

Question 6

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 12

With this question we should strike a note of warning:

Dwelling in the past is not the same as remembering it. We need a current testimony. Therefore what God has done gives us confidence that He will continue to act both now and in the future.

- a) It is very important to look back on what God has done in our lives.
- b) Paul on several occasions recalls what he had been saved from. And this very much shaped his understanding of what he had been saved too (e.g. **1 Tim 1:12-16**).
- c) Recalling God's provision; His answers to prayer and His promises given, enables us to trust confidently that He will continue to bless and provide for us now. This can be done through sharing testimony with others and by giving thanks for specific blessings in prayer.
- d) The best way we can keep in remembrance what God has done for us is to regularly read and study His word. All His great words and works contribute to His blessing on our lives in one way or another.

Question 1

- a) The Bible speaks a lot about remembering God's goodness and his acts on behalf of His people.
- b) Throughout the Old Testament the people are reminded of how God acted on their behalf, in order to bring them back to faith and obedience in the present (e.g. **Deut 5:15; Isaiah 46:8-10**). The whole Deuteronomy 8 is given over to the need to remember (e.g. **Deut 8:1-2; 11-14**).
- c) The most prominent of the ongoing reminders would have been the annual Passover Festival that reminded Israel of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt (**Exodus 12:25-27**); and the 10 Commandments (**Deut 6:20-24**).
- d) The New Testament continues the theme of remembrance in relation to a different deliverance; that of Christ's work on the cross. One of the most prominent of these reminders is found in the Lord's Supper.
- e) Other New Testament examples of the need to remember can be seen in: **1 Cor 15:1-2** (concerning the gospel); **2 Pet 1:12-13** (concerning God's calling); **Jude: 5** (concerning judgement).

Question 2

- a) The memorials would cause future generations to ask the purpose of them; giving an opportunity to recount God's sovereign power on behalf of His people (**verse 7**).
- b) Notice that this was never to be forgotten i.e. "*a memorial forever*".
- c) Later in **verse 24** the purpose is extended beyond the nation of Israel. This reminds us of the reach of God's purposes for His people; so that all nations might know that God is mighty.
- d) In **verse 24** there is a further purpose of the memorials; that Israel and the other nations might fear God forever.

Question 3

- a) There were no doubt 101 things that needed doing: e.g. setting up camp, preparing to meet the enemy etc. All these things were arguably both essential and urgent.
- b) However, before anything else is done the people are to focus on what God has done for them.
- c) It will be a future reminder! But it is equally important as a present focus on God's power and provision; an opportunity for thanksgiving and worship.

Question 4

- a) This was a response from all the people to a miracle already completed; they had all crossed safely.
- b) Throughout the preparation for this crossing in the previous chapters; the emphasis had been on the need for obedience and trust.
- c) The twelve chosen back in **3:12** only now knew what they had been chosen for. It was a step of faith to go back into onto the river bed to collect as big a stone as they could carry on your shoulders?

Question 5

- a) Observe the faith of the priests. They did not move from their position in the middle of the river until everything had been carried out as instructed.
- b) Remember that the Ark would have been heavy. They would have been tired.
- c) However they stood there until the memorial had been built in the middle of the river; all the people had passed over; and the twelve representatives had returned for their stones.