

Cloud of Saints

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Friends and family members who have gone before us form a cloud of saints that surrounds us. Our memories of them continue to remind us of God's love.

For
Teen Family

Season

Fall, best around All Saint and All Souls Days (Nov. 1-2)

Needed

Bible, rocks large enough to write a name on or 3" x 5" index cards, permanent marker, bowl

Prepare in Advance

Mark Hebrews 12:1 in your Bible.

Activity Plan

1. Begin by asking someone to pray aloud:

Awesome God, today we remember the many family members and friends who have gone before us. We honor their memory and thank you for surrounding us with the strength of their faith and love. Help us to know we are never alone and to trust in you to give us strength. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud Hebrews 12:1 from your Bible (or see the text below). Invite each family member to describe how he or she imagines this "great cloud of witnesses."

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

3. Ask family members to recall one or two loved ones (friends or relatives) who have died and to write each name on a rock or an index card. After all have written the name(s), invite each person to show his or her rock or index card and tell about the person named on it. You might prompt discussion by asking: What is your favorite memory of this person? What did you like best about this person? How has this person influenced the way you live?
4. After the stories about these individuals have been told, place the rocks or index cards in a bowl and place it on your dining table or other place where it will be seen often. Comment on how this bowl is a reminder of the cloud of saints and faithful witnesses in your lives, and how it can be a comfort to remember good things about these individuals when you are missing them.

