

Remembering What God Has Done

Psalm 136

## **MEMORY VERSE**

PSALM 136:1

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Two small cords or yarn long enough to make a bracelet.

Two copies of the “Creation Memory Match Game” curriculum template for each pair of children, white cardstock, crayons and scissors.

Butcher paper and markers.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **Memory Bracelets**

For this activity you will need two small cords or yarn long enough to make a bracelet. Explain to the children that in today’s lesson we are going to learn about the importance of remembering how God has been faithful in our lives. Ask the children to think of several things for which they are thankful. The object will be to tie a not for each thing God had done in their lives to help them to remember.

Begin with your bracelet. Have a volunteer help you by holding the ends of two cords. You will hold the other two ends. Explain ways that God has been faithful in your life (for example, “He has provided me with a wonderful family, a good job, helped me in a difficult time, etc.”) Tie a knot for each thing you are thankful for (Optional – place a colorful bead in each knot to make the bracelet more decorative). Leave space between each knot. After sharing four or five things tie the bracelet around your wrist.

Have the children split into pairs. Give each child their cords and have them take turns with their partner helping to tie the knots and sharing with each other how God has been faithful in their lives. We will learn today about the importance of remembering God's faithfulness in our lives.

## LESSON TIME!

When you think about the Lord what are you reminded of? Do you think about Jesus, the cross at Calvary and how He died for you? Perhaps you think about heaven and what it's going to be like to see Jesus. Maybe you think of times in your life when you or your family went through difficult times and God helped you. We are going to look at a psalm today that teaches us the importance of remembering how that God has been faithful to us. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

This psalm was written as a hymn of thanksgiving and is also known as the Great Hallel (Praise) that is where we get the word Hallelujah. Throughout the entire psalm we are reminded of what God has done for His people, Israel. The entire Old Testament is filled with great stories of how God helped His people. The psalmist is encouraging God's people to remember all that God has done for them and to trust in Him when trials come in the future.

Something else that we see over and over again is that God's mercy lasts forever. Does God ever forget about His children? No way! His mercy towards those He loves will last forever. When we think of God and how wonderful all His works are we need to give Him all praise and honor. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

### PSALM 136:1-3

**Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.**

Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:

The first three verses tell us to give thanks to the Lord. He is described as good, the God of gods and the Lord of lords. In other words, God deserves our worship, our thanks and our respect. He is above every person, every king or president and above any one or any thing that would call itself a god. There is no other God besides the Lord. He gave us life and provided a way to have a relationship with Him.

When we begin to look back over our lives we can begin to think about everything that we have to be thankful for. God is faithful every time. If your parents or grandparents know the Lord and have walked with Him they can probably tell you many stories about how God has proved Himself faithful in their lives. When we think about these things we become more and more thankful.

How do you suppose thanking God for what He has done in the past can help us in the future? Well, when we think about and remember the things He has done in our past we can then face problems in the future with confidence and strength. We will have courage to go forward in our walk with the Lord because we have put our trust in Him. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

We will also remember that God's mercy does last forever because we have seen it in our lives. We can never exhaust our use up God's mercy. What a great God we serve! In the days that this psalm was written so many people turned away from the One and Only True Living God and worshiped false gods. These gods were mostly idols made of wood or stone and carved into all different kinds of shapes. The psalmist wanted God's people to remember the God

that they served and how He has helped them throughout their history.

We need to remember God so that we can remain faithful to Him. Sometimes people can forget about God's faithfulness and be drawn away to live for other things or to even serve other gods. We do not see a lot of people bowing down to statues, but we do see people who place greater importance on things than God. That is idol worship. We need to be careful to remember and thank the Lord.

### PSALM 136:4-9

To Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who made great lights, for His mercy endures forever—

The sun to rule by day, for His mercy endures forever;

The moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy endures forever.

Here the psalmist is praising and thanking God for His creation. He is going back to the beginning, when the Lord created the heaven and earth and all that is in them. It is so easy for us to take for granted everything that the Lord has created and all He has done for us. Stop and think about it! The Lord has given us our very lives.

God in His wisdom created heaven and earth. All He did was speak and everything was created. What an awesome God we have! Unfortunately, many people do not want to remember God. They want to forget about God, so they will not have to answer for their sin.

People want to turn away from God so much that they even make up things like evolution to explain away God and His creation. In Romans 1:25 the apostle Paul is writing to the Romans about this very subject, "...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." The world is full of people that worship the creation rather than the Creator. Even with evolution it teaches that God didn't make us, we made ourselves over the years. It is the same as worshipping ourselves instead of God.

This is a lie that Satan has used to keep people away from worshipping God and His Son, Jesus Christ. But we are again reminded in these verses that His mercy endures forever. God in His mercy will always forgive anyone who is willing to repent (turn from sin) and believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. If you ever wonder if God is real look around and see His creation and praise Him for it. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

## Creation Memory Match Game

For this activity you will need two copies of the curriculum template for each pair of children, white cardstock, crayons and scissors. Make copies of the template on white cardstock. Split your class into pairs and give them two copies of the template. Have them cut out the squares and color them.

When they are done have the children shuffle the cards and lay them face down on the floor in four rows. Each player will take a

turn picking up two cards. If the cards match, the player gets to keep the cards. If they do not match, the player will put them back face down. This is where their memory will be tested. They continue to play until all of the cards are picked up. The player with the most cards is the winner. Use this game to help the children to remember God's faithfulness in creation.

### PSALM 136:10-24

To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, for His mercy endures forever;

And brought out Israel from among them, for His mercy endures forever;

With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His mercy endures forever;

And made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His mercy endures forever;

But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who struck down great kings, for His mercy endures forever;

And slew famous kings, for His mercy endures forever—

Sihon king of the Amorites, for His mercy endures forever;

And Og king of Bashan, for His mercy endures forever—

And gave their land as a heritage, for His mercy endures forever;

A heritage to Israel His servant, for His mercy endures forever.

Who remembered us in our lowly state, for His mercy endures forever;

And rescued us from our enemies, for His mercy endures forever;

Now the psalmist is thanking God in remembering what He has done for the nation of Israel. Are there times when you are sad and hurting and you find it hard to be grateful? We have to be careful not to allow our feelings and thoughts to deceive us. We have so much to be thankful for which to be thankful. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

As believers in Jesus we need to be careful of how we think and what we meditate upon. When we meditate we are dwelling upon something. Just like when you really want to go somewhere or you want something all you think about it that one thing. Meditating is the same thing and that is why it is so important to think only upon things of God. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things.” There is truth to the statement “we are what we



think.” Either we are thinking of things that are pleasing to God or we are not.

When we are in situations dwelling on our problems or worrying, we can do as the psalmist did and praise God for what He has done for him in the past. If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior, we are saved from an eternity in hell. That one great gift alone from God is worth praise all the days of our lives.

The psalmist covered all the great things the Lord had done for the Israelites from taking them from the bondage of slavery, parting the Red Sea, keeping them safe from their enemies and blessing them with their arrival into the Promised Land. God has done all of those things for you and me. As Christians, we are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6:6), God takes care of the Red Sea in our lives (Exodus 14:14), He will keep us safe from our enemies (Psalm 91:15-16), and we will arrive in the Promised Land of heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

When we think of our life we need to give thanks to the One who has made us, formed us, works in our lives and blesses us with eternal life in heaven. Let’s remember to take time to remember all of the ways that God has shown Himself merciful in our lives. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

## **Moses Scroll**

You will need butcher paper and markers for this activity. Divide the children into groups and assign each group a different scene from Moses’ life. Have the children draw the scene on a section of butcher paper. Go in chronological order. Scenes may include Moses in a basket, Moses in Pharaoh’s court, Moses and the burning bush, the ten plagues and crossing the Red Sea.

You can use this activity to help explain the section of Psalm 136 that talks about Moses' life. Explain to the children that it is important to remember how God has helped those in the past and He will continue to help us now.

### PSALM 136:25-26

Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! for His mercy endures forever.

In ending the praise, the psalmist gives thanks to the Lord for meeting his daily needs. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). We are to make our requests made known to God and then trust that He will provide what we need. Jesus also encouraged them in Matthew 6:25-26 to not be concerned about what we will wear or eat.

When we give thanks for what God has done for us and put our trust in Him for our future, it shows that we have faith. It is putting our complete trust in Him to provide for all our needs. The Bible tells us that the Lord takes care of His children and the beasts of the air and land. He even takes care of those, by His mercies that do not know Him or believe in Him because His mercy endures forever. In verse 25, the psalmist recognizes God as the provider of all the needs in all the earth.

We can become like the grumbling Israelites when they did not want anymore of the manna that the Lord was providing for them while in the wilderness. God was providing their need but not in the way that they thought He should or how they wanted. When God does not answer our prayer, we can either trust Him in knowing what is best for us or be selfish and complain because we are not getting our way. We have a choice and it pleases the Lord when we choose the things of God rather than the things that will

please our flesh. A life of faith is not one that we see with our eyes. It believes in what God has told us in His Word as the living truth.

This psalm is an excellent way in remembering God's faithfulness, goodness, and mercy. It ends with verse 26, simply worshipping God because He is God and who sits upon the throne of heaven. We need always give thanks to the Lord. **Remembering how God has helped us in the past will help us in the future.**

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for all that He has done in their lives. Also pray a prayer of commitment to always remember what God has done in the past and trust God for the future. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Creation Memory Match Game

