

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has lasting impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a holiday to remember and be thankful for those who died in military service, fighting to defend our freedom. It is important to remember the cost of our freedom. Just as soldiers died for a free America, Jesus died so that we would be free of our sin. This Memorial Day, we should focus on remembering three different aspects of our freedom.

1. Remember that freedom isn't free.

It is easy to take for granted a privilege that our nation established before we were born. Our ancestors paid the price for something we get to enjoy. In what ways do you pause to appreciate your gift of freedom? What daily aspect of your freedom do you take for granted? What do you think a patriot fighting in the Revolutionary War would think of the country we live in today? *1 Peter 2:16, Ephesians 2:8, Romans 6:23*

2. Remember that freedom starts by being thankful.

Our freedom is a gift. We owe thanks to those who gave their lives and to those who still fight to keep us free. Talk about a person in your life whom you are thankful for. Did they sacrifice something to enrich your life? Discuss something you have that you are thankful for. Would you still have that thing if you did not live in a free country? Do you feel entitled to what you have? If so, how can you become more humble and treat it as a gift? *Ephesians 5:20, Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:8*

3. Remember that freedom comes with responsibility.

Sometimes we forget that our history goes beyond the past 40 years or so that we can remember. If there were no records of the creation of America, how do you think people would explain or remember our freedom? Similarly, if God did not command His people to remember His Word and pass on the laws, miracles, and stories, how would that change how we worship and understand God? What do you do to remember, give thanks, and protect Jesus' sacrifice? *John 8:36, James 1:25, Colossians 2:7*

What's Next

- Set aside time to make a list of people and things for which you are thankful. Be aware of how much time you spend in prayer, and try to pray more this week.
- Pray for active service members and for veterans. Make the prayer personal.
- Have a personal communion at home.