The power of remembering

The Goodness and Kindness of God (3 of 3) | 1 Samuel 7:2–12

Introduction

When we remember God's goodness and kindness, we find the strength to trust Him with the road ahead.

Summary

God has been good and kind to us all year, but we forget quickly. When we forget what He has done, we lose our footing the moment the next storm comes. That is why, right through Scripture, God calls His people to remember.

In 1 Samuel 7, after twenty hard years and a battle they could not win, Israel was rescued by God alone. Samuel set up a stone, named it Ebenezer ("stone of help") and said, "Thus far the LORD has helped us." Remembering doesn't pretend the pain wasn't real. It declares that the pain doesn't get the final word about who God is. "Thus far" is a comma, not a full stop: the God who has helped us this far will carry us the rest of the way. His kindness has a face, and His name is Jesus.

Key verses: 1 Samuel 7:12; Deuteronomy 8:2; Titus 3:4–5

Discussion

Tell us about a time someone was unexpectedly kind to you. Why do you still remember it?

Go Deeper

1. Looking back on this year, where have you seen God's goodness and kindness? Share one "thus far the Lord has helped me" moment.
2. Why do we have such a short memory for God's mercy and such a long memory for our struggles? What helps you remember?
3. How does remembering God's kindness in the past help you trust Him with what lies ahead?

This Week

Make your own Ebenezer: write down three ways God has been good and kind to you this year, and thank Him for them each day.

Pray Together

Thank God for His goodness and kindness thus far, and entrust the road ahead to Him.