

## Remembrance Day 2003

### Intro:

Word association activity:

Turn to the person next to you and when I say a word I want you to say the first word that comes into your mind.

Evans Head, Chocolate, Rugby, Bowls, John Howard, War,  
Remembrance Day.

I don't know what you came up with but when I was thinking about doing this talk the word that came into my mind was *Give*.

It is not a word we hear much this day and age.

What we here more about is what we can get, or rights.

But the word *give* is not used as much in our vocabulary.

But when I think of Remembrance Day a day instituted originally to remember those who fought in WW1 and WW2 but now for all wars.

The word *give* comes to mind. It reminds me of

Men and women who gave their lives for our freedom.

Approximately 102 600 Men and women who gave their lives for our country

Approximately 225 737 Men and women who were injured serving their country:

Over 1 million Men and Women who gave up their normal work, their livelihood to protect our freedom.

Men and women who gave up their time for other countries freedom.

Today is a day we remember those who gave of themselves so that we could live in this wonderful land we do.

We take time to remember that they gave so that we could live.

During WW2 it was a custom for families in the US who had a son serving in the war to place a star in the front window of their home.

A gold star indicated that the son had died in support of his country's cause.

One night a man was walking down a street in New York city with his 5 year old son. The little boy was interested in the brightly lit windows of the houses and wanted to know why some houses had a star in the window. The father explained that those families had a son fighting in the war.

Each time the boy saw another star in the window he would clap his hands and would cry out.

" Look dad there's another family who gave a son for his country."

After a while they came to an empty lot, and a break in the row of houses .

Through the gap a star could be seen shining brightly in the sky.

The little boy caught his breath and said.

" Dad Look a star in the window of heaven. God must of given his son too."

Yes God did give his son. Jesus died so that we might live now and for eternity.

HE took on our greatest enemies to freedom, sin and death and defeated both by rising from the dead and now if we trust in him then his victory becomes ours. All we need to do is accept it.

The word **give** is a small word but a powerful word.

Today we remember those who gave of themselves in war.

How they gave of themselves so that we could live.

In remembering them we can remember that God has given us Jesus so that we can live now and for eternity.

And it reminds us to take back hold of that word give and bring it back into the spotlight, by giving of ourselves.

Dear Heavenly Father

We come to you this morning to remember those that have given so much so that we can live.

Help us to remember those that died while serving our country at war.

Help us to remember those that were wounded while serving our country at war.

Help us to remember those that survived to tell us the tales and the horror of war.

**And be thankful.**

We pray for all those families that have been affected by war we think of those families now who have members in peacekeeping positions all over the world today.

We pray that we never forget what they have done for us.

We also thank you for giving your son, Jesus, for our eternal freedom.

For defeating our worst enemies of sin and death and making the way possible for us to defeat them to if we trust in Jesus.

Help us never to forget that.

And help us to be people who make "give" a word we use and an action we do.

In Jesus name Amen.