

Bonus Lesson: Memorial Day

Psalm 35:27; Joshua 4; John 15:13; Luke 22:19

Bible Point: We remember people who died for us.

Tip for Children's Ministry Director:

If you're sending this lesson to families, send it as is! If you're recording a video, either pause for the discussion questions or tell families to pause the video while they share.

Bold text is spoken text.

Getting Started

Supplies: Bible, around 20 random items, bed sheet

Place 20 random items all together on a floor or table. Everything should be visible, but close together.

Give everyone 10-20 seconds to study the items, attempting to memorize them all. (Children's Ministry Directors: If you're leading this over video, it'll work great! Just move the camera off the items after 20 seconds.)

Cover the items with a bedsheet.

Family members will take turns naming one item at a time. If anyone repeats one that's already been said or can't answer in three seconds, he or she is out. The last person standing is the winner.

(Children's Ministry Directors: If you're leading this over video, show the items again so family members can see what they missed.)

Ask: • **What tricks did you use to remember what you saw?**

• **What are some facts you remember about our country's wars? Why is it important to remember those things?**

Say: **It was hard to remember *everything* in our pile. And sometimes our history of wars slips our minds, too. If you haven't personally lost a loved one in a war, it's easy to gloss over Memorial Day as a time for parades and parties. But it's important to remember the people who died defending our country and our freedoms. WE REMEMBER PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR US and celebrate that they were willing to die for other people's freedoms.**

Read Psalm 35:27.

Say: **Remembering people who defended us is what Memorial Day is all about!**

Bible Exploration

Supplies: Bible, paper, markers

Say: **On Memorial Day, we remember people who've served each of us by protecting our country. And we remember the sacrifices of people who died protecting our country.**

Think silently about someone who made a sacrifice for you. Maybe it's something small, like letting you have the last brownie. Or maybe it's something bigger, like a friend who gave you his favorite toy.

Everyone will need a piece of paper and a marker. Say: **In the Bible, people sometimes used a pile of stones to remember something special. In Joshua 4, God helped the Israelites get across the Jordan River. To remember what God did for them, the Israelites made a pile of 12 stones by the river. Let's remember the sacrifices you thought of just now the same way. Write or draw about the sacrifice someone made for you on your paper. When you've finished, everyone can crumple their papers into paper stones and pile them up together.**

After everyone is done, read John 15:13. Have everyone draw a cross on a new piece of paper, then crumple those paper rocks and add them to the pile. Say: **There's one sacrifice that Jesus said was the greatest of all—giving up your life for someone else. And he himself did that for us. This rock pile helps us REMEMBER PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR US, who made a great sacrifice to keep our country safe. And it helps us remember that Jesus also gave his life for us.**

Ask: • **What are some things you can do to remember what members of the military have done for you?**

• **What are some things you can do to remember what Jesus has done for you?**

Say: **One thing you can do is keep adding to the rock pile. Anytime someone makes a sacrifice for you or God does something really amazing in your life, you can write or draw it and add it to our pile here.**

Faith In Action

Supplies: Bible, paper, markers

Say: **Memorial Day is a time WE REMEMBER PEOPLE WHO'VE DIED FOR US and for our country. The first person who ever died just for you was Jesus. Just before he died, Jesus served his disciples a final meal and told them to continue the practice in his memory with a special meal. He told them, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). Let's make a special flag to remember the people who've died for our country.**

Everyone can draw the U.S. flag on a piece of paper and write "We Will Not Forget" on the top stripe. Then they'll fill in the rest of the red and white stripes by writing the names from the list of people they know who died in the line of duty. If you don't know enough people, look online to find the names of people who have died in combat. (Children's Ministry Directors: You can suggest names if there are people from your church who have died in combat.)

Display the flags in windows to appreciate veterans and families of people who died in combat.

Let's Pray

Pray: **Jesus, thank you that you gave up your life for us. And thank you for all the other people who died so that we could be free. Help us remember and celebrate people who made that sacrifice. In your name, amen.**