



**MISSION POSSIBLE | WEEK SIX**  
*APRIL 9, 2017*



## PREPARATION

### + **MONDAY - WEDNESDAY**

Read through 2 Timothy 2:8-14, Acts 2:38-41, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Pray that God, through His Spirit, would bring to life the truths of this text.

### + **THURSDAY - SATURDAY**

Many questions have been included, so read through and determine which of those questions will work well to encourage, push, and grow your group in the best way.

### + **DAILY**

As you prepare, pray for the preaching of God's Word this coming week at the corporate church gathering. Pray also for your time in this week's study.



## THIS WEEK

### + **KEY BIBLICAL TRUTH**

God offers us clear ways to remember Christ's completed mission in our lives.

### + **THEOLOGY APPLIED**

As we engage personally in Scripture and corporately in baptisms and communion, we remember who Jesus is and all he has done for us. The more we reflect on these reminders, the more we become like Him.



## GETTING STARTED

+ Use this section to prepare your heart and mind for the truths of this week. This section will help to introduce the focus of this week's lesson.

*Q: How does it feel when you realize you forgot something really important?*

*Q: How do you usually remind yourself of major things like family birthdays, due dates for projects, and scheduled events?*

*Q: Why do you think it's so easy to forget important things?*

## | THE DESIRE FOR SUCCESS

Forgetting things is much more common than we'd like it to be sometimes. For the life of us, we can't remember the month of our cousin's birthday, when we scheduled that coffee date, what day we were supposed to pick up our dry cleaning, where we stashed that important receipt, what our password is for all the different websites we visit, or where we put our keys. The bad news is that forgetting is an unfortunate part of life in the fallen world.

The good news is that God already knows this about us! In this week's lesson, we will explore the way God helps us remember the most important thing of all: Christ and his completed mission.

*Q: How often do you forget God's presence and work in your life?*

*Q: Do you believe the task of remembering God is up to you and you alone?*



## Understanding the Text

Throughout the Scriptures, God continually tells his people to remember what he's done for them (1 Chron. 16:15; Deut. 5:15, 6:20-23, 7:17-18, 8:10-18; Ps. 77:11-12, 105:5, 143:5; Is. 63:7). As humans, we forget things easily. Even if God worked mightily in our lives last week, we tend to unknowingly overlook it due to this week's problems. As God in the flesh, Jesus also knows we need help remembering his work on our behalf. While he could simply tell us to remember him and leave us to our own devices to accomplish his command, Jesus mercifully helps us remember him instead. He comes alongside us, and gives us three major ways to remember the mission he completed on our behalf:

1. *Remember through Scripture*
2. *Remember through Baptism*
3. *Remember through Communion*



## GOING DEEPER

+ This next section will help to show what God's Word says about this week's particular focus. Walk through the Scripture passages, connecting the text to this week's biblical truth.

# | REMEMBER THROUGH SCRIPTURE



Read 2 Timothy 2:8-14, Ephesians 2:1-19, Titus 3:3-7

*Q: What does Paul tell Timothy to remember? [2 Tim. 2:8,11]*

*Q: Once Timothy remembers, what is he charged to do? [2 Tim. 2:14a]*

*Q: Why did God make us alive together with Christ? (Eph. 2:4)*

As we seek to grow in the Christian life, we need frequent reminders of what makes it “Christian” to begin with—Jesus Christ and his work on our behalf. When we forget the gospel, we tend to make Christianity about following principles (religion) instead of following a person (Christianity). As we continually look back to Christ’s life and work, we are reminded of the great love and grace of God that saved us in the first place. Much of our struggle and hardship in our spiritual growth is due to the fact that we simply forgot the gospel. Often times, who Jesus actually is and all that he accomplished for us flies off of our radar, and to re-engage with him, we need reminders.

One of the ways we remember the gospel is through the Word. Whether in our personal study or during corporate worship gatherings, there’s no better place to see Jesus’ life and substitutionary work than through the Scriptures. 2 Timothy 2, Ephesians 2, and Titus 3 give us an excellent place to go when we need to remember everything Christ achieved for us in the gospel, who we are now as new creations, and what is coming for us in our future.

*Q: What are we called to remember first? (Eph. 2:11-12; Titus 3:1-3)*

*Q: What are we called to remember next? (Eph. 2:13, Titus 3:4-5)*

These texts call us first to remember who we were before our conversion—fleshly, dead in our sins, foolish, disobedient, slaves to our impulses, trapped by the enemy, separated from Christ, under God’s wrath, malicious and jealous, strangers to God’s covenant promises, far off from the presence of the Father, having no hope. But they also call us to remember who made all the difference—Jesus Christ. These passages remind us that once Christ paid the price for our sins and gave us his righteous record (Rom. 4:25; 2 Cor. 5:21), we were brought near, saved, reconciled to the Father, justified before the great Judge, given the Holy Spirit, granted eternal life, offered a seat with him in the heavenly places, destined for good works, made fellow citizens instead of aliens, bestowed the title of co-heir, and placed in a loving body of believers. He did this all

for us not because we deserved it or earned it, but according to his own mercy, grace, and love. We were far off, and now we're near. We were dead, and now we're alive with him forever. We were corrupted, and now we're made new. We were at war with God, and now there's peace with him. We were caught in Satan's snare, and now we're free. We were outsiders, and now we're sons and daughters. All because of Christ. This is the great gospel we must remember again and again.

*Q: Share a time that Scripture reminded you of the gospel and encouraged you in your new identity.*

*Q: Which of these texts most help you remember Jesus? How can you expose yourself to that text on a weekly basis?*

## | REMEMBER TROUGH BAPTISM



*Read Acts 2:38-41, 8:12; Matthew 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:13, Rom 6:3-5, Col. 2:12-13*

*Q: What does Peter tell these hearers to do immediately after they repent? (Acts 2:38)*

*Q: What does the Ethiopian eunuch assume he expected to do after hearing the good news? (Acts 8:35-36)*

*Q: Who should be baptized, according to Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 18:8?*

*Q: When should people be baptized according to Acts 8:12, 19:5?*

While God gives us his Word to remember the gospel on a personal level, he has also instituted ways for us to remember the gospel as a church body. The first ordinance he gives the church to help us remember Jesus and his work on our behalf is baptism.

In these texts, we see first that baptism is an immediate response of those who have been newly converted to Christ. The book of Acts is covered with examples of those who heard the gospel, believed, and were baptized as the first step of obedience in their new life with Christ. We see in these texts that baptism does not only have a dimension of timing, but has inclusive and exclusive dimensions to it too. On one hand, baptism is inclusive for those of any race, gender, or socio-economic status. Throughout Acts we see men, women, the poor, the rich, the Greek, and the Jew all being baptized under one name: Christ. However, this leads us to the exclusive point: baptism is only for those who believe. Belief in Christ is what unites all these diverse people, and baptism is exclusive for those who have heard the gospel and repented. In short: anyone who trusts Christ can be baptized.

*Q: What does Jesus tell us to do immediately after a new disciple is converted [Matt. 28:19]?*

*Q: What are we baptized into, according to 1 Cor. 12:13?*

*Q: Explain how baptism symbolizes the gospel and helps us remember it, according to Rom 6:3-5 and Col. 2:12-13.*

Baptism is one of the clearest ways for a new believer to start their mission of becoming like Jesus. Romans 6 and Colossians 2 help us see that when we go down into the water, we symbolize being buried with Christ in his death. When we come out of the water, we symbolize being raised to new life like Christ was in his resurrection. That's the whole point. We look like Jesus when we get baptized. Baptism is neither a meaningless ritual for Christians nor is it something that saves us in itself—it's a visual representation of the gospel we profess. We believe Christ was publically buried and rose again, and to visually communicate that we are uniting with him, we too are publically "buried and then resurrected" in the waters of baptism. When others watch our baptism, they see Jesus' work on our behalf. Having frequent baptisms is a beautiful way for believers to remember the gospel as a church body, not only to recall what Jesus has done for them, but to joyfully welcome a new member into the family of God.

# | REMEMBER TROUGH COMMUNION



*Read Luke 22:19-20, Matthew 26:26-28, and 1 Cor. 11:23-26*

*Q: What does the wine and broken bread symbolize, according to Luke 22:19-20?*

*Q: According to Matthew 26:28, Jesus' blood was poured out for what in particular?*

*Q: What does Jesus ask them to do with the bread and the wine? [Matt. 26:26-27]*

To help us remember Christ's completed mission, Jesus gives the church a second ordinance to enact on a corporate level: communion. Like baptism, we can easily mistake the Lord's Supper for a random or futile religious ritual. However, according to these texts, Jesus institutes communion for a meaningful and important purpose—to remember his gospel which saved us.

Jesus gives his disciples the broken bread to communicate how he gave his broken body for our sake. By his wounds, we are healed. As we look on the broken bread, we remember the gruesome death he went through in order to give us eternal and abundant life. He also gives a cup of wine to help us visualize the blood he spilled. Matthew's rendition gives us total clarity as to why we need the blood: for forgiveness of sins. Knowing that there can be no forgiveness for sins without the payment of bloodshed (Heb. 9:22), Christ gave his very own blood to offer what was necessary to cover all our transgressions. As it is with baptism, communion is not something that saves us, but it powerfully represents the completed mission of the One who did.

*Q: On what night did Jesus institute this incredible picture of his sacrifice for us? How does that further your understanding of the gospel? [1 Cor. 11:23]*



*Q: What does Paul say that communion's purpose is? (1 Cor. 11:26)*

Like baptism, communion is something individuals must participate in as they regularly gather together. Just as new believers must choose to actually go into the water and come out of it, Christians must actually eat and drink the bread and the cup. To truly identify with Christ, the Lord's Supper is not something to be gazed upon, but something personally received. Just as we publically and personally get baptized to communicate that we received Jesus as Lord, we eat the bread and drink the cup to communicate that we have personally and publically received his gospel into our own hearts and lives. Though baptism and communion are corporate ordinances, they require the active participation from individuals. As we continue to frequently enact the Lord's Supper in our congregation, we visually preach the gospel to ourselves and others until Jesus returns.

*Q: How does understanding the purpose of baptism and communion encourage you?*

*Q: Summarize how remembering Christ through Scripture, Baptism, and Communion help you become more like him.*



## NEXT STEPS

+ *Connect the truths from God's Word to your daily life. Process how what you've learned this week will impact the way you live beyond today and into the future.*

*Q: Which of these assurances has taught you the most about sanctification?*

*Q: How can you use these truths to encourage your fellow brothers and sisters who are fighting to be more like Jesus today?*

*Q: What are some practical ways you can use the precious promises of God to become more like Jesus this week?*



## PRAY

+ Use these prayer points to connect your time in prayer to this week's focus.

- *God, thank you for giving me Scripture, baptism, and communion to help remind me of all you've done for me in Christ.*
- *God, please lead me to more Bible passages that remind me of the mission you completed on my behalf.*
- *God, allow the gospel to come alive to me again when my church celebrates communion.*
- *God, give me a clear reminder of your death and resurrection as I watch others get baptized throughout the year.*



## COMMENTARY

+ Use these commentary resources to help explain the passages and facilitate discussion.

**2 Timothy 2:14** Paul exhorts Timothy to use his speech wisely, reminding the congregation of only the primary things that matter (Jesus Christ and his gospel, v.8), and avoiding the quarrelsome things that have no real positive or practical impact on the church. We know that Paul has no problem arguing when the gospel is at stake (Gal. 2:11), but when the subject matter is about lesser issues, Paul's advice is to avoid unproductive arguments. If it's not about Jesus Christ risen from the dead, don't waste overwhelming amounts of time on it.

**Ephesians 2:3** When Paul says that we were once "by nature children of wrath", he is referring to the sinful state every human is born into under Adam. The only way out of this hopeless imprisoned state is to be born under someone else, reborn that is, under Christ.

**Titus 3:3-7** The "washing and of regeneration" done by the Spirit is not communicating that baptism achieves salvation. Given that the context of this passage downplays human merit or effort in salvation and emphasizes divine action and initiative, this phrase refers to a spiritual cleansing done by the Spirit. Baptism is simply an outward expression of this inward transformation achieved by God.

**Acts 19:5** To be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ" (2:38, 8:16, 10:48) is not different from being baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). Even though different words are used here in Acts, the meaning is the same because in biblical usage a person's "name" represents the person's character, everything that is true about the person. The "name" (character and attributes) of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit is the same as the "name" (character and attributes) of Jesus Christ. In fact, in Matt. 28:19, the word "name" is singular, indicating that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share one "name" (i.e., one character). To be baptized into that name is a sign of identifying with that name and taking on Christ's character, as well as committing to live one's life from that point on as a representative of that name.

**1 Cor. 12:13** Baptism is used metaphorically here to refer to the Spirit's work within the believer to unite him/her to not only Jesus, but also to all those in Him, namely, the corporate body of believers. Being united to Jesus means to be irreversibly united to his Body.

**1 Cor. 11:23-26** Participation in the Lord's Supper should be limited to those who have made a personal commitment to follow Jesus. Jesus' emphasis on remembering the significance of his death when observing the Lord's Supper, and his warnings to those who partake of the bread and the cup in an unworthy manner, both reveal the wisdom of this limitation (1 Cor. 11:27; 11:28; 11:29).

*\*All commentary resourcing for Lesson 1 was provided by the ESV Study Bible Commentary Notes and the NIV Compact Bible Commentary.*

