

SURVIVING WILDERNESSES

“Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years...” *Deuteronomy 8:2*

Have you ever been in a “wilderness” and seen God lead you in an unexpected way? What happened?

ANCESTOR STORIES

“Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.” *Deuteronomy 32:7*

Is there a story about how God worked in the life of your parents or grandparents that you love to think about? What happened? How can this encourage you?

MIRACLE STORIES

“I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.” *Psalms 77:11*

Is there a miracle of God in scripture that you particularly love to think about? Why? How can this help you in times of trouble?



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
www.tlc.org



WEEK 4

Trusting When God Seems Absent

MAY 21 & 22, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER • PSALM 77

1. SYMPTOMS: The Problem of God’s Seeming Absence

- I feel like praying does no good

When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered you, O God, and I groaned. I mused, and my spirit grew faint. *Psalms 77:2–3*

- I can’t sleep

You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. *Psalms 77:4*

- I dwell on how good things used to be

I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. *Psalms 77:5–6a*

- I fear things will never get better

Will the Lord reject **forever**? Will he **never** show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished **forever**? Has his promise failed **for all time**? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion? Selah. *Psalms 77:7–9a*

2. SOLUTION: The Power of Positive _____

Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High.” **I will remember** the deeds of the LORD; yes, **I will remember** your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.” *Psalms 77:10–12*

over

3. SECRET: The Principle of _____

[Joshua:] "Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder . . . to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, "What do these stones mean?" tell them . . . **These stones are to be a memorial** to the people of Israel forever." *Joshua 4:5-7*

Then Samuel **took a stone and set it up** between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." *1 Samuel 7:12*

Monumental faith sets up reminders of great acts of God, and in times of discouragement, looks to those monuments for hope!

Over _____ times the Bible tells me to "remember" God's deeds

How do I develop monumental faith?

- _____ God working

Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, **though your footprints were not seen.** *Psalm 77:19*

[David:] "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." *1 Samuel 17:37*

Also, learn others' stories through books, movies, internet videos from www.iamsecond.com, conversations, etc.

- _____ your monument

Some building materials:

- Journals • Computer file • Self-published books • Scrapbooks • Art

- _____ the stories

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. *Psalm 78:4b*

The big idea:

Monumental faith assaults _____ with _____

COMING SOON!

JUNE 18 & 19: FATHERS' DAY Gifts for all dads! Guest speaker Craig Barnes!

JULY 9 & 10: HOT RODS ON THE GREEN Our own TLC classic car show!

AUGUST 20 & 21: REASONS FOR FAITH TLC Apologetics Conference!

How to use this:

Instead of the usual daily meditations this week, use this worksheet to help build monuments of faith! Use these questions as brainstorming material to get your writing — or a family or small group discussion — started. You could work through one or two sections each day, or go through them all at once.

PROVISION

"Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced. . . ." *Psalm 105:5*

Have you ever seen God provide food or clothing or housing for you or your family in an unexpected miraculous way? What happened?

PROTECTION

"But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt." *Deuteronomy 7:18*

Is there a way God kept you safe from danger as a child — kept you out of an accident or healed you of a sickness? As an adult?

PROSPERITY

". . . Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant. . ." *Deuteronomy 8:18*

Have you ever seen God help you in your business or your finances in an unexpected, or exciting way? Or has he helped you prosper in other ways?

PRAYERS

"Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles. . ." *1 Chronicles 16:12*

How have you seen God answer prayers in ways that encourage you as you look back? How about ways He has answered the prayers of people you know?

PERSONAL LIFE

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you." *Deuteronomy 8:19*

In what ways has God blessed you with satisfaction? How can this serve as a monument? Has there ever been a time when God helped you in an unexpected way in your relationship with a spouse, child or friend?

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

"Remember those earlier days after you had received this light. . ." *Hebrews 10:32*

How did you come to faith in Christ? How is this a monument for you?