

Word of the Night: *Remember*

Bible Character: *The Disciples – Matt. 14-16*

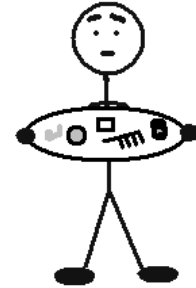
Key Verse: *Psalm 103:2*

Theme: *Remembering what God has done*

Lesson Summary: *This lesson reminds us to not forget all that the Lord has blessed us with and taught us. God gives us many blessings and instructions throughout our lives. It is our job to not forget them.*

OBJECT LESSON

I recall – Have three 5th or 6th grade children come to the front and give each of them a piece of paper and a pen. Show them a tray full of nine items. Choose nine random items to put on the tray such as a watch, a pen, a screw, a whistle, etc. Allow them to look at the items closely. Tell them that you are going to remove one of the items and that they have to guess which one was taken. Have them turn around and remove an item. When they turn back around, have them write which item was removed on their piece of paper. Those who guess correctly stay in the game...wrong answers are out. To make the game harder, add a new item each round. Shuffle the items around once you take one away. Give the winner a piece of candy.



LESSON OUTLINE

Psalm 103:2 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Have you ever forgotten something? Maybe you left your lunch at home, or maybe you forgot to get your parents to sign something. You might have forgotten your Expeditions book or your Bible tonight. People do all sorts of things to help themselves remember things. They write down lists, leave notes on the refrigerator, and some people even tie strings around their fingers. Sometimes it is hard to remember things. Just like in our object lesson, you had to pay careful attention so that you would not forget what was missing. Remembering is an important thing for Christians to do as well. We should remember all of the wonderful things that the Lord has done for us. Let's follow the trail of some people in the Bible who had forgotten what the Lord had done for them.

- **The Picture** – The events of the disciples found in Matthew 14-16
 - Jesus spent a lot of time teaching large crowds of people. One time, a large crowd of 5,000 people had gathered in a desert place to hear Jesus teach. Jesus taught them all day. The disciples told Jesus to send the crowds away to buy some food for the night. Jesus told the disciples to feed the people. The disciples asked Jesus how they could get that much food to feed all of the people. Jesus worked a miracle and fed over 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two small fish.
 - Soon after that, Jesus was teaching a different crowd in another very deserted place. Once again, the disciples told him to send the people away, but Jesus knew that they had not eaten, and He told the disciples to feed them. They told Jesus that there weren't any towns near there. Jesus again fed the crowd with a miracle.
 - At another time, the Pharisees talked with Jesus, and then Jesus got His disciples into a boat to travel across the sea that was nearby. The disciples forgot to bring something with them to eat. When they got to the other side, Jesus reminded them to be aware of the leaven of the Pharisees.

- The disciples thought Jesus was upset that they had forgotten bread. For the third time in a row, the disciples were worried about where they were going to get food. They had forgotten the two miracles that Jesus had just performed. Jesus reminded them that He could supply what they needed just like He had for the large crowds. Jesus was trying to teach them to watch out for what the Pharisees were teaching, but they were too worried about food to hear Jesus' caution.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

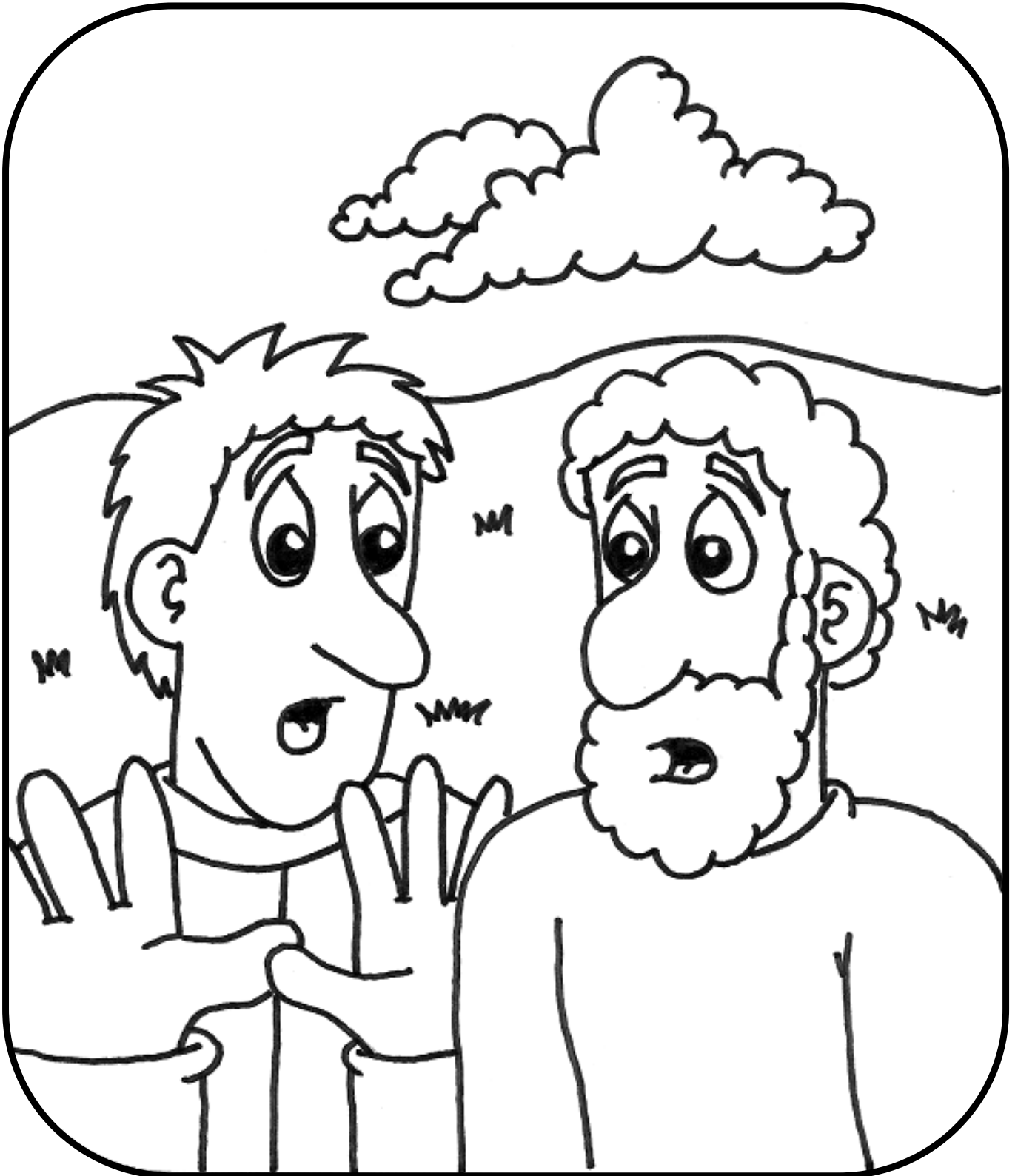
✝ **The Practice** – The disciples teach us some things about remembering:

- (1.) Remembering what God has done in the past helps us to trust in God in the future.
 - Jesus had done two wonderful miracles only a few days before, but the disciples had already forgotten what they had seen Jesus do. Instead of trusting Jesus now, they were worried about having no food. When we remember what God has done for us and taught us in the past, we realize that we can trust Him with the future as well (Ps. 78:7, Ps. 103:2, Deut 4:9).
- (2.) Forgetting what God has done makes us miss new lessons He wants to teach us.
 - Three times in a row, Jesus had brought the disciples to a situation where they did not have enough food. If the disciples had remembered the miracles that Jesus had done, they could have trusted him to supply bread for them and instead of worrying about it. Because the disciples were thinking so much about the food, however, they missed the lesson that Jesus was trying to teach them. God teaches us many things in His Word and many things in our lives. We must remember what He has already taught us so that we can be ready to learn what He has for us in the future. (Phil. 3:13, James 1:22-25)
- (3.) As we remember what God has done, we should not forget to praise Him
 - Jesus had done many things for the disciples. He had shown many miracles, provided food, water, and protection. The disciples forgot about all of that and began worrying. As we look back at our lives and see what God has provided for us, we should praise Him. God has given us our bodies, our families, our homes, our food, our salvation, and many other things. As you remember what God has done, do not forget to thank and praise Him instead of worrying about what is ahead (Ps. 107:8, 15, 21, 31).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did the disciples do instead of remembering and praising the Lord?**
 - *They worried about where to get food.*
- **When we remember what God has done for us, what should we say to God?**
 - *Psalm 107 reminds us to be thankful to God for what He has done.*
- **What things did our missionary need to remember?**
 - *He had to remember that God had saved him, provided for all that he needed in order to be a missionary, and how God had protected him on the mission field.*

REMEMBERING



The disciples were worried and had forgotten the things that the Lord had just taught them.