



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Lives Marked by Remembrance”

Preached by Mateo Mendoza

December 28, 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Mateo delivered a message on the importance of remembrance as we close out 2025 and enter the new year. Drawing from Isaiah 63:7-9, he emphasized how we are naturally forgetful people who often fail to remember God's faithfulness and goodness in our lives. The sermon explored three key aspects of remembrance: it builds our confidence in God's character, produces hope in His promises, and makes us attentive to God's presence. Pastor Mateo reminds us that God's goodness is not contingent on our performance but flows from His steadfast love and compassion. He encourages us to look back and remember God's faithfulness in 2025, while also looking forward with hope to 2026, knowing that God is Emmanuel - always with us through every season of life.

Key Passages

- Isaiah 63:7-9
- Romans 5:8
- Ephesians 1:4
- Matthew 28:20

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to speak to us. Help us to be receptive to Your Holy Spirit and to see You more clearly during our time together. We pray that You would draw us closer to You and help us to remember Your faithfulness in our lives. Lord, we surrender our own agendas and ask that You would have Your way in our discussion today. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one of the best Christmas gifts you've ever received, and do you still remember the excitement you felt when you first got it?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pastor Mateo asked us to think about something amazing that happened in January or February of this year. How easy or difficult was it for you to remember specific moments of God's goodness from earlier this year?
2. The Hebrew word 'zakhar' means to relive an experience, not just remember it. How can we practice this remembrance in our daily lives?
3. Does knowing that God's goodness toward you is based on His steadfast love and not your performance change the way you approach your relationship with Him?
4. Pastor Mateo shared that 'our current circumstances or emotional state are not the end of the story - Christ's return is the end of the story.' How does this truth give you hope when facing difficult seasons?
5. What are some specific ways God has shown His faithfulness to you in 2025, even during challenges or difficulties?
6. The sermon mentioned that remembrance happens best in community, celebration, and around tables with food. How can we create more opportunities for this kind of remembrance in our lives?

7. As we enter 2026, what fears, worries, or hopes are you carrying? How can remembering God's character help you face the new year with confidence?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, set aside time each day to practice 'zakhar' - actively remembering and reliving God's goodness in your life. Choose one specific way God showed His faithfulness to you in 2025 and share that story with someone else, whether a family member, friend, or fellow believer. As you share, pay attention to how remembering God's goodness builds your confidence in His character and increases your hope for the future.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- We are naturally forgetful people who often fail to remember God's faithfulness and goodness in our lives.
- Remembrance builds our confidence in God's character - His goodness flows from His steadfast love, not our performance.

- Remembrance produces hope in God's promises - our current circumstances are not the end of the story.
- Remembrance makes us attentive to God's presence that is always with us through His Spirit.
- True remembrance happens best in community, celebration, and shared experiences, not just internal reflection.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of remembering Your faithfulness and goodness in our lives. As we leave this place, help us to carry with us the truth that You are Emmanuel - God with us - in every moment of every day. Give us eyes to see Your presence and hearts that remember Your steadfast love. As we step into the new year, may we live with confidence in Your character, hope in Your promises, and awareness of Your constant presence. Help us to be people who remember and share Your goodness with others. In Your precious name, **Amen**.