



SMALL GROUP

User's manual

Hello, welcome to #RememberWhen!

Do you remember when God did something special in your life?

It doesn't have to be something big or miraculous, as even the smallest of moments can have a huge impact when we look back and remember God's faithfulness.

Sharing Jesus with our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours needn't be a daunting task. We don't all have to memorise apologetics arguments or learn Bible passages in the original Greek. But we can all remember moments, big or small, when God has been at work in our lives – and sharing these can often have a significant impact on others.

Throughout the Bible, God's people were encouraged to remember what He had done for them. We all have that same ability to remember God's goodness, faithfulness, grace, and love for us today.

Whether it was a prayer answered last week, a friend healed last month or a time when God spoke through scripture, we are called to be a community that remembers when God has been faithful to us. We are a community that God demonstrates His character to and through, proving that He still keeps the promises He made in the Bible. Sharing memories of what God has done in our lives helps to show others that God is active and relevant in our time.

We can't wait to see how God uses you and your church to make Jesus known in our land, as we **#RememberWhen** together. Let's pray that it would be the start of our friends, families, colleagues and neighbours having their own stories of remembering when...

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First published in the United Kingdom by the Evangelical Alliance in 2020

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Remember when God...

The first session will explore the power of remembering and reflecting on the remarkable story that we carry as God's people. What has God done for us as a community, and what are those key **#RememberWhen** moments for each of us?

SETTING THE SCENE

What comes to mind when you think about actively remembering God's faithfulness? In what moments or settings have you previously been encouraged to do this?

I intentionally take time to remember God's faithfulness:

- Every day
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- On special occasions

READ | **REMEMBERING THE EXODUS** | Deuteronomy 6:20–23



REFLECT

Why does God instruct the Israelites to remember?

What does it teach us about the power of remembering as a community?

READ | **REMEMBERING THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS** | Psalm 105:1–15



REFLECT

How might remembering be considered as an act of worship?

When have you remembered a promise of God in hardship, or seen Him be faithful against the odds?

REFLECT ON THE TEACHING VIDEO

Phil makes the connection between his commitment to his wife and God's commitment to us. How does it make you feel when you remember that God has committed Himself to you?

Phil's ring regularly reminds him of the commitment he's made in marriage. What practices could you put in place to daily remember God's commitment to you and yours to Him, such as collecting pebbles in a jar as a symbol of the Ebenezer stones (1 Samuel 7:12)?

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#REMEMBERWHEN

Using the timeline in the manual, add in key memories of when you experienced God at work in your life. These could be moments such as when God answered a prayer, when you experienced the presence of God, or the moment when you first decided to follow Jesus. As you think about those moments, how have they had an impact on your faith in God? How did you experience God in those times? These memories are your **#RememberWhen** moments of God in your life, which we will come back to next time.

Birth Today



SUMMARY

From the Exodus to the Passover to the Last Supper, we are called to be a people who remember God's faithfulness in the past so that we grow our love for Him today and trust in Him tomorrow.

PRAYER NOTES

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TAKEAWAY

Ask a Christian friend if they have a **#RememberWhen** moment of God's faithfulness in lockdown.

Remember when Jesus...

This session explores the different types of encounters people had with Jesus. No two encounters look the same, so we want to recognise and reflect on the wonderful variety of **#RememberWhen** moments in our own lives.

SETTING THE SCENE

If you could watch back one memory from your life, what would it be? Is it from several years ago or more recent history, perhaps during the coronavirus pandemic? Is it something you want to celebrate, or something you wish you could go back and change?

READ | **THE INSTANT ENCOUNTER** | Luke 8:40–48



REFLECT

The woman is clearly desperate to encounter Jesus. What need or question does she bring to Him?

According to Levitical law, the woman's bleeding made her unclean. How does Jesus' reaction contrast the way the crowd might have expected Him to react?

If you were the woman who was healed, how would you tell this story to your neighbour?

READ | **THE REFLECTIVE ENCOUNTER** | Luke 24:13–35



REFLECT

How does our 'instant culture' affect the way that we reflect on gradual transformation with Jesus?

What helped the disciples realise it was Jesus who they'd been walking with?

Alongside scripture and communion, what are some of the other ways you have encountered Jesus?





REFLECT ON THE TEACHING VIDEO

What does this session's stories teach us about slow and steady growth with Jesus?

What do you think stops us from sharing encounters with Jesus that might sound mundane?

In what areas of your life do you think you saw gradual transformation during lockdown and how could that be celebrated now?

#REMEMBERWHEN

Look back at the timeline you completed last week. Spend a moment reflecting, asking God to highlight one particular **#RememberWhen** moment. In that place of reflection, think about how you might tell the story of that time when you experienced God's faithfulness. Take a few minutes to write it out if you can, as we will come back to this **#RememberWhen** moment next time.

SUMMARY

When we reflect on it, all of us have stories of what God has done in our lives. From the miraculous to the mundane, all of these **#RememberWhen** moments of God's presence are valuable and worth sharing. Each moment is a testimony to who Jesus is, and an opportunity for us to be a witness to Him.

PRAYER NOTES

ACT

Will you look out for the opportunity to share your **#RememberWhen** moment with another Christian this week?

Remember when the Spirit...

This session, we are looking back at some of the amazing ways that God's Spirit worked through the early church. As they remembered their encounters with Jesus, the Holy Spirit was with them – and the same is true for us today.

SETTING THE SCENE

When have you recently experienced or discovered something so good that you couldn't stop talking about it? Perhaps you started a new hobby in lockdown, built new friendships with neighbours on your street, stumbled across a great movie or book, or can't stop watching a certain TV show.

READ | **PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN** | Acts 4:8–20



REFLECT

Peter and John say they can't help but speak about the things they've seen and heard. Have you ever felt like this? If so, why? If not, why?

The passage describes Peter and John as “unschooled, ordinary men”. How might this shape our understanding of what it takes to be a witness to Jesus?

What is the significance of Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit?

READ | **PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN** | Acts 8:26–40



REFLECT

In the story we’ve just read, Philip is being guided by the Spirit. How have you experienced a sense of God’s Spirit guiding you?

This whole story seems almost too convenient. Have you ever been pleasantly surprised by someone’s response to you sharing your faith?

Have you ever been in a conversation and felt God remind you of scripture or prompt you to share something? What was the outcome?

How can we grow in our openness to the guidance of God's Spirit?

REFLECT ON THE TEACHING VIDEO

What are some of the stories and messages that are communicated most loudly in our culture?

What holds us back from sharing our own stories of faith?

How might the Spirit be prompting us to communicate the work God has done in our lives?



#REMEMBERWHEN

When it comes to sharing Jesus with others, ultimately, it's the Spirit who is at work and responsible for the outcome, but the words we use still matter. Take a look at the **#RememberWhen** moment that you wrote out last week. With fresh eyes, think about the words that you used and the way you talked about what God did. Reflect on whether someone with no experience of church would be able to fully grasp the significance of what happened and whether your language or jargon makes sense to them. Think about how you might change your wording to make your story more accessible.

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SUMMARY

Stories from the early church encourage us that not only do we have a story worth communicating, but we are also not alone when we share it. As we grow more in tune with God's Spirit, we will see Him opening up opportunities to share Jesus with others.

PRAYER NOTES

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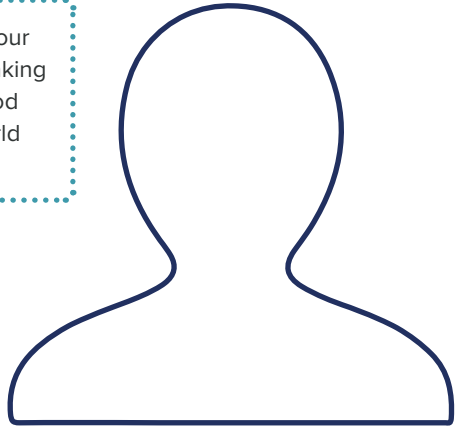
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ACT

Spend some time alone with God this week. Ask God's Spirit to show you someone who doesn't know Jesus yet, but needs to hear about your **#RememberWhen** moment, and find some time to pray for that person.

Remember when we...

For our final session, we're looking at how our **#RememberWhen** stories play a part in making Jesus known. Even if we don't expect it, God invites us all to participate in telling the world the good news about Jesus.



SETTING THE SCENE

When you picture someone who regularly shares their faith, what key qualities do you think they have? Write characteristics and attributes on the person:

READ | **THE CONVERSION OF SAUL** | Acts 9:1–22



REFLECT

Who would be a modern-day equivalent of Saul?

How would you have reacted to God asking you to reach out to someone like Saul?



REFLECT

What do you find challenging about the woman's reaction to Jesus and her urgency to share that encounter?

How do verses 40 to 42 encourage us about the outcome of sharing Jesus?

Why do you think many of us don't consider ourselves as witnesses to Jesus?



REFLECT ON THE TEACHING VIDEO

Considering the team effort that is required for any successful mission, how does it feel to realise that the responsibility for sharing Jesus is shared between all of us?

Emily Ford used her artistic skills to help the fight for women's right to vote. What skills can you identify in yourself or others in your group that could be used to help witness to Jesus?

Who are the people we think it is impossible to reach with the good news of Jesus?



#REMEMBERWHEN

Now that we've reflected on our journey of faith, picked out a key **#RememberWhen** moment of God's faithfulness, and considered how we might share that, it's time to give it a go. If you're meeting in person, split into groups of two or three and share your **#RememberWhen** moment. If you're gathering online then perhaps a couple of people could volunteer to share their **#RememberWhen** moment with the whole group. This is a safe space to offer encouraging and constructive feedback. What did you like about their story? What characteristics of God did it display? Were there bits that didn't make sense or might need further explanation for someone who doesn't know Jesus yet?

You can write any notes from your group here:

SUMMARY

While sharing Jesus might seem impossible to some of us now, the Bible reassures us that God wants to use all of us to spread the good news. Not only that, but God can use us in order to reach even those who seem impossibly far from Him.

PRAYER NOTES

ACT

Remember your **#RememberWhen** moment? Remember the person the Spirit prompted you to share it with? Now go and share that moment with them.

What next?

We hope you have enjoyed exploring the **#RememberWhen material**, whether on your own, as a small group, or as a whole church. Together, we have explored the way that God calls His people to remember His faithfulness; how, just as we see in the New Testament, our encounters with Jesus, both big and small, are powerful and worth sharing; how God's Spirit empowers His people to pray boldly as they step out in faith; and how God is in the business of doing the impossible in and through us.

Finally, we want to leave you with three top tips as you continue to find ways to be a witness to Jesus in your everyday life:

1. KEEP PRAYING

- For your friends, family members, neighbours and colleagues to come to know Jesus.
- For yourself, that you would continue to grow in compassion and boldness as a disciple of Jesus, as well as in awareness of opportunities to share your faith.
- For your church, that as a community you would grow in your awareness of God's loving faithfulness and your desire to share that news with others.

2. KEEP ACCOUNTABLE

- Find two friends in your church and commit to praying for one another and supporting each other as you make Jesus known together.

3. KEEP GOING

- You are going to have some great, awkward, and terrible conversations. But remember, it is not your job to convert someone; it's simply to keep witnessing to your encounters with Jesus and the impact He has had on your life.

Notes

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evangelical alliance 
together making Jesus known

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