



Dear Crossroads Family,

This Sunday we will be celebrating Memorial Day as a part of our worship service. Additionally, we will have a guest youth choir from Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene singing in the service. Because it is Memorial Day weekend and the first weekend after school is out, I know that some of our folks will be out of town. Please consider making every effort to be in Bible study and worship if you are in town and able to help us provide a good group of worshippers for these young people who have come to do mission worship in San Antonio. I remember that when I was a part of youth choirs on mission trips, it was so encouraging to have a church really support us with a good attendance. Help us welcome Griffin Jones and the youth choir from Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in worship this Sunday morning.

Memorial Day is, of course, is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It has expanded in recent years to sometimes include those who died as first responders. We are grateful for all those who served and those who gave their lives for our country and our freedom. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15:13).

Remembering is a challenge for us for many reasons, so days like Memorial Day help us remember important people. To remember well, we need to work at memory and develop tools and skills to help us remember. I heard about an elderly couple who were having trouble with their short-term memory, so they decided to take a seminar on memory enhancement techniques. The course was fantastic, and they came home feeling like geniuses.

A few days later, a neighbor came over for coffee. "So," the neighbor asked the husband, George, "how was that memory seminar you took?"

"It was incredible!" George beamed. "They taught us everything—association, visualization, mnemonics. It completely changed our lives."

"That's great!" the neighbor said. "What was the name of the instructor?"

George froze. He looked up at the ceiling, knitted his brows, and tapped his chin. After a long pause, he looked at the neighbor and asked, "What's the name of that red flower with the thorns? The one that smells really nice?"

"A rose?" the neighbor offered.

"Yes! That's it!" George turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Hey, Rose! What was the name of that memory teacher?"

Just as we need to remember important things like those who gave their lives in service for our country, we need to develop and resilient spiritual memory as well; that is, a memory of the way God has worked in our lives. This spiritual memory fuels our faith and our future obedience.

Sunday's sermon is entitled, "Cultivating a Spiritual Memory." (Sermon notes are provided below.) I look forward to hearing the Pioneer Drive young people sing and seeing you at Crossroads.

Love,
Bro. Doug

Cultivating a Spiritual Memory

Joshua 4:1-7 & 20-24

The human heart is prone to spiritual _____. God's people are so susceptible to it that, when the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land for the 1st time, He gave them a strange task to remind them of the importance of cultivating a _____. Joshua 4 records that event.

Memories shape our _____. Just as a healthy natural life requires remembering, remembering the story of our _____ with _____ is crucial for a healthy spiritual life. So, God gave Israel a way to cultivate a spiritual memory. They were to "take 12 stones from the _____ where the priests stood" to build a memorial. After the miracle recorded in Joshua 3, God had them get stones from the exact spot where the _____ occurred.

Notice also, they didn't just collect the stones, they piled them up in a place so that people would pass by and _____ about them. Our spiritual memory is cultivated by _____ and _____ our story. These are ways we keep alive our awareness that "the Lord is powerful" and we continue to "fear" Him (_____ of His power).

You might be thinking, "I haven't done a good job _____, of keeping tokens or telling stories. So, I don't have " _____ " to help me remember God's power and be certain of it."

God has done it for us. For believers, His word is the _____ of our lives. Its power rests in the fact that, when you receive Christ as Savior, you _____ and you have stones too. When you read about Moses or David, of Elijah, or Jesus, you begin to realize, "those are my stones, too! Those are _____ people; their story, Jesus's story, is _____ story. It is as if their blood courses through my spiritual veins. It is their spiritual _____ that determines who I am becoming."

His word serves as a towering _____ to help us remember who we are and who He is. The Bible is our story that God is _____. When you accepted Jesus as Savior, you became His _____ in His story of the redemption of His creation.

A Few Announcements:

The **Youth Car Wash Fundraiser, which was scheduled for tomorrow, May 23, is cancelled** once again, due to weather. They will try to reschedule it again as soon as another date is available.

There will be **no evening activities Sunday** and the **Church Office will be closed on Monday** in observance of Memorial Day.

VBS Giving Appeal: "Help Us Welcome the Harvest!" God is sending us a harvest--more children than we've seen in years. What a blessing! What a responsibility! We need help to cover EXTRA T-shirts, snacks, crafts, and food for volunteers who. Would you prayerfully consider giving a special gift to help us welcome every child? Every dollar helps put the love of Jesus into the hands and hearts of these kids.

The Harmony Belles will be joining us next Sunday, May 31, for the second of our Crossroads Concert Series. The concert will be at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Plan to come for an evening of wonderful acapella music. Bring friends and family!

Dr. Doug Diehl

San Antonio, TX 78254