LESSON 8
JULY 26, 2020

REMEMBERING THE LORD’S MIGHTY DEEDS

KEY VERSES: But our ancestors acted arrogantly. They were stubborn and wouldn’t obey your commandments. They refused to obey, and didn’t remember the wonders that you accomplished in their midst. They acted arrogantly and decided to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, merciful and compassionate, very patient, and truly faithful. You didn’t forsake them. —Nehemiah 9:16-17 (CEB)

Cautionary Tales

❖ What cautionary tales can you recall from our culture, such as fairytales, movies, or something else?

❖ What similarities do you see in each of these stories? Choose one of your examples and describe what we can learn from the story.

NEHEMIAH 9:9-17 (NRSV)

9 “And you saw the distress of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea.

10 You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted insolently against our ancestors. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

11 And you divided the sea before them, so that they passed through the sea on dry land, but you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters.

12 Moreover, you led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the way in which they should go.

13 You came down also upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments,

14 and you made known your holy sabbath to them and gave them commandments and statutes and a law through
your servant Moses.

15 For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven, and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you swore to give them.

16 But they and our ancestors acted presumptuously and stiffened their necks and did not obey your commandments;

17 they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them; but they stiffened their necks and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you did not forsake them.

KEEPING TRACK

In the Bible verses, complete the following:

❖ Place a check mark next to each new story mentioned.
❖ Underline any negative or destructive acts done by the people.
❖ Circle the ways God intervened to help the people.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

● Why is it important for us to remember our history? How does it help us understand where we are today?

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

● What does it mean for God to be an active presence? Is God an active presence in our lives today?

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

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THE STORY OF OUR FAMILY

As best as you can, use the space below to record a genealogy of your family.

What stories do you know about how your family came to live in the city where you live? the part of the country? the United States?

_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

What stories of your family’s history are important? Are they good stories or bad stories?

_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

Why is it important to know these stories? How do these stories help you understand the history of your faith?

_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
REFLECTION AND PRAYER

“God, thank you for reminding us of who we are, where we come from, and what we have done—both good and bad. Thank you for reminding us of your presence in our world and in our lives. Amen.”
Devotion: Neighboring Is Important Work

Looking around the world we see all sorts of people. Some of them are like us, and we find it easy to identify with them and understand their needs and their desires. Others aren’t like us at all. They act differently, pray differently, live differently, and they think differently. If we’re honest, there are people with whom we struggle to relate and can’t understand. However, it’s important to remember that even those people who are so different from us are also children of God and created in God’s image.

The Bible tells many different stories about ways God calls us to be neighbors to others. Over and over again, we see Jesus befriend someone or show hospitality to someone the disciples considered different or difficult to understand. Jesus opens the door and allows both this new person and his disciples to show and receive hospitality.

Jesus invites us to do the same thing—to open a door for others in our community and to show hospitality to those who are left alone and on the outside. As you study these Bible Lessons, pray that God will give you the grace to do this hard but important work of neighboring.

Add your thoughts about this devotion here:

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

Focal Scripture Verse

“The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.” —Mark 12:31 (CEB)