

# Sanctuary First

November 2011

## Theme Summary

### Remembering for the Future

#### Setting the Scene

Prepare areas that people can interact with before the service starts. Memory joggers - old photos, smells, tastes, sounds, etc. Old sweets, magazines, old toys, poppy, etc.

Item	Notes
VIDEO:	Remembrance
PRESENTER 1:	This is the Season of Remembrance. During November there will be thousands of Remembrance Services taking place across the land. Remembering is an important aspect of all of our lives.
PRESENTER 2:	However understanding why we remember is important. We may remember in order to protect the future but if we remember in order to keep a feud alive, or to get our own back on someone, then our remembering is destructive. We are allowing a hurtful memory to continue to control us. Often this kind of remembering turns us into bitter and angry people, in doing so we become like those who have wronged us and we destroy our future.
PRESENTER 1:	Yet remembering is part of being human. We need to remember in order that we can have a relationship with each other. I need to remember names, telephone numbers, faces, ideas and promises. When our memory is lost through illness or trauma we lose an important aspect of our identity. Understanding how to deal with our memories is at the heart of the Christian gospel and it is central to a biblical teaching on Forgiveness.
PRESENTER 2:	In our service we will explore experiences that we have remembered and we will be encouraged to invite God's help to heal memories that seem to dis-member us from ourselves and our friends and God himself. We will also be encouraged to celebrate the aspects of remembering that are positive and make us more Christlike. We thought it would be good to begin the service with a memory test.

Item	Notes
THE MEMORY GAME:	<p>(Please note this can be adapted to suit the venue. The important thing is to try and engage everyone to see that we remember some things more easily than others. )</p> <p>Everyone stands in a line, a question is asked. If you can answer the question take a step forward.</p> <p>Questions can be:            Do you remember...            Your date of birth            your postcode            your mobile phone number            your pin number            your NI number            your bank account number</p>
SONG:	I am not forgotten
PRESENTER 1:	<p>When we don't trust our memories, we often take the precaution of writing important things down. Some things we remember off the top of our heads others are more detailed so we write them down. Holding on to memories can be a wonderful experience. Often we want to pass them on. This Google Chrome Advert illustrates the significance of holding on to good memories.</p>
VIDEO:	Google Chrome
PRESENTER 2:	<p>Take a moment or two to think about some important memories you might want to pass on to friends or family.</p>
GROUPS:	<p>Ask people to split into small groups and share their memories. Ask them to remember:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. something happy</li> <li>2. something sad</li> <li>3. something that changed their perspective.</li> </ol>
PRESENTER 2:	<p>The first Christians were so afraid that the truth about Jesus would disappear and be forgotten that they wrote it down. Perhaps if videos and emails had been around in those days it would have appeared like this.</p>
VIDEO:	Letter from the Past
PRESENTER 2:	<p>The interesting thing is they shared in their stories of Jesus. The happy, sad and life changing experiences. The most important one was coming to terms with the idea of forgiveness.</p>

Item	Notes
VIDEO:	Promise Box
PRESENTER 1:	Isn't it an interesting contrast as we talk about our memories and their significance we can enjoy the good ones but we feel hurt or disturbed about the bad ones. It is only when we face the bad ones, bringing them to God in prayer and seeking forgiveness and healing that we can truly be healed. It is God who starts the forgetting process when we begin the repenting process.
GROUP EXERCISE:	There are a number of Bible verses that have been cut up and you might say dismembered, take a moment and see how many of them you can remember. Now bring them and remember them on the Lord's table as we come to share in the Communion Service of Remembering!
COMMUNION:	Short Informal Communion Service
<b>BLESSING</b>	