

date: **7/9/17**

# REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

## Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

It was windy and rainy for three days. The wind blew over our lawn chairs, ruined the new tablecloth I'd put on the outside table, and scattered pine needles everywhere. During these rainy and windy days, I was sick—stuck lying in bed, aching and unable to do anything except hope sleep would come.

One afternoon, at the end of the storm, I woke up from a long nap to see the sun shining through the clouds. When I opened the back door, clean air floated into the room. I wrapped myself in a blanket, sat outside, and allowed myself to be enveloped in the warm, heavy glow of the sun. It felt good to just sit there. Not working. Not thinking about bills. Not cleaning up pine needles.

There I talked with God. "Hi, God," I told Him. "It's wonderful that You created the sun. It's wonderful that I know You. I love being with You. You're beautiful. I'm happy to be alive. You're so good to me. I praise You."

I'm thankful for moments like these—moments when I have the time to remember how good God is and to praise Him for simply giving me the gift of His presence. I pray for more moments like these when I can remember and celebrate our wonderful God in that still, quiet place in my soul.

*Tori Funkhouser*  
**ROCKHARBOR Church**

## Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

### **Feast of Tabernacles: A Feast Celebrating God's Abundant Blessings**

God's people celebrated this festival with thanksgiving to remember God's many blessings. For seven days they lived in tents or temporary shelters they decorated with colorful ornaments. The New Testament significance of this feast reminds us that this life is temporary, and that all of our lifelong dreams, hopes, and aspirations will one day be fulfilled in our future home and inheritance with Jesus.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's*



## Word

When we take time to remember and celebrate, we can become overwhelmed by thankfulness for the many blessings we've received—blessings we take for granted and may not even have noticed. We realize that even though we may be thankful for these blessings, we may not have praised God for them yet! God is the giver of every good gift, including the greatest gift: relationship with Him.

Take a moment and look around you. If you're inside, thank God that you have a roof over your head. If you're outside, thank God for the sun, the mountains, or the sea. Notice the small things and ask God to remind you of the important things. Take time to thank God for these blessings—small and large. Praise Him for the blessing of His presence in your life.

## SMALL GROUP SECTION

# EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's biblical feast or festival.*

## Birthday Party

### SUPPLIES

- Donkey image and Tails cutouts (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencils or pens
- Blindfold

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Donkey image and Tails cutouts. Cut out the tails.

### SET UP

Tape the Donkey image to the wall. Optional: Decorate the room in a birthday party theme.

### RELATE

As children arrive, give each one a donkey tail and ask her to write her name on it. (Help younger kids with this.) Also give each child a piece of tape. Then line up the children and play Pin the Tail on the Donkey, with each child taking a turn at being blindfolded and trying to tape his tail to the donkey.

For older kids, consider spinning them around a few times first (making sure there are no obstacles for the kids to trip over).

**Birthdays are fun days of remembering and celebrating. On your birthday, your family and friends take time to remember and celebrate you!**



# REMEMBER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Through a sequence of traditions and play, children are given the opportunity to pause and remember who God is.*

## Traditions and Remember Verse

### SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse 1–5 image](#) (see Resources)
- [Remember Verse 1–5 animation](#) (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

### RELATE

After everyone gathers as a large group, open with Traditions. During Traditions, you're helping the children work toward a common goal and giving them mementos to celebrate accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse, inviting friends to church, or bringing their Bibles. Once children receive their mementos, have them put the objects in the designated container. Once kids fill the container, hold a celebration.

If your kids fill a clear container or build a structure as part of a Tradition, give out simple foods (e.g., pretzels or animal crackers) if you eat together on Remember & Celebrate weekends. Save the more extensive party for when they complete their goal.

Recall the Remember Verse from the previous weeks. Lessons 1–5:

**He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name. Psalm 111:9**

### QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD'S BLESSINGS

- **What is a blessing?**
- **How have you been blessed?**
- **How does God bless us?**

## Remember and Play

### SUPPLIES

- Images: [ZONK! Questions](#), [ZONK! Answers](#) (see Resources)
- Note: See the How It Works document for more information.

## ZONKI!

### Questions and Answers

- 1) True or False: Jesus died on the cross because He was compelled by His love for us.  
**ANSWER:** True. Jesus went through all of the pain and sadness that He experienced because He loves us so much.
- 2) Before Jesus was arrested, He went to a garden to:
- Pick flowers
  - Take a nap
  - Have dinner
  - Pray to His Father
- ANSWER:** D
- 3) Scripture talks about Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God who was sacrificed for our sins.
- Tiger
  - Lamb
  - Friend
  - Brother
- ANSWER:** B. In the Old Testament, a lamb was sacrificed for the people's sins. We don't have to do that anymore because Jesus is our sacrificial Lamb who paid our debt of sin once and for all.
- 4) True or False: Jesus died and then rose again on the third day.  
**ANSWER:** True. Jesus conquered death so we could be forgiven and live with God forever.
- 5) Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised the disciples that He would send:
- A bouquet of flowers
  - The Holy Spirit
  - An angel
  - A letter in the mail
- ANSWER:** B
- 6) When God sent the Holy Spirit, the disciples:
- Spoke in other languages
  - Told other people about God
  - Praised God together
  - All of the above
- ANSWER:** D
- 7) True or False: Peter could have healed the beggar on his own.  
**ANSWER:** False. Peter healed the man through the power of God.
- 8) Peter healed the beggar because God's \_\_\_\_\_ lived inside him.  
**ANSWER:** Holy Spirit
- 9) True or False: Saul later became known as Paul.  
**ANSWER:** True
- 10) What is our current Remember Verse?

**ANSWER:** Psalm 111:9: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

## SMALL GROUP SECTION

### BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

#### SUPPLIES

- [At Home Weekly: Lesson 7](#) (see Resources)
- Bible

#### RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Open your Bible and read Ephesians 1:3:

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.**

**May you be filled with the riches of God's love and blessing. May you always praise God for His goodness.**

