

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is the day we remember the millions of heroes who lost their lives while serving the United States of America. "Decoration Day" as it was first declared in 1866 was established to decorate the graves of fallen service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we hold sacred.

This day is also a good time to reflect on those who are currently serving our country. Who in your church is serving? We as families can remember their families. Here are some other ways we can encourage soldiers and their families:

1. **Pray for them.** Nothing is more important to a soldier than knowing that someone back home is praying. Make it a point to involve your whole family. No matter what their religious affiliation, nothing connects two people more than the power of prayer.
2. **Sending them a letter or card** is a great way to encourage a military family. Be sure to include drawings from your children, along with an expression of appreciation for the service they are rendering.
3. **Drop a gift in the mail.** Be sure to check on what restrictions there are in sending gifts to personnel overseas. A great book of encouragement is called [*Taking the High Ground - Military Moments with God*](#) by Col. Jeff O'Leary published by Cook Communications. This devotional has brought comfort and encouragement to thousands in our military.
4. **Decorate a Grave.** Is there a member of your family that you can honor? Take a small flag, or a wreath and place it on their grave. Use this time to review some family history with your children. If you don't have a family grave to decorate, take a trip to a local cemetery with a handful of flags and look for some veteran's graves to decorate while sharing the importance of our armed forces with your kids.

Remember the greatest sacrifice that was ever made for your personal and eternal freedom was the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. That's something to celebrate too!