

## **Wednesday – Family time of Remembrance**

Tonight I encourage you to plan time to eat a pre-thanksgiving dinner together. I know many families have Thanksgiving Eve meal traditions. The most popular I have heard of is Chinese food. Growing up for me and my family it was always pizza.

After you are done with your meal together, ask every member of the family to find some ordinary object that helps them remember what God has done for them and give them cause to be thankful. It could be a favorite toy, photo album or maybe an umbrella. Take time to help your younger children find something and help them understand what it means to be thankful.

Gather together in a favorite spot in your house. When you gather together open up to Psalm 136, read the Psalm together. Have one person read the statements and then have the rest of the family respond with, "His Love Endures Forever." (*note: if you have younger children who may not understand death and the concept of God as warrior feel free to skip vs. 17-20*)

Take time to go around and let each member of the family share the story of their ordinary object and how it helps them remember to be thankful.

You may want to take additional time as a family to tell stories of memorable times you had together. This is where a photo album or computer pictures might come in handy.

End your time together by reading Psalm 103 aloud.

## **A Season of Thanks**

### **Cultivating a Thankful Heart (Part 2)**

#### **Ordinary Objects of Remembrance**

- Stones of Remembrance  
Joshua 4:19-24
- Pennies of Remembrance
- Umbrella of Remembrance

#### **Faithful to our Past**

*First Baptist Church of Elk Grove: Serving Our Community Since 1924*

85 years: A History of our Church  
Darrell and Marv Schuh

#### **Faithful for our Future**

*Love God, Love Others, Change the World*

The Next 85 Years  
Jason Whalen

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**Sunday, November 22, 2009**

*by Joel Neufeld, Pastor of Formation & Worship*

## Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

Every little thing we see around us can give us reason to remember and give thanks. Both the young and the old can give thanks. This week Dawn Maxon shared with us her pennies of remembrance. Her son Chad Maxon also sent me a written account of that day that was memorable for him as well. Here is Chad's account.

*The day started out as a surprise. My brother Devin and I arrived at the Vallejo ferry terminal to surprise my mom on her anniversary. Sitting at Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco celebrating my parent's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, my family had the opportunity to remember the blessings we have experienced during the past twenty years. Our blessings jar is a simple grey and blue ceramic jar filled with pennies that have been run through a machine, smashed, and imprinted with a design that tourists, such as my family has been on many occasions, have grown so fond of over the years. To us these \$.51 mementos are more than just symbols of places we have visited. They represent smiles, laughter, joy, peace and even some tears and tough loses (also included in the jar was the tag from our beloved dog Bessie, who was a blessing in our lives for ten years). As we sat there enjoying one another's company and indulging in oversized chocolate sundaes, we realized that our smiles were emanating from a place much sweeter than delectable milk chocolate. We found joy in the blessings that the Lord has allowed our family in His infinite grace. We remembered the happiness that we have in our family, and that is worth being thankful for.*

This week in the Emmaus Road we will spend two days looking at the Passover and recognizing the every day objects God used to help the people remember what he had done for them. Then on Wednesday we have put together a guide for you to sit down with your family on Thanksgiving Eve to have a time of remembrance together.

## Monday –

Read Exodus 12:1-28

This is the account of the first Passover. Take time to note the ordinary objects that God uses to help them celebrate/prepare for Passover. Also note the importance God puts on the continual remembrance of this event.

## Tuesday –

Today we are going to look at the different passages where the Passover is celebrated. Though at times the Passover is forgotten, God's faithfulness is evidenced in his people and there is a call to continually remember.

The first Passover celebrated in the Promised Land.

Joshua 5:10-12

Josiah becomes first king to celebrate Passover since the time of Samuel.

2 Chronicles 35:1-19

Those Exiled Return to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover.

Ezra 6:19-22

Jesus and his Disciples celebrate the Passover.

Mark 14:12-26