



Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Do you remember that time when God undeniably answered your prayer?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read Mark 8:1-21.
 - a. What does God show you in these verses?
 - b. What started this problem with the disciples?
 - c. What were they thinking?
 - d. What do you think they were arguing about?
 - e. Do you let things get under your skin easily?
 - f. Would you lose it over one loaf of bread? Sure?
 - g. What was Jesus' question in verse 18?
3. Pastor Ruben shared the difference between "memory" and "history" in Jewish culture. One quote he shared was this one, from a Jewish Rabbi: "There is a profound difference between history and memory. History is his story – an event that happened sometime else to someone else. Memory is my story – something that happened to me and is part of who I am....Memory is the past as present, as it lives on in me."
 - a. How is this perspective different from how we view history in our culture?
 - b. How does this understanding between a "memory" and "history" change your view of the bible?
 - c. What are some ways the Jewish people kept memories alive?
 - d. What are some ways we keep memories alive?
4. Re-read verse 18. Knowing Jesus is a Jew, and His disciples are Jews, does this change the meaning of this verse?
5. Pastor Ruben said, "God wants to build your long-term memory bank with personal breathing experiences of His presence".
 - a. What has God shown you in your life?



- b. Do you worry less?
 - c. Are you worked up less?
 - d. Are you different because of these experiences? Why or why not?
6. What do these verses mean to you?
- a. Psalm 63:6
 - b. Psalm 103:1-2
 - c. Psalm 42:5-6

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- “The past is with us today, in the here and now. The Ten Commandments, God’s revelation, the Exodus from Egypt—these events didn’t happen only once, thousands of years ago. They are always here, happening to us now, because they are an expression of our continuous relationship with God.” - Moshe Silver, Rabbi and Educator in Jerusalem.
- In the Jewish view, the past also exists in the present.
- Every time you open your bible, you are entering a new experience of God's grace, love, and purpose.
- The more experience you've had with God, the greater expectation is you think differently.
- Christ was questioning the Disciples to have them see if they valued the miracle. He was questioning whether they truly recognized the presence of God.