

Remembering God's Goodness

Group Discussion Question: How do you know God is real?

- Please share a story of a personal experience that could only be done by a supernatural force.
- Remembering these personal experiences is a surefire way to know that God has moved in your life before, and He will again!

1. Our Prayers Are More Powerful When We Remember He Is Real

As we approach God in prayer, faith moves His heart. Hebrews 11:6 (NIV): "*And without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*"

2. Good news, we don't have to have a lot of faith, but just a little bit:

- Matthew 17:20 (NIV): "*Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*"

Reflection Question: How do you approach God in prayer? Do you feel scared He may not answer?

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3. Other verses reminding us that God is moved by our faith:

- Matthew 21:22 (NIV): "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."
- Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV): "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."
- Mark 9:23 (NIV): "Everything is possible for one who believes."

4. The Bible Encourages Remembrance of God's Goodness to Boost Faith

In the Bible, people did three things to remember how good God is and boost their faith when times were tough:

- **Build Altars:** They made special places to remember when God helped them. These places were for worship and thanksgiving.
 - **Example:** Abraham, in obedience to God's guidance, builds altars at significant places throughout his journey. One notable instance is in Genesis 22, where he builds an altar on Mount Moriah after God provides a ram for the sacrifice instead of his son Isaac. As Abraham is about to offer Isaac, God intervenes, and a ram caught in a thicket becomes the sacrificial substitute. Overwhelmed with gratitude and relief, Abraham builds an altar to commemorate God's provision.
 - **Verse:** Genesis 22:9-14 (NIV) - "Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.... Abraham called that place *The Lord Will Provide*. And to this day, it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord, it will be provided.'"
- **Sing Psalms:** They sang songs from the Book of Psalms to think about how good God is and find comfort when things were hard.
 - **Example:** In this Psalm, the author testifies to the experience of seeking the Lord, receiving an answer, and being delivered from fears. It's a personal reflection on God's responsiveness to those who earnestly seek Him, providing comfort and deliverance in times of trouble.
 - **Verse:** "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles..." Psalm 34:4-7 (NIV)
- **Share Bible Stories:** The Bible tells us stories about God's goodness. This helps us trust God more during difficult times.
 - **Example:** Joseph, facing betrayal by his brothers and unjust imprisonment, becomes a prime example of forgiveness and faithfulness. His story, found in Genesis 37-50, illustrates how God's plans prevail despite adversity. Joseph forgives his brothers, and through God's providence, he rises to a position of authority in Egypt, ultimately saving his family during a famine.
 - **Verse:** Genesis 50:20 (NIV) - "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Reflection Question: What did you think while reading these examples of remembrance in the Bible?
