



PSALM 77:11, 12

I will remember the deeds of the Lord 12 I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.

NOTES FOR LEADERS

CityHill Kids is running a holiday club for kids in grades 1 - 6 from June 25th to 27th. For more info, please email kids@cityhill.co.za or WhatsApp 068 459 0708.

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from this Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. How does reflecting on what God has done in the past motivate you to trust Him for the future? What practical steps can you take to remember and celebrate His deeds regularly?
2. On Sunday, Steve said that Bible stories are shared from generation to generation. How can you incorporate the practice of remembering and celebrating God's deeds with your family? Is there a specific story you need to share with your children or relatives?
3. How comfortable are you with sharing your testimonies in a group setting? What are some ways we can encourage one another to share their stories of God's faithfulness?

START SHARING

1. On Sunday, Steve celebrated some of the generosity we've seen through God's deeds. Share about a time when someone was generous to you; what result did it produce in your life?
2. Psalm 77:11-12 emphasises remembering God's deeds. Can you share a specific instance where recalling God's past deeds gave you hope for the future? How did it impact your faith?

START PRAYING

Thank You, Father, that You're the one who sees, hears, and is concerned. Thank You for coming down to rescue us and for using us.

And so, like Isaiah, we want to say, here we are, Lord, send us the little bit that we have in our hands. We want to be able to use it for Your glory.

As we reflect with thanks on all you have done, it gives us hope and confidence going into the future. Amen.

START DOING

Moses' staff was a simple tool that God used mightily. What simple resource or ability do you have that could be used by God? How will you take a step to offer it in service to Him?

This Sunday, in part 3 of our Nation Changers series, Steve shared a message of grateful thanks for all that God has done!

Psalm 77:11,12 says: *I will remember the deeds of the Lord 12 I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.*

One of the things we see throughout the Bible is that God's people looked backwards and celebrated His deeds, which gave them hope for the future and what was going to happen.

1. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11,12
 When we started the Nation Changers series, we looked at the story of Moses: *7 The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people ... I have heard them crying out ... and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them ... 10 So now, go. I am sending you ... Exodus 3:7-10*

What an amazing thing to reflect on the idea that God sees, hears, and is concerned. He knows every one of our stories today. If you're in the toughest time, experiencing a season of loss, grief, joy, or anything in between, God sees, hears, and is concerned.

He knows our lives. He sees the suffering and the difficulty in the communities around us. God sees, and He knows, and He's concerned, and we can remember the deeds of the Lord that He is so concerned that He says, I've come down to rescue them. God's heart is always to rescue people, and his way of doing that.

God says to Moses, I am sending you. And He says to every one of us, I am sending you.

We celebrate the people in this church who have stuck up their hands and said, God, I'm willing to be used by you. I'm willing to do something somewhere, knowing that my little bit won't solve the whole problem or all the problems, but it will make some difference.

When Moses speaks with God, God asks him: *2 ... 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he replied. 3 The Lord said, 'Throw it on the ground.'* Exodus 4:2,3. Moses had a very simple shepherd's staff (his vocation was shepherding). Now, that staff could not solve the problems of the nation, but it could be put, if you like, into God's hands. And we are grateful for every person in this church who has looked at what they have in their hand for God to use - Time, money, faith, energy, dreams, passion. It might be the simple stuff, but in God's hands, He can bring about great miracles.

One of the outstanding features of the Bible story is that people looked back at what God had done, and it gave them faith and hope for the future. The stories would be repeated from parent to child for generations. In the Bible, we see Moses's response versus Isaiah's response:

Moses's Response **Isaiah's response**
'Please send someone else.' *And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'*
 Exodus 4:13 *Isaiah 6:8*

Sometimes, we're reluctant. Sometimes, we're overwhelmed by the enormity of what needs to be done, and we ask God to send someone else. But hopefully, most often, our response is rather like that of Isaiah. I want to make a difference somewhere, somehow.

2. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11
 Over the last eight years, our Nation Changes series has been a very simple way of connecting our congregation members with some of our community's needs. One way we thought of doing it was to ask the organisations we work with what they need. What would help them most? Then, we turned those needs into smaller projects - some need time, some need money, and some need both.

Last year, and again this year, seven churches in the Upper Highway area are partnering with us in our Nation Changes Month. We are grateful to God for the unity amongst churches so we can work together like this.

When we started Nation Changes Month eight years ago, we aimed to complete 50 projects.

Our goal this year is to complete 232+ projects. This requires a total investment of R1,1 million and the involvement of 1,300 volunteers, leading us to a month of action from 22 June to 31 July.

So far, of the 232 events, only 33 remain to be taken. Of the R1,1 million to be raised, only R15,650 remains. We celebrate the overwhelming willingness of people to be involved.

3. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11
 Over and above the 232 projects, we shared our vision for the Lighthouse Woman & Children's Shelter, which will ultimately house 24 women and children. There is nothing like this in the Upper Highway area (and similar places are extremely limited, even throughout KZN).

The total cost of purchasing a property for this shelter was R2,75 million. Nation Changers had raised R1,1 million over the last few years, but we still needed to raise a further R1,65 million. A single donor came forward to give the outstanding R1,65 million, and a further R148,000 was raised through the special offerings that came in. A vehicle has also been offered for the Shelter - all this before we've even opened the doors!

In summary, we've raised R2,85 million through giving (over R3m if you include the vehicle and other in-kind giving). We thank God for His people's generosity!

4. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11
8 So I have come down to rescue them ... 10 So now, go. I am sending you ... Exodus 3:8,10

God's heart is to meet physical needs, but even more important is His heart to rescue us from spiritual poverty. We celebrate how God is using many people in this church to invite family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues to a service, an event, or a life group.

And God has been doing a huge amount! One small sign is that over the last three months - March, April, and May - we've seen over 100 people get baptised, taking a step and declaring their faith publicly.

5. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11
 The gospel calls us to go and to look beyond ourselves - as the Church, we are called to go into all the world and make disciples. As a Church, we get to thank God for the privilege of being used to support the Himba Bible Translation project. To date, we have been able to donate R500,000 to this project. You can read more about this project [here](#).

Through our CityReach, we have sent 74 people on short-term mission trips so far this year. Eight more trips are planned for the remainder of the year (4 to Lesotho, 2 to Mozambique, 2 to Eswatini).

Natasja Foster, a member of CityHill Church, started an organisation called Bibles Beyond Borders after going on a mission trip to Malawi and recognising the need for Bibles. To date, Bibles Beyond Borders has distributed 22,500 Bibles to 19 countries, including Turkish and Farsi Bibles to the church in Armenia that we're partnering with there to reach the people from those areas.

We are so grateful for the faith that this church has had - it's impossible to measure what God has done through different people; only heaven knows.

6. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11
 Another thing we've been passionate about is planting more churches. In the last 12 years, we've planted 12 other churches, each meeting every Sunday and reaching out. Three of these churches are still very connected to us - one in Embo, one in Mophela, and one in Molweni. And God is working and saving people through all those different churches that have been planted. Thank you, Lord!

7. I will remember the deeds of the Lord Psalm 77:11
 We celebrate what God has done and is doing.
 We celebrate the God who sees, hears, and is concerned.
 We celebrate the God Who comes down to rescue us.
 We celebrate the amazing Saviour who rescues us from our prisons of self-centredness and gives us forgiveness, hope and purpose.
 We celebrate every person who has asked, "What is in my hand?"
 We celebrate everyone who has responded, "Here am I. Send me!"