness—Jesus at the center of it all.