

News Story Summary

A temporary memorial to those who died from opioid use will be on display in Washington, D.C. April 12-18. The display has already been displayed in Chicago, Pittsburg, and Atlanta. The memorial includes a wall of 22,000 pills each engraved with the face of someone who died of an opioid overdose. The number of pills reflects the number of people who died in 2015. In addition, some of the personal effects of some of the people memorialized accompany the display.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “opioid memorial”.)

Focus Attention

To replace the Get Started and Discuss activities under the Focus Attention idea, share the summary of the news story. Direct the group to discuss how remembering the lives of those who died of an opioid overdose impacts others. Ask: *What do you think the creators of this display hope to accomplish? What makes seeing the names and personal effects of those who overdosed important?* Call attention to the questions printed at the beginning of the session (What memorial places are special to you? What makes that place so significant?), guiding the group to respond as if the name of a friend or family member was included on the wall. Complete the step as written.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, begin by reminding the group about the news article. Lead the group to recall their responses when asked to respond as if the name of a friend or family member was included on the wall. Emphasize that having a personal connection to the memorial may change how a person views the memorial. Explain that having a relationship with Jesus also changes how a person views the Lord’s Supper. Complete the step, reviewing the bulleted points under In My Context and noting how a relationship with Jesus impacts each statement.