



Supplies

- Bible

I Wonder...

Remember this part of the Bible story?



Read aloud Judges 2:10.

The Israelites didn't have many options for passing along information. They had to share things by retelling stories for generations, including stories about God.

- ? So I wonder...why did the Israelites forget about God and how he'd helped them?
- ? Have you ever been sure you'd remember something—either to do something or important words that someone said—but then forgot? Share an example of your own first, then invite a few responses from everyone.

Remembering can be difficult! The Israelites seemed to have memory troubles. But I imagine passing information along for generations is tough. One generation can be 80 to 100 years—plenty of time for messages to get mixed up! Let's make that truth a little more real.

Form a knee-to-knee circle, and play a game of Telephone with a couple of simple, silly messages and a couple of more complex messages to pass along. Lightheartedly observe how even within a *few minutes* of repeating, the message can get distorted.

- ? Why do you think that within only minutes of repeating, a message can change?

We're humans; we're not perfect, and neither are our memories.

But even when the Israelites forgot about God, God never forgot the Israelites. He never gave up on them, and he will never give up on you or me.

God is patient...
even when we forget about him.
(Thanks, God!)





Supplies

- no supplies

Make It Real

Today we're investigating...um...what are we investigating? Oh yeah, **memory**—and how **God is patient**...even when we forget about him. *(Thanks, God!)*

Here's a fun fact: Many of our memories are stored in a place in our brains called the *hippocampus*. You might guess it looks like a hippo, but it's shaped more like a seahorse.

We all need help remembering sometimes, and there are some cool ways to do that by involving our senses.

Invite everyone to point at a place on their faces or hands that represents one of the five senses—hearing, taste, sight, touch, and smell.

When our senses are at work, it helps lock memories in our brains.

- ❓ **Have you ever smelled a smell that reminded you of a place or a special experience?** Share an example of your own, such as distinctly remembering the smell of your grandmother's house. Invite everyone to talk about the question in pairs.

Smell is strongly linked to our memories! Here's another fun way to involve our senses as we try to remember things. (Maybe the Israelites could have used this tip!)

Invite pairs to put words from the Bible verse or a Bible truth to the melody of a song or a rhyme. Offer a simple example of "1, 2, 3...God loves me!" Pairs can also add motions if they'd like. After a few minutes of brainstorming and practice, invite pairs to share with everyone.

- ❓ **What did you discover in this experiment of senses and memory?**

These memory helpers are great tools for remembering God. But when things just won't stick in the hippocampus, **God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)*





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