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— LEADERSHIP EXERCISE · CHAPTER 9

# What Does Your Church Remember?

Gather a small group of trusted leaders. Do not begin with official archives. Begin with memory. Let people write privately first. Then compare.

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— STEP 1 · WRITE PRIVATELY

**What are the ten most important things  
God has done in the history of this church?**

|   |       |    |       |
|---|-------|----|-------|
| 1 | _____ | 2  | _____ |
| 3 | _____ | 4  | _____ |
| 5 | _____ | 6  | _____ |
| 7 | _____ | 8  | _____ |
| 9 | _____ | 10 | _____ |

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— STEP 2 · COMPARE

**Which of these would the average person in our church know?**

That may be even more revealing.

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### STEP 3 • THEN ASK

## The memory audit

What are we in danger of losing?

What testimony has never been preserved?

What pain still influences us?

What do we celebrate too much?

What have we forgotten that we should recover?

What lessons are held by only a few people?

What story needs to be told carefully?

What should younger leaders know?

What do we celebrate too little?

What do we remember that may need reframing?

### — GOING DEEPER

## Four diagnostics from the chapter

### Ask What People Tell Newcomers

#### What stories do they reach for?

- ♦ *“You should have seen this church twenty years ago.”*
- ♦ *“That pastor changed everything.”*
- ♦ *“We prayed for years before this happened.”*
- ♦ *“God provided in a way no one expected.”*

#### What we noticed

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### What Does the Church Celebrate?

#### A congregation also needs to celebrate:

- ♦ *Repentance.*
- ♦ *Reconciliation.*
- ♦ *Endurance.*
- ♦ *Hidden generosity.*
- ♦ *Long obedience.*
- ♦ *Answered prayer.*
- ♦ *Faithfulness in suffering.*

#### What we noticed

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## What Stories Are Missing?

Who served here faithfully without recognition?

- ♦ *Who prayed?*
- ♦ *Who gave?*
- ♦ *Who disciplined quietly?*
- ♦ *Who stayed during difficult years?*
- ♦ *Who carried burdens behind the scenes?*

What we noticed

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## What Does the Church Remember About God?

A healthy church should be able to say:

- ♦ *We learned here that God provides.*
- ♦ *We learned here that God is patient.*
- ♦ *We learned here that prayer matters.*
- ♦ *We learned here that grace is deeper than failure.*

What we noticed

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This exercise is not about creating nostalgia. It is about discovering the memory already shaping the church. **What has God done among us that we must never allow ourselves to forget?**