

Do you remember Pearl Harbor? Boy, I sure do—even though it happened 10 years before I was born. President Roosevelt said that it was a day that would live in infamy, but ask a classroom of high school students what happened on Dec. 7, 1941, and only a very few will be able to answer.

So why do I remember it so vividly, even though I wasn't there? Well, my parents were. They were married in June, 1941, and then stationed in Pearl Harbor.

Their experiences during the attack became part of our dinner-table lore. Knives usually took the place of the fleet lined up in the harbor, whereas a fork would serve as the Japanese warplanes coming in. I can't tell you how many times I've heard that story, and each time it was told with the sense of immediacy that springs from actual experience.

Remember. What a hard thing for humans to do. We may not have difficulty remembering when our favorite t.v. show is on, but remembering other things doesn't come so easily. Chores can slip through our memories, facts for tests, and even the commandments that give life to us can seem distant, unimportant, and, well, just not worth remembering.

The word "remember" occurs in the Bible almost 140 times. How many times were the Israelites chided for forgetting the commandments and miracles God had given them? God intended for His laws to be permanently imprinted on our hearts. Deut. 6:7 says "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

People today decry the deterioration of our national culture. The books and poems and stirring stories of history that the older generation remembers are not necessarily being passed on to the next.

But not just our national culture is at stake. For any church community, we have a culture based upon the specific truths and stories of scripture. How knowledgeable are our kids? Do we teach them diligently, talk about them at dinner, in the car, at breakfast and at bedtime? If parents don't embrace their own faith with the zeal of real experience and share that excitement with their children, the next generation will be doomed to drift away.

Make your spiritual history vivid. Tell your own stories to your kids and relate them to the ones in the Bible. The most fertile ground for evangelism is not a street corner—it's the dinner table. Remember to share and share to remember.