

***The CORE is designed to help you understand what a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like and then learn how to develop those characteristics in your life.***

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## Remembering and Living

In May of 1866 in Waterloo, New York, Generals John Logan and John Murray began what is now celebrated in the United States each year on the last Monday of May - Memorial Day. It was a day to remember those who had died during the Civil War. Later it came to include all those who died in any war. Today, many people use this day to also remember those family members and close friends that have died.

It is a day that is very important for many people. With all the activities that are now associated with the day, it is possible for us to miss its value as a day of remembrance. I want to help you connect with the value of this Memorial Day. I read something the other day that has stuck with me. I want to paraphrase it for you: "Remembering the past helps you live today and look forward to the hope of tomorrow."

When we remember those who have gone before us we "relive", in a way, the lessons taught to us from their lives. Stories and lessons of courage, self-sacrifice, love, devotion, hard work and discipline are just a few of the topics that might come to your mind as you reflect on those who have passed away.

It is a paradox that those moments can bring deep sadness and inexpressible joy all at the same time. Both emotions can be healthy and bring healing to your heart. We all need to mourn the loss of those we love but we can't stay there. We must move on. Paul reminded the Thessalonians not to grieve as those who have no hope.

One way we can experience hope is by setting up "mile markers" for ourselves connected to the lessons we learn from others on our journey. There are things that stick out in your mind when you reflect on the lives of loved ones. Take the time to learn from them as they come to your mind. This is a way to make our memories last.

In the Bible God led His people to do this often. Any time He did something big He wanted the people to remember. He wanted their memories to live on. How did He do this? The answer comes in a variety of ways. The key to these "Markers" was their purpose. The first purpose was that the people would never forget what God had done for them and the lessons learned. The second purpose was to evoke questions from children. They were to be used as object lessons to teach the children about God and life.

As you look at these verses this week, take time to meditate on the lessons you have learned from the lives of others. How are you passing them on to your children? The lessons you are learning from God need to be passed on to the next generation. Set up the "markers" and let the instruction begin!

I love being your Pastor,  
Todd

### ***SESSION 1***

Read Genesis 28:10-22

1. Think of the time the Lord first "spoke" to you. What was going on in your life? Who were the influencers? What did you hear God say?

2. In the vow made by Jacob beginning in verse 20, what was he asking God for?

3. Jacob made a commitment to God. What was it? (vs. 22)

His commitment was tangible. Do you think God would want you to make a tangible commitment? What would it be if the answer is yes?

Read Genesis 35:1-15

1. God tells Jacob to go back to Bethel. Why do you think He did that?

2. In verse 2 Jacob tells everyone to purify themselves. Why? (Vs. 3)

3. What was the significance of Bethel to Jacob? (vs.7)

4. Is there a “Bethel” for you? If so, where and what makes it significant to you?

### ***SECTION 2***

Read Exodus 12:21-28

1. The Passover was an event that marked the beginning of the deliverance of the People of God out of slavery in Egypt. God wanted the people to remember it. He gave them detailed instructions on how to remember. Read through the verses again and meditate on God’s instructions.

2. The Passover was a shadow of the coming of Jesus. Vs. 23 says that when the death angel passes through the land he will see the blood and Passover that household. What verses come to mind or can you find in the New Testament that speaks of the power of the Blood of Jesus?

Read Exodus 12:12-14

1. The blood is called a distinguishing mark in vs. 13.

It set apart those who followed the instruction given by God. Have you ever considered the likely probability that some of the children of Israel did not follow the instructions? If they didn’t, they too would have suffered the loss of their first-born.

Think about the lessons that would have taught the Israelites. Many times we learn quicker from failures than successes. Are there some valuable lessons you have learned from mistakes? How can you use those failures to help you today and give you hope for tomorrow? How can you teach those to you children?

### ***SECTION 3***

Read Matthew 26:26-28 and Luke 22:14-20

1. This supper is in the context of the Passover Celebration. In the middle of the biggest festival on the Jewish calendar, Jesus lines himself up with the principle of the story - the Passover Lamb. What are the similarities between Jesus and the Passover Lamb of Exodus 12?

Read I. Corinthians 11:23-26

1. What does Paul tell the church about the purpose of the Lord’s Supper? (Vs.26)

2. The Lord’s Supper is a marker for us as believers in Christ. What does it mean to you? How do you honor Him for the life He has given you? Are you teaching others what you have learned?

***“The Life you Live is the Legacy you Leave!”***