

## **Introduction: Sociology 101**

He was different, warm, friendly... and attacked everything I believed in.

### **Observation:**

It's only a matter of time before something or someone attacks your faith – raising doubts in your heart, confusion in your soul, and a sense of inadequacy in your mind.

### **The Question:**

How can we encourage those whose faith is being “knocked down?”

### **The Answer:**

“Remember, Remember, Remember!”

**Paul models encouraging memories:** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Paul reminds them of **their reception of the message:**

<sup>1</sup> For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,  
<sup>2</sup> but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

- Paul reminds them of **the character of the messengers:**

<sup>3</sup> For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;  
<sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.  
<sup>5</sup> For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed, God is witness,  
<sup>6</sup> nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

- Paul reminds them of **the ministry they received:**

<sup>7</sup> But we proved to gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.  
<sup>8</sup> Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.  
<sup>9</sup> For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.  
<sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;  
<sup>11</sup> Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

- Paul reminds them of **the results in their lives:**

<sup>12</sup> so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

**How? We help them...**

- 1. Remember the day!**
- 2. Remember the people!**
- 3. Remember the love!**
- 4. Remember the transformation!**

**Conclusion: When our faith is slandered...**

Remembering “the work” of God in our past  
is what provides perspective to  
do “the will” of God in the present.

**Application:**

Who do you know who needs a guided tour down their spiritual  
“memory lane?”

**Discussion:**

1. Read Psalm 103:1-5 and discuss the importance of “remembering” in our spiritual lives.
2. Brainstorm as a group and come up with six to eight ways that would help you practice “remembering” on a regular/habitual basis.
3. Re-read 1 Thessalonians 2:3-11 and list five or six specific examples of how God wants us to minister to others from Paul’s model of ministry to the Thessalonians.
4. How did “remembering” encourage you today? Why?
5. Ask God to show each member in the group one person in their network who needs encouraging. Determine this week, with God’s power, to help them remember.