

Continuing to Listen... Together

Opening Prayer Recognize Christ's presence and ask the Holy Spirit to work among you.

Opening Questions Looking back on the course of your life, what are your foundational memories? What events or circumstances are most significant in who and where you are today? From your childhood? School-days? Relationships? Family? Vocation?

Scripture for Study 2 Peter 1:1-15

Group Discussion

1. What are the most memorable experiences in your walk with the Lord? What are your fondest or most troubling memories? What do you know that the Lord has done for you? For our community of believers? What do you look back to as a 'rock'?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:12-15.
 - What is the stress of this passage? What is Peter trying so hard to convey?
 - How many times does Peter mention something to do with 'remembering'? Where?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:1-10. "*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness....*" (1:3)
 - What is 'godliness'? What have we been given that can produce this in our lives?
 - What are we to 'make every effort' to 'add' to our faith? (vs. 5-7) List in order...
 - Why are we to be adding them? (vs. 8)
 - What does it mean if we are *not* 'adding' to our faith? (vs. 9) What has been forgotten?
 - When were you "cleansed from past sins"? Do you remember this? In a practical way? Are you building upon it? "Adding" to it?

"Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:10-11)

Focus Point:

**Taking Today's Message
into Tomorrow,
for Groups &
Individuals**

Memorial Day

May 30, 2010

*"A Loving Community
where All Engage the
Life-Changing Power of
God."*

Williamston Free
Methodist Church

Memorial Day

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ² "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³ and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." ⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' ⁷ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." ⁸ So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. ⁹ Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

Joshua 4:1-9, NIV

"Memories are important. They are the soil of our present experiences into which our roots sink deeply and from which we receive nourishment. The superstructures of our lives are built upon the foundations of our memories."

There are memories of:

- Places,
- People,
- Experiences,
- Physical gestures,
- Mementos,
- Bible,
- Sacraments

What can the stones at Gilgal and our own personal stones mean?

1. A reminder of the wonderful works of God...
2. A reminder to be thankful...
3. A reminder of what God has done for us and others...
4. A reminder to pass on our love for God to the next generation...
5. A reminder that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever...
6. A reminder that together we celebrate what God has done...

We must remember and pass on the truth.

'I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old — what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.' **Psalm 78:2-4, NIV**

Using this Focus Tool

This guide is designed to serve three purposes:

1. To help you engage the week's message *as you are hearing it*, ←
2. To guide groups in engaging together what *has been heard*, and what is *still being heard*, and →
3. To encourage individuals to *continue listening* throughout the week. ↓

Continuing to Listen... On your own

Day 1 Deuteronomy 11:1-9

Day 2 Psalm 77:1-20

Day 3 Psalm 143:1-12

Day 4 Psalm 145:1-21

Day 5 Hebrews 10:32-39