

“WE REMEMBER”
A Family Faith Formation Lesson for Memorial Day

A May 2000 Gallup poll showed that only 28% of Americans knew the meaning of Memorial Day. It is important that we do not forget the courage and sacrifice of so many so that we may be free. Below are ways your family can talk about what this day means so we do not forget....

1) READ: John 15: 13
Deuteronomy 4: 9

How do each of these verses tie into Memorial Day? What sacrifices have you made for others? What sacrifices have others made for you? Why were these sacrifices all made? What are the important things we need to remember about Memorial Day?

2) TALK about family members or friends who have served in the military or are now serving. What do you think helps to give them the courage to serve? How can you support those who are actively serving? Give a prayer of thanks for all those mentioned.

Read the following quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt. This was written in letters of condolence to families who lost someone fighting in World War II:

“He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, and grow, and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it, he lives - in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men.”

What do you think family members felt upon reading these words? How would you have felt? Why is it important for all of us, as God’s children, to live in freedom?

3) ACTIVITIES to help us remember:

- + Visit a local cemetery and look for markers denoting those who served in the military. Give prayers of thanks for these people. You can do a rubbing to take home a reminder to pray for that person. Bonus giving: clean up litter, etc. if any is lying around in the cemetery.
- + At **3 PM on Memorial Day** be a part of the **“National Moment of Remembrance”**. Pause for 1 minute to remember those who died in military service to the United States.
- + Make and decorate a poster showing the words from John 15: 13 as a reminder of those who give so that others may live.
- + **CHALK THE WALK!** Since things are still a little different this year, and the weather wasn’t cooperating for us to chalk the church walks, chalk your own walkways or driveways at home with messages of love and hope!

4) PRAY: Dear God who freed us in baptism, please let us never forget those who gave up so much so that we could be free to do so many wonderful things in life. We give thanks for their courage and great unselfishness. Bless their families. May each of us too, be willing to give up some things so that others may live a better life. With your help we can do it! And let us always remember on Memorial Day. Amen

