



Welcome back to Growth Groups! It's been a month since we met together for discussions. Several of our Growth Groups have enjoyed some dinners and other social activities together. I hope everyone is enjoying the relaxed summer schedule and are getting pumped up for the fall. Here is the remaining summer schedule:

Sunday Groups	Wednesday Groups
July 29, August 12 (Fall Kick-off?), 19, 26	August 1, 15 (Fall Kick-off?), 22, 29

This week, we are reviewing the entire *Remember* series. The messages have been a look at some ancient traditions in the church and how we should look at those traditions today. So let's get started!

- **What traditions did your family have growing up that still impact you today? Why do you suppose those traditions made such an impact on you?**
- **What traditions did your high school or college have that really impacted your memory of being a part of that school?**
- **Why do you think traditions are so important to us?**
- The first tradition Eric taught about is *Communion*, also known as the *Lord's Supper*. **Read: 1 Corinthians 11:23-28. (Reference Matt 26:26-29) What does the tradition of the Lord's Supper symbolize and remind us about as Christ followers?**
- **Why do you think the Apostle Paul takes this tradition so seriously by scolding the Corinthians for turning the tradition into a party?**
- The second tradition we looked at is *Fasting*. **Do you think fasting is an important activity for Christ followers to practice today? Why or why not?**
- **Read Acts 13:1-3.** In this passage we see how fasting and prayer can lead to great spiritual breakthrough. **Do you think God speaks through fasting today like He did in this passage? Why or why not?**
- **Did you participate in the church-wide fasting exercise? If so, what did you do and how did it impact your relationship with God?**
- The final tradition in the *Remember* series is *Baptism*. **Why do you think the tradition of baptism is important for Christ followers?**
- Every example of baptism given to us in the Bible after Jesus' death and resurrection is of a person becoming a believer and choosing to be baptized. **Have you been baptized since you became a follower of Christ? Why or why not?**



**Growth Groups  
Leader's Travel Guide  
Week of July 15-21, 2007**



Hey Growth Group Leaders!

It's been a month since I put together a Travel Guide for Growth groups. I have honestly missed being able to communicate with you all and to hear reports of what God is doing in your groups. I am excited to know that a couple of the groups have met together for informal activities apart from the "normal" growth group meeting. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the summer schedule to do the same in your group.

I am excited to report that we have some new people at Journey that have asked to be a part of growth groups. If I sent you information to contact some new folks, be sure to contact them and get them involved. Church growth statistics tell us that the chances of someone who gets involved in a small group staying involved in church is a whole lot higher than someone who does not get into a small group. Let's not let anyone slip through the cracks!

If I have spoken to you about getting someone involved but did not pass off contact information, let me know immediately so I can be sure you get info so you can contact the folks.

This weeks' travel guide is a review of the entire *Remember* series. Each of the questions is designed to review the basics of each of the traditions and to challenge your folks to move their faith to the next level by practicing each of the traditions in an appropriate manner.

Emily and I have been challenged a lot in the past month, partially because of elements discussed in this series. We are absolutely amazed at some of the things we believe God is doing in our lives. If God has shown you something big, please share it with me so we can rejoice together.

For the most part, keep the discussion light and moving forward. However, some of your groups have new people in them that may have some significant questions or strange ideas about one or more of the traditions. This is fine, and try to answer some of the questions/issues with honest, biblical answers. This kind of discussion will help you discern the spiritual condition of some of the folks in your group. However, do not let these questions and issues dominate your time. If a question arises that needs follow up, either try to schedule a separate time to talk with the person directly, or let Eric or myself know (with the person's permission) so we can follow up later.

Also, be sure to review the remaining summer schedule:

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Eric and I have been working on some more specific guidelines for how we want the Growth Groups ministry to run and to grow. As we finalize some of these ideas, I will be passing information on to you to get you all ready for a little more organized and refined year of Growth Groups starting in the fall.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in whatever way I can. Thank you again for your help!

Andrew