

Memorial Day Bible Lesson & Activity

Place a statue of some kind in the middle of the room. If you don't have anything for this you can always mold something out of Play-Doh or clay. As kids arrive, they will ask what it's for. Tell them- It's a statue of "x" to remind us of "x"

Lesson

Webster's defines a memorial as "something, especially a structure, established to remind people of a person or event." This statue on in the middle of the room is a memorial. If it "x" and it is to remind us of "x"

What are some "memorials" you can think of?



Mt. Rushmore



Lincoln Memorial



Misc. War Memorials

People like memorials, things created to help us remember something important that happened. People want to remember big events and they want to make things that their kids see and ask about (and learn about) so big events aren't forgotten. On Memorial Day, we remember the people who died serving our country. Many, many people died for our freedom and this includes our freedom to worship our God.

Memorials are not something people made up though. Nope! God came up with it. Our God is amazing! He knew people would forget about things He had done for them so He left reminders. He even left them so kids would want to know about them too. Think about it. If I make a statue to remind me of my 13th birthday, I'd think about my 13th birthday every time I saw that statue. When my friends and kids saw the statue, they'd ask me what it was for. I'd tell them and then every time they saw the statue, they'd think about my 13th birthday. And when their friends and their kids asked about the statue, they tell them about it. Even after I died, people would be asking about the statue and each generation would tell the next. That's what a memorial is all about! Now that was a silly example. Let's look at some real ones.



Memorial Day Bible Lesson & Activity Con't

In the bible, God destroyed the whole earth with a flood. He saved Noah and his family because he was the only faithful person left! After the flood, what did he put in the sky as a memorial? A rainbow! Every time we see a rainbow we remember the flood. We remember that God promised never to destroy the entire world with a flood ever again. The rainbow is a memorial.

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River with the ark of the covenant, they collected one stone for each of the 12 tribes and on the other side, they used those stones to create a memorial, a statue so the people would never forget what God did for them. And God even said he wanted their children and their children's children to see and ask so they'd learn what God did for them! But there's one memorial that is probably the most important of all! We still have this memorial today. Does anyone have an idea of what it is? The Lord's Supper!

We take the Lord's supper to remember what Jesus did for us. We eat the bread to remember his body. Jesus didn't have to come to earth. He could have stayed in heaven where things are safe and good. Instead, Jesus came to earth to save us. We drink the wine (or grape juice) to remember his blood. Jesus died a very painful death for us and he chose to do it. He did this to be the final sacrifice for all of our sins. Because of Jesus coming to earth and dying on the cross we are saved! Then we remember it didn't stop there. NO! He rose from the grave, conquering death. He proved he was God. The Lord's Supper is so we never forget what Jesus did for us.

Activity

Let's make our own memorial's. What is something that reminds you of God? What is something that every time you see it, you will remember that Jesus loves you and we need to love and serve Him, even when we don't feel like it? Pass out self-hardening clay. Make that something you thought of. When you take it home, set it somewhere you will see it every day. But don't be like the Israelites. They had memorials and over time, they'd start worshiping them. These are just things without power so we don't worship or pray to them. They are only to remind us of who we do worship and pray to.

(Examples: A clay Cross, Bible, Words "Love" or "Faith")

