Memory Sunday
A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders
Memory Sunday Materials

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for the Friends of AADOP Advisory Council

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Suggestion 1

Topic:
Can You Drink from the Cup?

Preaching Points:

* It would be wonderful if we all could have a privileged, successful future. (Mark 10:37)

* Be careful what you ask for. Can you face life’s challenge? (Mark 10:38)

* At some time or another you will indeed face life’s challenges feeling abandoned or hopeless, unworthy or angry, afraid or guilty. (Mark 10:39)

* We all have our “cup”. “...take away this cup from me...” (Mark 14:36)“...the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11)

* Whether your “cup” is living with Alzheimer’s disease or other memory problems, or whether your “cup” is caring for a loved one, comfort comes from a Loving Father. (John 16:27)

* No matter your trouble and stress, peace can be yours. (John 16:33)

* There is always hope in the Lord. (Psalm 16:1; 7-11)

* You are a child of the King sharing the suffering and sharing the Glory. (Romans 8:16-17)

* God knows all about you! (Matthew 10:29-31)
Conclusion:
Can you drink from the cup? You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. (Philippians 4:13)

Songs:
Balm in Gilead
Blessed Quietness
Do, Lord, Remember Me
Even Me
He Knows Just How Much You Can Bear
His Eye Is on the Sparrow
In the Garden
In Times Like These
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Lord, Don’t Move the Mountain
My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me
Oh Lord, Have Mercy
Pass Me Not
Standin’ in the Need of Prayer
Surely, God Is Able
There’s Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus
We’ll Understand It Better By and By
Topic: Suffering: Punishment, Problem, or Opportunity

Preaching Points:

*Job’s suffering caused him to curse the day he was born. (Job 3:1, 13-17)

*Job’s friends thought Job’s suffering was a punishment. (Job 19:1-4)

*Neither Alzheimer’s disease nor other memory problems are punishment on the person who has it or their caregiver. (John 9:1-3)

*Suffering is not a problem for God. (John 9:39)

*Suffering is an opportunity to know that God wants only good for each of us. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

*Suffering is an opportunity to strengthen our faith. (Romans 5:1-5)

*Suffering is an opportunity to see God’s love. (I John 4:9-11)

*Suffering is an opportunity to put your trust in God. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
Conclusion:
Is suffering a punishment, a problem, or an opportunity?
Suffering is an opportunity to grow closer to God.

Songs:
Glory, Glory
God Will Take Care of You
He Understands, He’ll Say “Well Done”
I Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray
I Don’t Feel No Ways Tired
I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
I Surrender All
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
I Will Trust in the Lord
Leave It There
Let Jesus Fix It for You
Lord, Help Me to Hold Out
Oh Lord, Have Mercy
Precious Lord
Stand by Me
Standin’ in the Need of Prayer
The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power
Suggestion 3

Topic:

Why Me, Lord?

Preaching Points:

* We don’t control our lives. God does. (James 4:13-15)

* God works for good. (Romans 8:28)

* You are special to God. (Matthew 10:29-31)

* We must bow to God’s will. (Matthew 26:39)

* Find a way to be content with whatever you have. (Hebrews 13:5)

* Do everything to God’s glory. (I Corinthians 10:31)

* Find a way to be content with whatever comes your way. (Philippians 4:4-9)

* God knows your troubles. (Hebrews 4:15)

* Jesus had seasons of troubles too. (Luke 22:41-44)

* God is our help in time of trouble. (Isaiah 41:14)

* Let nothing separate you from the love of God. (Romans 8:38-39)

* God is with us in time of trouble. (Psalm 50:15)

* Stand still and see what God will do. (I Samuel 12:16)

* A little faith can go a long way. (Matthew 17:20)
Conclusion:
When living with Alzheimer’s disease or other memory problems, we may ask, “Why me, Lord?” Faith is a gift from God that will see you through. (Exodus 15:1-2)

Songs:
Amazing Grace
At the Cross
Beams of Heaven As I Go
Close to Thee
Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?
God’s Amazing Grace
He Looked Beyond My Faults
He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand
I Shall Not Be Moved
Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Let It Breathe on Me
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Rock of Ages
Shine on Me
This Little Light of Mine
Through It All
We’ve Come This Far by Faith
Other Suggestions for Memory Sunday

(Respect for privacy and confidentiality must be a top priority when following these suggestions. Only help when help is welcomed and accepted.)

* Special Altar Prayer

* Altar Call for Individual Prayer Requests Collected and Lifted Up

* Adopt a Family (Organizations or individuals within the church will “adopt” a family affected by Alzheimer’s disease or other memory problems and will continuously lift them up in prayer and/or minister to their needs.)

* Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline, 1-800-272-3900

* Bible Study – “It’s Alzheimer’s, It’s Time for Extraordinary Love” by Curt Seefeldt: The Lutheran Home Association, National Ministry Offices, 337 South Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN 56011, 1-888-600-8542 or (952) 873-6000, Email: info@tlha.org, Website: www.tlha.org.

* Requests for printed resources, presentations, health fair participation, caregiver information, Memory Café activities, and free memory screening can be obtained from Dr. Deborah Danner, Director of Education/Information Transfer Core (EITC), Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, 800 South Limestone Street, Lexington, KY 40536, 257-1412 Ext. 230.

* Memory Sunday Toolkit, a Bible Study written by Jacquelyn Chance-Cunnigham and Flores Reynolds, designed by Sarah Smith, ADDOP Staffers at Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. This toolkit is designed to be used for weekly Bible Study in conjunction with Memory Sunday or as a stand alone study.

* Local or Regional Alzheimer’s Associations may have the following: Caregiver support groups; support groups for early stage memory loss; online services (chat rooms and educational info); Medic Alert/Safe Return; Comfort Zone; Care Navigator; education programs; referrals.