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# *Liberty Village*



*An American Faith  
and Freedom Tour  
Vacation Bible School*





The Statue of Liberty  
Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the gold door.  
-Emma Lazarus, 1903

*If we work on marble, it will perish;  
if on brass, time will efface it; if we rear  
up temples, they will crumble into dust;  
but if we work upon immortal minds and imbue them with principles, with the just  
fear of God and the love of our fellow men,  
we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity.*

-DANIEL WEBSTER  
AMERICAN POLITICIAN

Remember that God is our only sure trust.

-MARY WASHINGTON  
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOTHER

Love one another.

-Sunday School Scholar

show respect for everyone. Love christians everywhere.  
fear god and honor the government.

-peter  
I Peter 2:17



# Liberty Village

## An American Faith and Freedom Tour

*Travel back in time and stroll through a vibrant early American village where faith and freedom are respected and God's Word is honored above all else. Meet some equally colorful citizens—from pilgrim heroes to colonial leaders, from frontier adventurers to romantic balladeers. Dine by candlelight. Immerse the young colonists in American heritage while teaching them how faith in Christ brings true freedom!*

**LIBERTY VILLAGE** is a five day Vacation Bible School for churches desiring a memory making event celebrating the founding of our nation and the foundation of our Christian faith. The patriotic theme captures the imaginations of each participant. As you slow to a colonial pace, enjoy each other and the company of friends.

**LIBERTY VILLAGE** students spend forty five minutes in each of five Bible Stations on separate days. Costumed Liberty Village hosts/hostesses treat the young colonists to an assortment of unique early American experiences. Colonists are confronted by messages about faith in Jesus using the stories of great Americans, historical activities and simple crafts.

**LIBERTY VILLAGE** features an assortment of fifteen minute daily activities where young colonists explore delightful village spots. Gather at **Liberty Square Opening**. Dine at **The Boston Tea Party** and send them to **Patriot's Field of Dreams Games and Guests**. Listen to the Chip and Clare Conley adventure *Trouble In Washington* with **Uncle Sam the Story Man**. Sing a collection of patriotic songs and choruses of faith at **Keep America Singing**. Enjoy the Salvation story at **Old Glory Headquarters** with Betsy Ross.

**LIBERTY VILLAGE presents...** preschool curriculum ideas for a young group named **Pint Sized Patriots**. Students (ages 4-5) participate in many of the same activities as older students with a special team of teachers. Suggestions are included for Nursery **Town Criers** to arrange a safe, cheerful spot for babies and toddlers of teachers and helpers.

**LIBERTY VILLAGE** is Christ centered and fun. The American heritage theme is a hook upon which to hang a memory. Help students understand their faith and their freedom.



# Let's Get Ready!

*The greatest glory of a free-born people is to transmit that freedom to their children.*

*—William Harvard*

**THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE A GUIDELINE.** Be creative! Build an exciting Vacation Bible School using LIBERTY VILLAGE Bible stories and activities. Teach God's Word from your perspective.

**LIBERTY VILLAGE IS AN ACTIVITY BASED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE SIX STUDENTS.** Involve grades 7-12 youth and college students as helpers.

**COLONIAL STUDENT GROUPS ARE COLOR CODED.** Students become young colonists in an imaginary early American village. Individual groups display color coded name tags. Students stay in the same group all week.

**BIBLE STATION TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DECORATE AND PREPARE THE ACTIVITIES IN THEIR STATION.** The station is repeated daily to a new group. As age levels change, adjust the teaching activities. A new student group arrives each day. Accompany the assigned group wherever they go. They must have an adult with them at all times.

**FIFTEEN MINUTE ACTIVITY TEACHERS SEE ALL STUDENTS EACH DAY.** Student groups travel for music, snack or special activity. Daily teachers must prepare five separate activities before the week begins.

**PURCHASE SUPPLIES AS NEEDED.** Give supply bills to the director or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, discounts for churches, catalog purchases and scrap materials from backyards. Craft projects may be purchased directly through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES at reasonable prices. Use the church tax exemption number

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# Leader of the American Faith and Freedom Tour

*Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the...Blood of the Lamb,  
and purge my heart by the Holy Spirit...Daily frame me more and more  
into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ.*

—GEORGE WASHINGTON, FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT

*Become the Director of a Vacation Bible School event that your community will remember for years. Take young students to five early American Bible Stations and a variety of heritage based activity stations where they discover the importance of faith and freedom in the light of their national heritage. Divided into reasonable tasks, this five day school is easily completed by a dedicated teaching team under the direction of a faith and freedom loving leader (that's you!). The church building will sparkle with the excitement of a unique village set in the heartland of the nation.*

**CHARACTER AND COSTUME.** Become a colonial maiden or minute man. Have fun dressing in colonial costume. Wear a long dress with full white apron and colonial cap. A man wears white shirt, vest, breeches, black dress shoes with buckles. An appropriate hat would be a tri corner hat or white wig. See the costume information for more ideas.

**DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY.** This event must be a team effort. Never apologize when asking for help. Trust the staff to carry out their tasks.

**PRACTICE A POSITIVE APPROACH.** Statements like “We can’t do it”, “We never did it this way”, “There is no money”, or “No one will teach” have no place in this program. If the Leader’s attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully.

**PRAY!** Pray for the staff, the students and the set up. Take each detail before the Lord and then—Relax!!!

**PLAN!** Read this workbook and note areas requiring special attention. List details you must handle personally. Meet with the staff.

**ADAPT!** When it is necessary to adapt LIBERTY VILLAGE to accommodate your local



church, complete those changes during preliminary planning to avoid staff confusion.

**SET UP.** Give the team adequate time to set up their activity stations. Decorate during the week prior to Vacation Bible School making sure that everything is in place for opening day.

**STAFF PRAYER.** Plan a five minute session one half hour before the day begins. Those who attend appreciate the “upward boost”.

**PRESCHOOL PREPARATION.** Give the **Pint Sized Patriots** team copies of decorating ideas, teacher information and Bible Station lesson plans designed for older students. Speak to activity teachers to be sure projects are appropriate for this age group. Eliminate complicated or frightening activities. Choose age appropriate craft projects from S&S arts and crafts catalog or create your own projects using local craft store supplies.

**PURCHASE OR MAKE THANK YOU GIFTS FOR ALL STAFF MEMBERS.** There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back for more next year. Thank them privately and publicly.

**CLEAN UP.** When OPEN HOUSE is over, clean up begins. **LIBERTY VILLAGE** is not complete until the church is in perfect order. Encourage staff to remove their props immediately. Stay to help!

I accept my part with single-mindedness of purpose and  
humility of spirit, and implore the favor and guidance  
of God in His heaven. -warren g. harding

While this duty rests upon me I shall do my utmost to speak their purpose and to do their will, seeking Divine guidance to help us each and every one to give light to them that sit in darkness and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and your plans will succeed.

-proverbs 16:3



## Decorating Liberty Village

*Never forget, Americans, that yours is a spiritual country. Yes, I know you're a practical people. Like others, I've marveled at your factories, your skyscrapers, and your arsenals. But underlying everything else is the fact that America began as a God-loving, God-fearing, God-worshipping people.*

—GENERAL ROMULO, GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

Design a simple yet colorful decor. When students and guests attend **LIBERTY VILLAGE...An American Faith and Freedom Tour**, they should enter an Early American atmosphere filled with wooden household objects, flags, banners, pewter, candlelight and muslin accessories. Colorful quilts and rag rugs add to the simple beauty of colonial life. Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. Follow these suggestions or invent your own classic colonial style. Teachers in individual activity areas decorate their rooms. Special decorating attention is given to LIBERTY SQUARE Opening area.

**STEP ONE:** Before purchasing props, ask friends, family, church and community members if you can borrow items from them. Explain the program and ask if those people have additional suggestions. Many attics, basements, old barns and sheds are filled with items that make perfect accessories in every area of the Vacation Bible School.

**SIGNS:** Display large signs outside each activity area. Print memory verses on muslin fabric flags. Scatter patriotic slogans and scripture verses throughout the church. Use brown paper, black marker and large hand blocked printing. Burn the edges of the paper for a rustic look. Consider some of the following messages:

**I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE  
AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY...JESUS—John 10:10**

**...WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST...  
PAUL—Romans 5:1**

**FOR WHOEVER CALLS UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.  
PAUL—Romans 10:13**

**YOU HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE BUT NOT FREEDOM FROM CHOICE.  
—WENDELL JONES**





**IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND. -2 CHRONICLES 7:14**

**PRAYER IS THE CONTEMPLATION OF THE FACTS OF LIFE FROM THE HIGHEST POINT OF VIEW.-RALPH WALDO EMERSON, AMERICAN AUTHOR**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA-LAND OF THE FREE!  
STAND BESIDE HER AND GUIDE HER,  
THROUGH THE NIGHT WITH A LIGHT FROM ABOVE.**

**AMERICA! LAND OF THE FREE AND THE BRAVE!**

**GLORY, GLORY, HALLELUJAH...HIS TRUTH IS MARCHING ON!**

**IN GOD WE TRUST POSTERS:** Since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, our nation has experienced both a return to patriotism and faith in God. What more fitting slogan could describe this spirit than our national motto, "*In God We Trust*," adopted by Congress in 1956. American Family Association has begun a campaign to distribute posters bearing this motto in every school and public building in America. The posters are 11" x 14" full color, and suitable for framing. Also available are "In God We Trust" Buttons. Let everyone know where you put your trust by wearing this full color button. (Size: 2 1/4" diameter). Prices and availability as of 2001 and may change. Visit this web site for information, pricing and ordering: [www.InGodWeTrustPoster.com](http://www.InGodWeTrustPoster.com)

**CARDBOARD FIGURES:** Make a variety of life sized cardboard animals, colonial people, buildings, flowers, fences and other representations from cardboard. Lean them against walls throughout the church. Use the patterns included with the curriculum or draw your own. Make transparencies with the church copier and place them on an overhead projector. Project the image onto large pieces of cardboard. Trace and color with tempera paint and/or markers. Cut out the figures with a utility knife. Find patterns in children's coloring books.

**PROPS:** Find an assortment of simple items to create a colonial atmosphere. Here are a few suggestions but keep your eyes open for other items available in your local community.

**WOODEN BUCKETS    WOODEN BENCHES  
WOODEN KITCHEN UTENSILS  
COLORFUL OLD QUILTS    BLANKETS    PILLOWS  
WOOLEN BEDDING    RAG RUGS    LANTERNS**





CANDLES/CANDLE HOLDERS  
OLD TABLES    STOOLS    MILK CANS    ROCKING CHAIRS  
WAGON WHEELS    WAGONS    RAG DOLLS    OLD WOODEN TOYS  
FRESH FRUIT IN BASKETS    BASKETS    ROCKS    STACKED WOOD  
WHITE PICKET FENCES    ROCK GARDEN    BALES OF HAY  
CORN STALKS    WILD FLOWERS    MUSLIN CURTAINS  
OLD GARDENING TOOLS    FIREPLACE    LIVE KITTENS  
FLAGS    BANNERS    HAND SEWING ITEMS/SPINNING WHEELS  
OLD POTTERY/CROCKS    SILVER DINING WARE    GARLANDS/GREENERY  
WOODEN CRADLE    ROOSTERS    WEATHER VANES  
FLOWER/GRAPE VINE/EUCALYPTS    WREATHS    PINEAPPLE WELCOME SIGNS  
EMBROIDERY SAMPLERS    FIDDLES    MANDOLINS  
TEAPOTS    MUGS    PEWTER    OLD BROOMS    OLD LADDERS    BARRELS  
OLD CLOCKS    OLD LACE    HAT RACKS    EAGLES  
ROCKING CHAIRS    STRAIGHT BACK CHAIRS    FEATHERS  
ANIMAL PELTS    OLD CHESTS/TRUNKS    WINDOW SHUTTERS  
APPLES/POTATOES IN WOODEN BOWLS    WOODEN CUPBOARDS

**PATRIOTIC DECORATIONS:** Consider using a variety of patriotic items purchased at local party stores or from catalogs. Large and small American flags, bunting and colorful stars look great in hallways and on the walls of activity centers. Purchase red, white and blue crepe paper, balloons and stars. Place the Statue of Liberty in the opening area. Make a large Liberty Bell and place in a main entryway.

**CHRISTIAN DECORATIONS:** A large wooden cross with a muslin fabric banner THE CROSS IS OUR STATUE OF LIBERTY draped across it makes an important point as displayed in a main area. Display the Christian flag prominently in the opening area.

**BACKGROUNDS:** Freestanding backdrops can be made by cutting an appliance box, painting large objects and zigzagging the box so that it stands alone. Place real items in front of the backdrop for a touch of reality.

**BACKGROUND MUSIC:** Play CD's or tapes of quiet Christian music. Look for music box or harpsichord music at local music stores. Play the music as students arrive and leave.



**S&S arts and crafts catalog offers decorative items at excellent prices. For a free master copy of their current catalog, call 1-800-243-9232. For your convenience, items may be ordered through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES at 1-888-CEM-LIFE. Here are a few suggestions from the master catalog (Prices may change):**

TISSUE FLOWER JUMBO GROUP PACK. Decorate in colorful style. Giant flowers are terrific fun. Plant your own colonial flower garden. Includes assorted colors of precut tissue paper, stem wire and instructions. 8 ½" diameter. RMA-GP56 \$44.99 per pack of 84.

JOINTED AUTUMN TREE. Printed both sides. Wow! 4 feet tall! Make you own colonial orchard or pathway. This one is truly beautiful. RMA-PY866. \$4.99 each.

AUTUMN HARVEST. Pin or staple these bright harvest images on your bulletin board to bright your whole area. Up to 22". RMA-PE1220 \$4.99 each set (2 sets include one of basket filled with fruit and nuts and another of a large pumpkin and leaves and nuts..).

JOINTED CORN STALK. Printed both sides. Wow! 5 feet tall! Buy several for the Plymouth Plantation Bible Station. RMA-PY854 \$4.99 each.

PUMPKIN CUT OUTS. Four per pack. Printed 2 sides. Size: 16". RMA-PY377 \$2.99 each.

AUTUMN LEAF CUT OUTS. Printed 2 sides. Size: 6". Nine per package. RMA-PY368 \$.99 per pack.

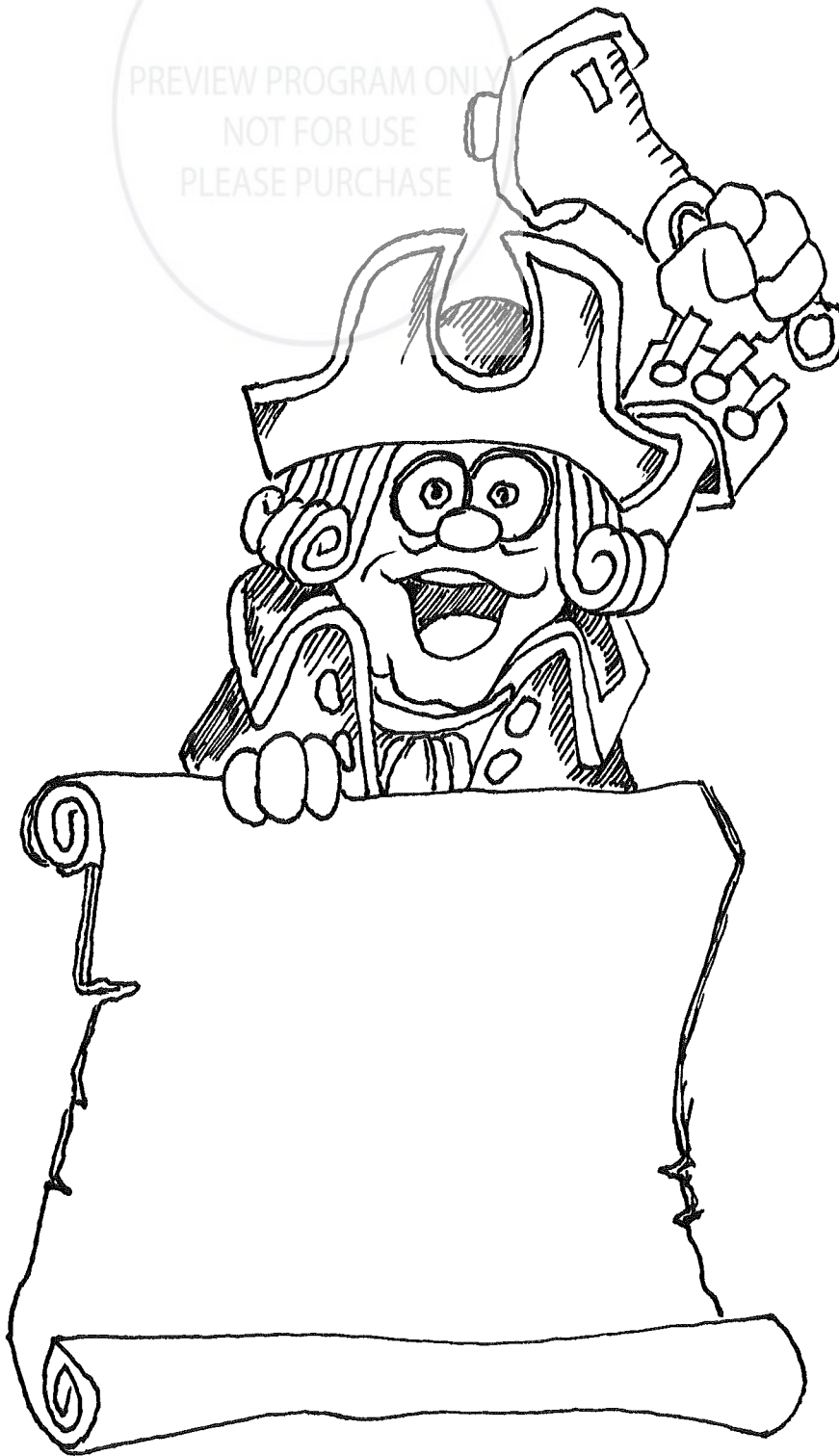
PICKET FENCE. Printed both sides. Size: 3 pieces 12" x 24 ¾". Can interlock to form one 6' fence. RMA-PY776 \$3.49 per pack.

PATRIOTIC CUT OUTS. Four per pack. Red, white and blue star bursts. 16" Printed 2 sides. RMB-PY253. \$2.99 per pack.

FANCI-FETTI STARS. Red, silver, blue mix. 1 oz. RMB-PY239 \$1.59 per pack, \$1.49 per pack, 12+.



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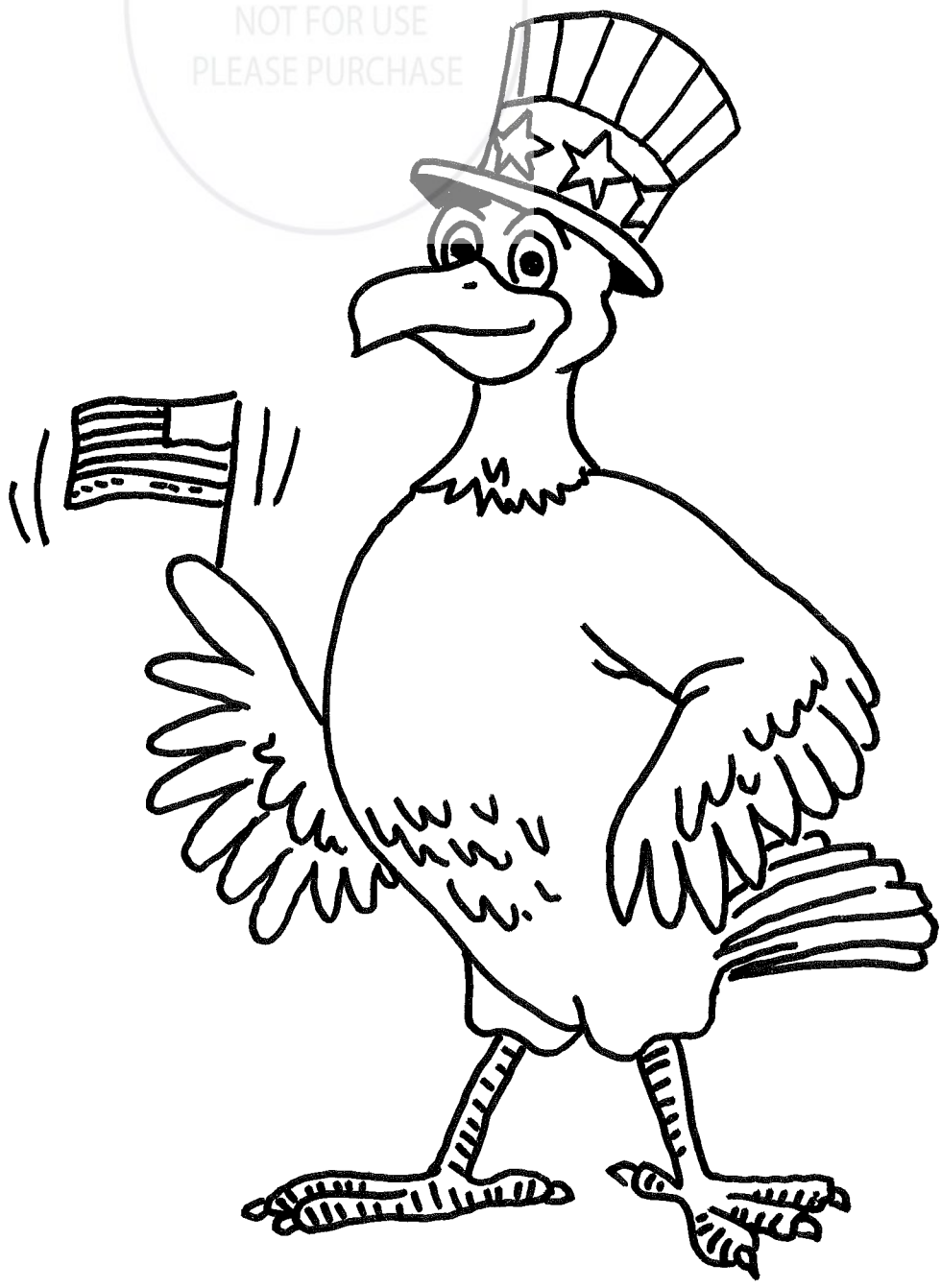


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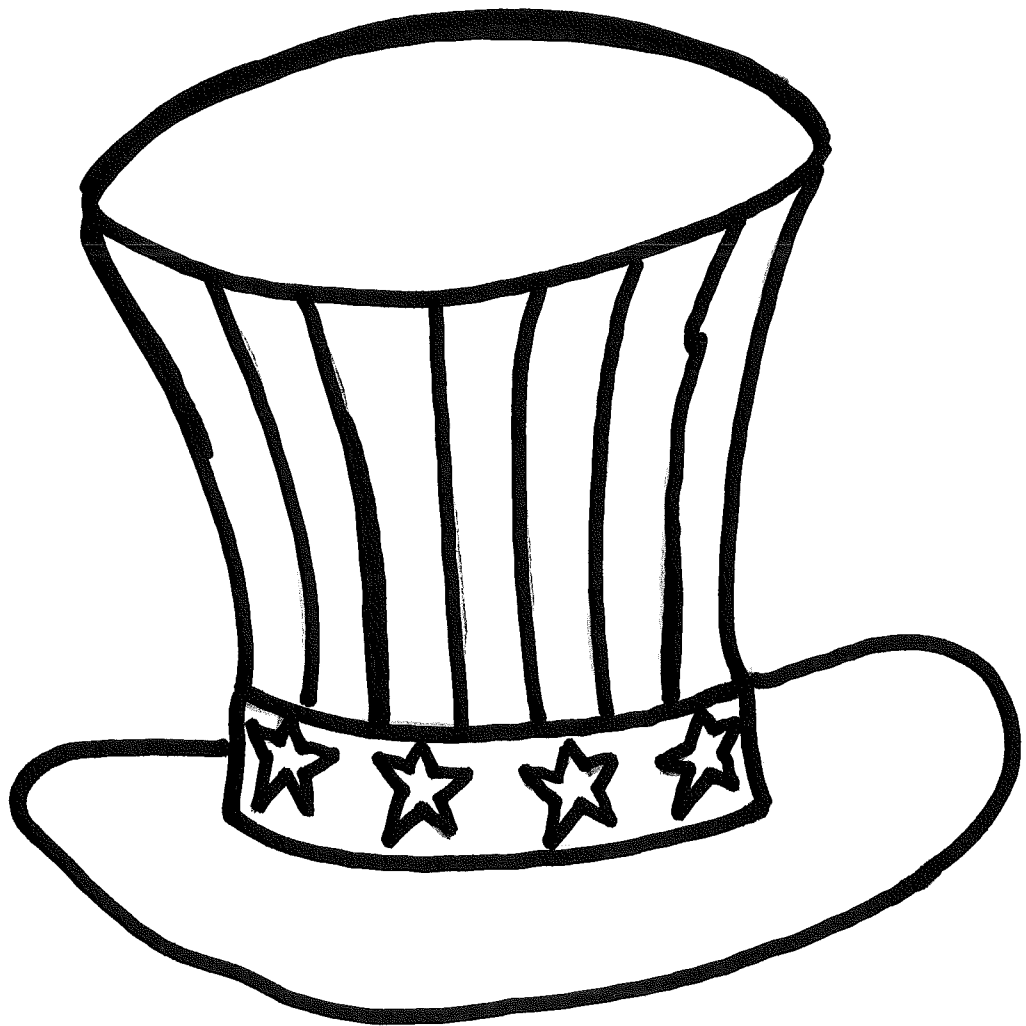
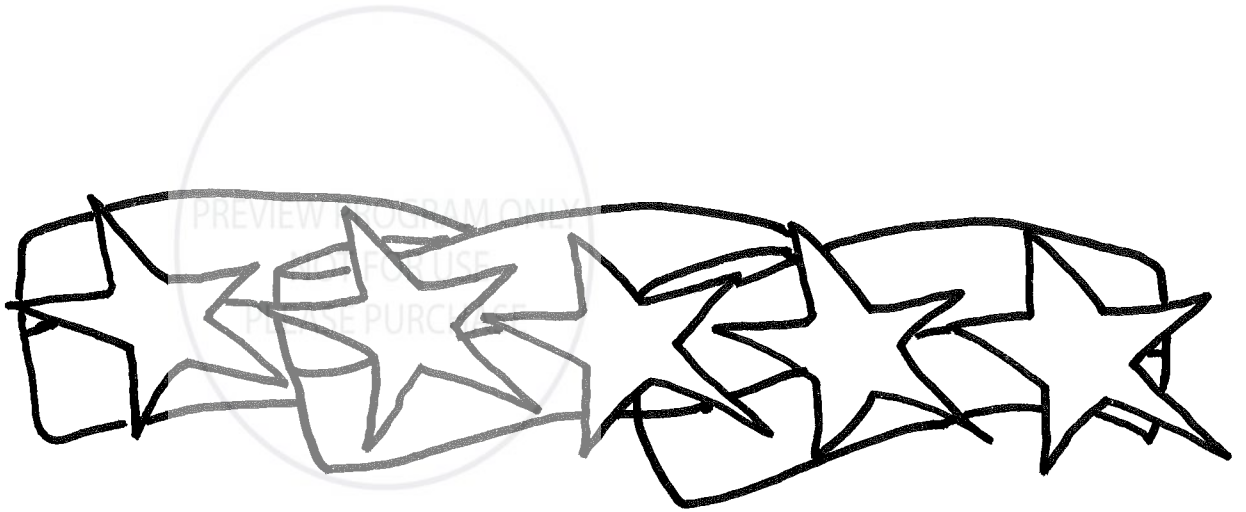




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**Oriental Trading Company catalog offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items. If you do not have their delightful free catalog, call toll free 1-800-228-2269. Order directly through the company. (Prices May Change.)**

3' x 5' 100% polyester USA FLAG. RA-5/542 \$9.95 each.

Plastic USA FLAGS. Each on a wooden stick.

RA-5/166-P 11" x 18" \$5.40 Dozen.

RA-5/166SP 4" x 6" (6 dozen per unit) \$7.50 Unit.

Poly-cotton USA FLAGS. Made in the USA.

RA-5/161 4" x 6" with wooden sticks \$4.80 per dozen.

RA-5/162 12" x 18" with wooden stick \$16.50 per dozen.

RA-5/163 36" x 60" \$12.00 each

7" x 13" Foam filled cotton SEQUIN PATRIOTIC JUMBO HAT. One size fits most.

RA-35/25 \$7.20

11 ½" Inflate STARS. Assorted colors (red or blue with small white stars).

RA-49/162 \$9.00 Dozen.

1" Metal PATRIOTIC CLUTCH PINS. Assorted styles—stars, flags, USA banner.

RA-39/363 \$4.80 Dozen

4 ½" Plastic LIGHT UP PATRIOTIC PINWHEELS. Assorted colors on a 10" plastic wand. (1 dozen boxed.) Requires two AA batteries. RA-23/244 \$15.50 Dozen.

11" x 5 1/4" Plastic OLD GLORY TOP HATS. RA-25/234 per dozen.

11" x 3 ½" Plastic WHITE SKIMMER HATS. Each with a red, white and blue band.

RA-25/6781 \$9.00 Dozen.

11" x 3 ½" Plastic metallic PATRIOTIC SKIMMER HATS. Each with red, white, blue band.

RA-25/1858 \$9.00 Dozen

2" Plastic USA FLAG KEY CHAINS. RA-19/10 \$12.60 Gross.



22" RED, WHITE AND BLUE LIT ROPE TRI COLOR NECKLACES (50 pieces per unit.)

RA-224/1127 Unit \$57.50 Unit

3/4" Metal USA FLAG PINS RA-39/5 \$6.75 Gross

7 1/2" Wooden PRISM PATRIOTIC PENCILS. (1 Dozen). RA-5/909 \$2.40 Dozen

**Shop at local party and gifts shops. As Independence Day celebrations are planned during summer months, there are many wonderful patriotic decorations available. Look for discount prices and items in K-Mart and Wal-Mart. It is the right time of the year to find flags, bunting, stars and other symbols of American freedom.**

I shall look for whatever success may attend my public service: and knowing that "except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain," with fervent supplications for his favor, to his overruling providence I commit with humble but fearless confidence my own fate and the future destinies of my country.

—John Quincy Adams



# Serving In the Colonial Brigade

*With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.*

*—JOHN F. KENNEDY, 35<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT*

*Staff choice will make or break LIBERTY VILLAGE.*

*Do NOT be satisfied with “any warm body”.*

*Aim for the best people to fill each teaching spot.*

**RECRUIT.** Be aggressive. Approach people personally with a specific task. Explain the job fully—no sugar coating allowed!!!

**BULLETIN.** Place a worship folder recruitment insert for two or three Sundays. Give people with specific requests their place immediately. Explain the insert during worship announcement time dressed in colonial costume. Give this introductory effort the personal touch. *(See Bulletin Insert sample.)*

**PICK AND CHOOSE.** For vacant positions, call people you know will do a good job. The Lord will honor your attempt to have the best staff possible. Pray about staff choices and if someone says “no” assume there is another person waiting to fill that place. Use young teens, older teens, men, women and senior citizens as staff members.





Meet With the Colonial  
Volunteers

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Plan one staff evening to explain exactly what will be expected.

Stress 100% attendance so no other meeting will be necessary.

Seat staff according to work areas.

Distribute lesson plans to each group. Build in “chatter” time to create excitement as teachers and helpers plan the week.

Preview the entire program.

The staff needs an overview of all events taking place throughout the church.

Be available to answer questions, assign classrooms, give inspiration.

Be the person in charge—The Colonial Leader!

After the meeting, the Leader’s attention turns to other areas.

Trust the staff to carry out their responsibilities.

The telephone is the staff lifeline.

Call the leader of each work area to verify progress.

Ask questions and check on how things are going.



# Liberty Village

...An American Faith and Freedom Tour

Join the COLONIAL VOLUNTEERS! become COLORFUL citizens in a brave new Land.  
vacation bible school has never been like this!  
List in order of priority three spots you are WILLING to FILL.

## LIBERTY VILLAGE ASSIGNMENTS

- ....REGISTRATION                      Help student groups sign in                      LEAD/HELP
- ....ART CREW.                              Make and set up decorations.                      LEAD/HELP
- ....KEEP AMERICA SINGING. Music of Faith and Freedom                      LEAD/HELP
- ....PHOTOGRAPHER.                      VIDEO/SNAPSHOTS
- ....BOSTON TEA PARTY                      Colony Cuisine                      LEAD/HELP
- ....PATRIOT'S FIELD OF DREAMS                      Games and Guests                      LEAD/HELP
- ....UNCLE SAM THE STORY MAN                      "Trouble In Washington" STORY TELLER
- ....OLD GLORY HEADQUARTERS                      A Daily Visit With Betsy Ross
- ....PINT SIZE PATRIOTS                      Preschool Fun (ages 4-5)                      LEAD/HELP
- ....TOWN CRIERS                              Nursery Fun (birth-3)                      LEAD/HELP

## LIBERTY VILLAGE BIBLE STAFF

- ....LIBERTY VILLAGE #1                      PLYMOUTH PLANTATION                      LEAD/HELP
- ....LIBERTY VILLAGE #2                      FRONTIER CAMP                      LEAD/HELP
- ....LIBERTY VILLAGE #3                      COLONIAL HOME                      LEAD/HELP
- ....LIBERTY VILLAGE #4                      OLD INDEPENDENCE HALL                      LEAD/HELP
- ....LIBERTY VILLAGE #5                      THE WHITE HOUSE ATTIC                      LEAD/HELP

- ....I HAVE PROPS YOU CAN BORROW!                      JUST ASK ME!
- ....I WILL DONATE SNACKS.                      TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED!
- ....I WILL GIVE A FINANCIAL DONATION.                      IT WILL BE WORTH IT!
- ....I WILL PRAY FOR THE FAITH AND FREEDOM TEAM!                      I CAN DO IT!

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES:                      TIME:  
NEED MORE DETAILS? ASK OUR VERY OWN COLONIAL LEADERS:

Thou shalt not desire to miss this patriotic adventure!



# Grouping The Students

*LIBERTY VILLAGE is broadly graded.*

*The goal when grouping students is to provide a preschool program and five Bible Station groups of approximately equal size.*

**TOWN CRIERS NURSERY (BIRTH-AGE 3):** The Nursery is separate from the rest of LIBERTY VILLAGE. Two choices are apparent when planning nursery: Will we open this for the community? Will we provide a babysitting service for our teaching staff? The choice depends upon whether you want to become a beehive of activity or a small group.

**PINT SIZE PATRIOTS PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5):** Curriculum ideas give young students free time, short lessons based on older student lesson plans and optional involvement in daily activities.

## **COLOR CODE EACH STUDENT GROUP FOR EASY VISUAL IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. TOWN CRIERS NURSERY (BIRTH-AGE 3) NO COLOR NEEDED**
- 2. PINT SIZE PATRIOTS PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5): GREEN**
- 3. COLONIAL KIDS (KINDERGARTEN): GOLD**
- 4. LIBERTY LEAGUE (GRADE 1): RED**
- 5. UNCLE SAM SOCIETY (GRADE 2): WHITE**
- 6. THE FLAG WAVERS (GRADES 3-4): RED, WHITE AND BLUE**
- 7. THE EAGLES (GRADES 5-6): BLUE**

Overlap ages in any group. If twenty students are in one group and five in another, switch some students regardless of grade. Keep neighborhood friends together for comfort. Visiting cousins appreciate joining their family member in an otherwise unfamiliar situation.

## **GROUPING OPTION FOR SMALL CHURCHES**

**With twenty or less students and a few faithful teachers, consider running one LIBERTY VILLAGE Bible Station per day with all students in one group. The same teachers present a different station each day in the same teaching area decorated with the collective colonial themes. Crafts can be adapted and offered in a separate area. Smaller groups have the luxury of treating students to craft project times carried over from day to day.**

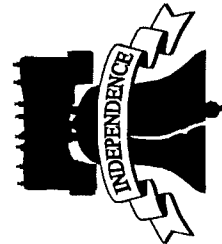


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| STUDENT GROUPS                      | 9:00-9:15              | 9:15-9:30             | 9:30-9:45               | 9:45-10:00              | 10:00-10:15             | 10:15-10:30             | 10:30-10:45             | 10:45-11:00             | 11:00-11:15             | 11:15-11:30 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| GREEN--PINT SIZED PATRIOTS ages 4-5 | LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING | HOME BASE ACTIVITIES  | BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACKS | FIELD OF DREAMS GAMES   | HOME BASE ACTIVITIES    | STORY TELLER            | OLD GLORY HEADQUARTERS  | KEEP AMERICA SINGING    | HOME BASE ACTIVITIES    | CLOSING     |
| GOLD--COLONIAL KIDS Kindergarten    | LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING | W O R                 | K S H                   | O P                     | BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACKS | FIELD OF DREAMS GAMES   | KEEP AMERICA SINGING    | STORY TELLER            | OLD GLORY HEAD-QUARTERS | CLOSING     |
| RED--LIBERTY LEAGUE Grade 1         | LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING | KEEP AMERICA SINGING  | OLD GLORY HEAD-QUARTERS | W O R                   | K S H O P               | O P                     | BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACKS | FIELD OF DREAMS GAMES   | STORY TELLER            | CLOSING     |
| WHITE--UNCLE SAM SOCIETY Grade 2    | LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING | OLD GLORY HEADQTRS.   | KEEP AMERICA SINGING    | STORY TELLER            | W O R                   | K S H                   | O P                     | BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACKS | FIELD OF DREAMS GAMES   | CLOSING     |
| RED/W/BLUE FLAG WAVERS Grade 3-4    | LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING | STORY TELLER          | W O                     | R K S                   | H O P                   | BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACKS | FIELD OF DREAMS GAMES   | OLD GLORY HEAD-QUARTERS | KEEP AMERICA SINGING    | CLOSING     |
| BLUE--THE EAGLES Grade 5-6          | LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING | FIELD OF DREAMS GAMES | STORY TELLER            | BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACKS | OLD GLORY HEAD-QUARTERS | KEEP AMERICA SINGING    | W O R                   | K S H O P               | O P                     | CLOSING     |

## LIBERTY VILLAGE GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

| BIBLE STATIONS      | MONDAY            | TUESDAY           | WEDNESDAY         | THURSDAY          | FRIDAY            |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| PLYMOUTH PLANTATION | COLONIAL KIDS     | LIBERTY LEAGUE    | FLAG WAVERS       | THE EAGLES        | UNCLE SAM SOCIETY |
| FRONTIER CAMP       | LIBERTY LEAGUE    | COLONIAL KIDS     | THE EAGLES        | UNCLE SAM SOCIETY | FLAG WAVERS       |
| COLONIAL HOME       | UNCLE SAM SOCIETY | THE EAGLES        | COLONIAL KIDS     | FLAG WAVERS       | LIBERTY LEAGUE    |
| INDEPENDENCE HALL   | FLAG WAVERS       | UNCLE SAM SOCIETY | LIBERTY LEAGUE    | COLONIAL KIDS     | THE EAGLES        |
| WHITE HOUSE ATTIC   | THE EAGLES        | FLAG WAVERS       | UNCLE SAM SOCIETY | LIBERTY LEAGUE    | COLONIAL KIDS     |



## Registration Team

*America was founded by people who believed that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it's all right to keep asking if we're on His side.*

*—RONALD REAGAN, 40<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT*

**This team makes name tags and runs the registration table the first day of LIBERTY VILLAGE. The job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, the first day of Vacation Bible School could be delayed as much as thirty minutes.**

*Mark registration tables with group colors, names and grades of student groups. Students line up at the appropriate table to receive a name tag and/or colonial hat (optional).*

**PRE REGISTRATION.** A registration card simplifies the first day by having name tags prepared for pre registered students. Register through the church newsletter, bulletin and take home forms. Telephone neighborhood families and visit nearby neighborhoods. Ask for name, grade or age, emergency telephone number and contact person. If cards are the basis for church growth, add address, parent names and specific information needed for the local church.

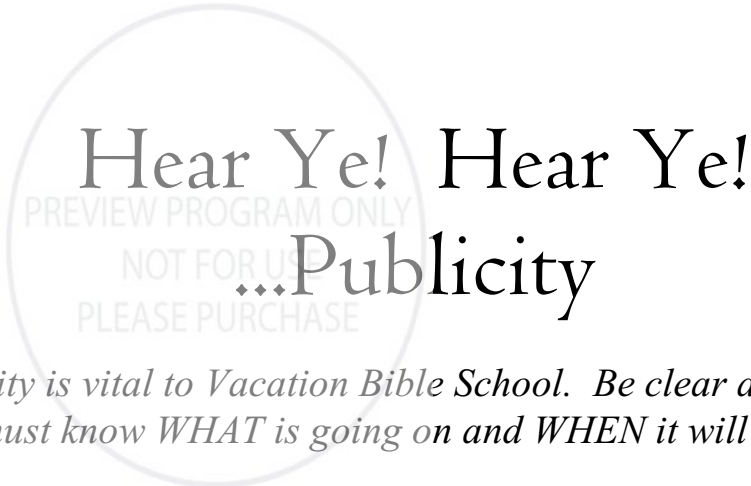
**NAME TAGS** give each LIBERTY VILLAGE group a name and color identity. Make tags in each group color. To preserve name tags, cover with clear contact paper. Pin tags to students using huge safety pins found in craft stores. Collect tags at day's end and give them to the next Bible Station teacher. Students pick up tags each day at the Liberty Square Opening and meet their new teacher at the same time.

**HATS** are always a hit with elementary students. Consider making each girl a colonial "mob" cap. (Cut a fabric circle, gather about 1-2" from the edge with elastic, trim with lace.) Traditionally white, these caps can be made in group colors with white lace around the edge.

Choose a patriotic boy's hat from a catalog like Oriental Trading or from a local party store. Red, white and blue top hats and skimmers are available at low cost. Homemade hats can be anything from frontier style coonskin caps to pilgrim hats to tri-corner hats. Simplicity Patterns offer various designs.







*Publicity is vital to Vacation Bible School. Be clear and concise. People must know WHAT is going on and WHEN it will be occurring.*

**CHURCH BULLETIN.** Begin advertising for team members. Include reminders in the weekly bulletin until LIBERTY VILLAGE begins. Include registration forms.

**CHURCH NEWSLETTER.** Print quick, catchy announcements and include registration forms in the newsletter. For example:

Hear Ye, Hear Ye...Vacation Bible School citizens of LIBERTY VILLAGE are welcome to gather at Liberty Square in the Family Life Center to begin their American Tour of Faith and Freedom..

Visit LIBERTY VILLAGE, a vibrant early American village where faith and freedom are respected and God's Word is honored. Vacation Bible School has never been like this!  
Thou shalt attend with joy!

**Become a Young Colonist living at LIBERTY VILLAGE Vacation Bible School.  
Do not miss this American Tour of Faith and Freedom.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS.** Greet people coming into church for worship. This is a great reminder that LIBERTY VILLAGE is coming. Dress in colonial costume.

**LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.** Take black and white photographs of people in costume. Send a news release several weeks before LIBERTY VILLAGE to insure publication. Invite a reporter and photographer to visit the school while in session. It makes a great feature story!

**COLORING CONTEST.** Sponsor a coloring contest in the Sunday School. Choose one picture. Award prizes and create excitement for the event.

**VISIT THE PULPIT.** Wear a colonial costume and visit the pastor during



announcement time. Give this real flair so the congregation becomes excited about the event. Announce dates, times and ages of students.

**LOCAL TELEVISION.** Ask a local television station to tape a feature story. This is great publicity and encouragement. Do not assume a crew will NOT come. Call and ask!

**DENOMINATION NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.** Does your denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and a well written article. You may be surprised to find your church featured in the next edition.

**SIGNS AND POSTERS.** These are the most common forms of publicity. Although considered the least effective, placing signs and posters in stores, offices and other well traveled spots brings attention to your program. Attach tear off sheets stating basic information.

**CHURCH SIGN.** Place a large sign at the church announcing dates and times. Use the early American theme to draw attention to the sign by flying American flags and lighting the sign at night.

Liberty Village  
...An American Tour of Faith and Freedom  
Vacation Bible School  
Dates                      Time  
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!  
All village children age four-grade 6 most cordially invited!



# Ye Olde Picture Shoppe

## ...Photography

*Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and the rewards of a bright, visual week of LIBERTY VILLAGE. Ask the church photographer to wear a colorful colonial costume.*

**ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS.** Amateur photographers usually stand at one side to take pictures and should not disrupt events. This is a good way to involve parents and church members who visit each decorated area.

**ASSIGN A PHOTOGRAPHY CREW** to take pictures for the church. Underwrite the cost of film and developing from Vacation Bible School resources.

**35 MM COLOR PRINTS.** Take staff and student pictures early in the week. Facial close ups are the most popular shots. Develop film at a fast developing center. Display the pictures at OPEN HOUSE.

**SLIDES.** Coordinate slides with taped music. Assign the job to someone who is knowledgeable in this type of film making. Be sure all slides are ready for viewing.

**VIDEO TAPE.** Delegate one person the task of videotaping the events of the week. Some things can be staged for filming but it is more fun to record as events are taking place.

**SELLING PICTURES.** Be prepared to quote a video price. Do you want to cover the cost of the tape or help defray Vacation Bible School costs? Prepare a sign up sheet including the cost. Display 35 MM prints. Provide sign up sheets along with the cost and size of print.

**DISPLAYING PICTURES.** Consider making a large photographic display for viewing during OPEN HOUSE. Prints may be placed on a wall or bulletin board and video may be shown in the BOSTON TEA PARTY snack area.

## Ye Olde Clothing Shoppe ...Colonial Apparel

*Part of the fun of presenting LIBERTY VILLAGE is making the theme come to life with props and costumes. This does not have to be difficult or expensive. All teachers, helpers and activity leaders should dress in costume. Follow a few tips and let your imagination run wild.*

**PATTERNS.** Check out the local fabric store where there is a fine variety of colonial costumes for both men and women in the pattern section. Purchase inexpensive cotton and muslin to make needed apparel.

**COSTUME SHOP.** Visit a local costume shop where there are appropriate costumes and accessories available for a low rental fee. Ask about the best choices for this theme.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.** Borrow costumes from local churches, historical societies and high schools who may have racks of costumes available.

### WOMEN AND GIRLS

**Colonial and Frontier:** Dress in long cotton skirts or dresses. Small prints or plain colors are appropriate. Trim the sleeves with white lace if desired. Cover the dress with a full white apron. Wear a traditional colonial mob cap. No jewelry. Outer wear may include a long cape.

**Pilgrim:** Wear a long grey, light blue or black dress with white collar and long white apron.

### MEN AND BOYS

**Colonial:** Colonial men and boys wore breeches. These can be made by tucking slacks into long knee socks. Wear a simple white shirt with a scarf or ribbon tied at the neck. A simple vest over the shirt is appropriate. Men did wear white wigs tied into braid at the back with ribbon. This is not necessary. Tri corner hats were popular but if none are available, omit a hat.

**Frontier:** Coonskin cap, leather breeches, vest. Also simple colonial clothing is appropriate.

**Pilgrim:** Black breeches, white shirt with ribbon tie, vest. Pilgrim hat and black shoes with large buckles make nice accessories.

# Liberty Square ...The Opening

*LIBERTY SQUARE is a daily fifteen minute opening designed to introduce events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. PATRIOTIC INTRODUCTIONS may be dramatized using adults, teens or older elementary students. LIBERTY SQUARE skits establish colonial town characters and prepare the students for daily events.*

**DIRECTOR.** The Vacation Bible School Director becomes the colonial host or hostess. Dress in colonial costume and maintain a cheerful attitude throughout the week.

## DECORATE

Concentrate decorating efforts in the sanctuary or large meeting room. See the section, *Decorating Liberty Village*, for more ideas. Reproduce the following ideas or use your imagination and props at hand to create Liberty Square.

**Here's An Idea!** Instead of making the area resemble a real town square, consider filling the area with American flags and one Christian flag in the center. A semi circle of large flags on poles with one huge flag spread out on the wall and small flags standing along the edge of the stage interspersed with red, white and blue flowers makes an impressive stage.

**Backdrop:** This area represents the town square. Draw a gazebo on cardboard. Place trees and flowers in front of it.

**Accessories:** Props borrowed from church families add to the authenticity of the park. Consider borrowing park benches, plants and large rocks. American flags and red, white and blue bunting should be prominently displayed.

**Signs:** A handwritten sign stating God Bless America may be propped against a rock or plant. Print a large town sign Liberty Village to display in the square.

**Microphone Stand:** Decorate the microphone stand with vining green plants and flowers. Wrap the vine around the stand and attach firmly.

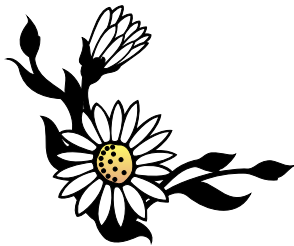


**BACKGROUND MUSIC:** Check the local music store to find tapes or CD's of colonial music. This could be harpsichord, music box or classical music. Play the music quietly to establish the theme as people arrive. There are a few contemporary and traditional songs that are fun to use. Find CD's of: "God Bless the USA" sung by Lee Greenwood, "They're Coming To America" sung by Neil Diamond, "You're A Grand Old Flag", "Taps", "Stars and Stripes Forever". Look for old recordings of Kate Smith's patriotic songs from the 1940-1950's period.

**COLLECTING OFFERING:** Collect money in small wicker baskets lined with colorful linen napkins. Ask two students or teen leaders to hold the baskets as students enter Liberty Square Opening. Students place their money in the baskets before they find their seat. Before Vacation bible School, decide where to donate the offering. If a special cause is designated, let families know. There may be worthy ministries the church could support. If a contest between groups or boys vs. girls is desired, communicate this to the students.

**CHAIRS OR NO CHAIRS:** If meeting in a gymnasium or fellowship hall, consider allowing groups of students to sit on the floor. Mark the seating area with separate signs in group colors. Students will enjoy the different look and position. Colorful blankets could be spread to mark the group areas.

**SYNCHRONIZE YOUR WATCHES:** Begin on time even if students and staff are still gathering. Plan to welcome the group, sing a few songs, make announcements, perform one short skit and dismiss. End on time to guarantee groups move to their first activity on time. Direct latecomers to their first activities as they arrive.



**You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

**–Galatians 5:13-14**

**In Christ and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.**

**–Ephesians 3:12**



**PLEDGES TO THE AMERICAN FLAG,  
THE CHRISTIAN FLAG AND THE BIBLE**

*Display the American Flag, Christian Flag and a large Bible in Liberty Square. Use these pledges to begin each day at LIBERTY VILLAGE. This exercise unifies the group and inspires everyone present. The pledges cited may vary slightly. Teach what is most comfortable.*

**PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic for which it stands.  
One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice of all.

**PLEDGE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG**

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom  
it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again  
with life and liberty to all who believe.

**PLEDGE TO THE BIBLE**

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto  
my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I  
might not sin against God.

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE LAMB**

I pledge allegiance to the Lamb  
With all my strength, with all I am.  
I will seek to honor His commands  
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb  
—An excerpt from the song “I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb” by Ray Boltz  
Consider using this chorus as a theme song.  
Play the CD as students enter and leave Liberty Square.



## PATRIOTIC INTRODUCTIONS

*Present one introduction each day at LIBERTY SQUARE.*

*These may be performed to a background of patriotic or Christian music if desired.*

### THE FLAGS SPEAK

Place one person beside a large American flag and one person beside the Christian flag. Spotlight each flag.

AMERICAN FLAG: I am whatever you make me—nothing more. I am the symbol of democratic freedom in the United State of America.

CHRISTIAN FLAG: I am the symbol of faith and freedom in Jesus Christ.

AMERICAN FLAG: Always, I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for.

CHRISTIAN FLAG: I am the only free flag in the world—uncontrolled, independent and universal with no earthly bonds or allegiances. Christ and Christ alone is the Master.

AMERICAN FLAG: I am song and fear, struggle and panic and ennobling hope. I represent the best of what America has to offer. I am the day's work of the weakest man and the greatest aspiration of the most daring.

CHRISTIAN FLAG: I too am song and fear, struggle and panic and ennobling hope. I exist for all the world's people regardless of sex, race, national boundary, economic condition, affluence, or poverty, politics, slavery or freedom.

AMERICAN FLAG: I am the Constitution and the courts, statutes and statute makers, soldiers and street sweepers, cooks, counselors, clerks.

CHRISTIAN FLAG: I am God's reminder that His Word stands—not just on the most important days of history when wars are won and celebrations capture our imaginations—but every day. I fly in the hearts of work worn fathers and dedicated mothers. I trudge to school with students who are confused by the messages of the world. I am present in the churches and in places where all men need to see the light of God.

AMERICAN FLAG: My stars and the blue union are your dreams and your labors. For you are the makers of the flag and it is well that you glory in the making.



CHRISTIAN FLAG: My blue color stands for faithfulness, truth and sincerity. I am modeled from the earthly life of Jesus who left His rightful place in heaven to inhabit the world with me.

AMERICAN FLAG: My red stripes represent the blood spilled at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Bataan, Korea, Viet Nam and every other great battle fought on land, in the air and on the sea. Each stripe reminds us of the sacrifice of citizens who have loved their country more than life.

CHRISTIAN FLAG: My red cross is the hope for your dreams and labors. It says, "Remember me. I have taken away your sin. I have given hope to the nations. I will stand when all else falls." The blood spilled by Christ at Calvary is the only blood that makes me wave.

AMERICAN FLAG: The shining light of sunshine is in my white stripes, penetrating the blackest night, which in the nation's darkest hours are filled with radiant light.

CHRISTIAN FLAG: My white field represents purity and peace. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

AMERICAN FLAG AND CHRISTIAN FLAG: (In unison...) In our folds are enshrined every ideal, hope and opportunity made possible because Someone has lived. Together we shout to the world the message of faith and freedom. When standing side by side in churches and schools, courtrooms and flying high above buildings, people everywhere turn to show respect. Take off your hats, put your hands on your hearts, sing the songs of our forefathers. We are passing by. We are the flags of your soul and spirit.

## IN GOD WE TRUST

*This is a simple litany using our national motto as a foundation. Ask the students to stand and repeat the motto at the end of each sentence. Another use for this litany is as an introduction to Open House at the end of the week. Include all parents and guests.*

Some people trust in their strong houses, expensive cars and beautiful clothing.  
IN GOD WE TRUST!

Some people trust in America's tall mountains and bustling cities.  
IN GOD WE TRUST!

Some people trust in their influential jobs and flashy bank accounts.  
IN GOD WE TRUST!



Some people trust in the basic goodness of human beings they meet.  
IN GOD WE TRUST!

Some people trust in themselves.  
After all, America is the land of opportunity and education and wealth and happiness.  
IN GOD WE TRUST!

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, John Adams and  
a host of other founding fathers could have trusted in their own wisdom but they said,  
IN GOD WE TRUST!

So, in our humble wisdom, we too stand by our nation's famous motto and live by it's  
truthful words:  
IN GOD WE TRUST!

## BURNING THE AMERICAN FLAG

*Several people read alternate paragraphs while standing in front of American flags.*  
What do we do about people who want to burn the American flag? You know...those folks who  
want to stomp all over it, or spit on it to make some sort of statement. Some say our  
Constitution's First Amendment gives us the right to hurt the flag and others want to make it  
illegal. What should we do?

I have the solution! Let's give those people permission to burn the flag as long as they have  
three sponsors who will give them written permission. These sponsors should be from a panel  
of experts who are qualified to give such permission.

First, they need the signature of a war veteran. The Minute Man of the Revolutionary War who  
fought the British to establish America or how about a Marine who fought at Iwo Jima? Maybe  
they could ask a Vietnam veteran who spent years in a Prison of War prison. Maybe a Korean  
War soldier who rescued half a nation from communism would sign permission. Find a Desert  
Storm warrior who stopped a dictator from overrunning an innocent country only to find people  
from a foreign land kiss our flag as he drove through their streets.

To every American soldier who ever fought for the United States, that flag represented mother  
and father, sister and brother, friends, neighbors, fellow countrymen. In fact it stands for  
freedom guaranteed by our nation. Those who fought, fought for that flag. Those who died,  
died for that flag. I wonder what they would say if someone asked permission to burn a flag?





Second, they need the signature of an immigrant, preferably one who left their family behind. They came but had to leave behind loved ones to face poverty and failure while America offers freedom and prosperity. For those who risked everything simply for the chance to become an American...what kind of feelings do they have for the flag when they pledge allegiance to it for the first time? Then walk up and ask one of them if it would be OK to burn the flag.

Third, they need the signature of someone living in a foreign land who cannot get here. Say, Rwanda, or maybe Bosnia, maybe even Haiti. These people must flee those who attack them and may not have time to sign as they duck for cover.

The writers of the Declaration of Independence are long gone. Did the flag mean anything to them? They knew failure of independence meant more than just a disappointment. It meant the loss of their very lives as traitors to Britain. I wonder how they would feel if someone asked their permission to toss the flag in a mud puddle?

So, if anyone wants to burn, spit on, or despise the American flag, they must ask permission. Not from politicians but from those who founded the nation. Ask those who defended our shores so that we may be free today. They must ask those who fought to reach our shores as immigrants. They must ask permission from those who dream of arriving in America to begin their own American dream.

The American flag inspires those who believe in the American dream, the American promise, the American vision. God has promised to heal our land when we turn to Him and give up our wicked ways. We can live in a land filled with freedom and yet miss God's perfect plan. Let our flag be a reminder that God's banner over us is His great love.

## WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY....

*Ask several guests to present the following inspirational thoughts.*

*Play patriotic music or Christian music softly as the speakers present their parts.*

Abraham Lincoln said, *"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."*

Four things in any land must dwell,  
If it endures and prospers well;  
One is manhood true and good;  
One is noble womanhood;  
One is child life, clean and bright;  
And one an altar kept alight.



God is more interested in making you what He wants you to be than He is in giving you what you would like to have.

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves toward the goal of true maturity. Romans 12:2 (Phillips)

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14

God has already established His control of every nation: The Bible says, ...the Lord directs the king's thoughts. He turns them wherever he wants to. –Proverbs 21:1 (TLB) Pray, in order to open the door for God's divine intervention into our nation's affairs. Remember that God honors the prayers of His children. He promised that if you ask anything according to His will, He hears you and answers your requests. (I John 5:14, 15) So you see, your prayers do make a difference. Pray for God to lead your life and to lead our nation today!

## THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS OF AMERICA

*Ask several people to present these quotes from some of our most famous and beloved leaders. Play patriotic or Christian music quietly in the background.*

**George Washington, first President of the United States prayed:** Direct my thought, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate Blood of the Lamb and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit.... Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ.

**Mary Washington, George Washington's mother said:** *"Remember that God is our only sure trust."*

**From a 1983 Joint Resolution of the House and Senate of the Congress of The United States of America:** Renewing our knowledge of and faith in God through Holy Scripture can strengthen us as a nation and a people.

**Woodrow Wilson, 28<sup>th</sup> U.S. President said:** There are a good many problems before the American people today, and before me as President, but I expect to find the solution to those problems just in the proportion that I am faithful in the study of the Word of God.



**Harry S. Truman, 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. President said:** We all can pray. We all should pray. We should ask the fulfillment of God's will. We should ask for courage, wisdom, for the quietness of soul which comes alone to them who place their lives in His hands.

**General Romulo, General of the Philippines reminded Americans:** Never forget, Americans, that yours is a spiritual country. Yes, I know you are a practical people. Like others, I've marveled at your factories, your skyscrapers and your arsenals. But underlying everything else is the fact that America began as a God loving, God fearing, God worshiping people.

**Ronald Reagan, 40<sup>th</sup> U.S. President said:** America was founded by people who believed that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it's all right to keep asking if we're on His side. The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America...Our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal.

**John F. Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> U.S. President said:** With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

**Each U.S. President takes the same Executive Oath of Office–** I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

**Hebrews 13:7-8 reminds us:** Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**Luke 12:48 says:** From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

**Romans 13:1:** Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.



## Liberty Square Skits

*Rehearse each skit before Vacation Bible School begins.  
Do not memorize the parts. Each skit is designed to be short.  
Speak loudly and slowly. Dress in costume for your character.*

### MONDAY MORNING IN LIBERTY SQUARE

MISS ABIGAIL: (A colonial serving girl.) What a beautiful morning for a walk through Liberty Square! I love to hear the birds singing and see the sun rising high in the sky. I have to hurry along today because I serve President and Mrs. Washington. They are expecting company and I have to help Cook get the pastries baked and the Cornish hens into the baking oven. I don't think they would mind if I take a few moments to enjoy the day.

MRS. WELLINGTON: (An older, wealthy, gossipy woman) Good morning Miss Abigail. I see you are making your way with great purpose to the President's house. Tell me, what is going on there today?

MISS ABIGAIL: (Curtsey quickly.) Good morning Mrs. Wellington. How nice to see you. I am hurrying along today. Very important company is expected at President Washington's House. Let us talk at length tomorrow.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Tell me! Who is it? Has George the Third, King of England, finally decided to visit the Washington's? Or perhaps it is Patrick Henry or Mr. Thomas Jefferson himself? What a dreamboat! All that glorious red hair and his delightful manners! I would love to be invited to that party.

MISS ABIGAIL: (Hesitantly...) I, I...don't really know. No one told me. Of course I'm just the serving girl. I would not expect to hear such important information. I only know that I must work especially hard this week because The President and Mrs. Martha have guests arriving shortly. Please, farewell, I must be on my way!

MRS. WELLINGTON: Shortly! Hmmm, that could be today or tomorrow or any time this week. Let me see. As soon you get me an invitation to the dinner party, I will have just enough time to get a new hat and arrange for a carriage.

MISS ABIGAIL: Wait one moment please. I cannot get anyone an invitation to dinner at the President's House. Please do not ask me. You must speak to someone of more importance.

MRS. WELLINGTON: (Threatening...) I insist upon being invited to that dinner party. I don't care what you have to do to get me there. How would you like it if I told the Washington's that you are a lazy child, prone to wandering through Liberty Square when you should be scurrying to work for them?

MISS ABIGAIL: But that would not be true! I do not wander and I work very hard as a serving girl. Why, I make my service to the President of the new United States of America the highlight of my life. The only thing I hold in higher esteem is my faith in Jesus.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Hummph! Do not confuse me with facts. Do you understand how important I am? I could destroy your position if I took a mind to. (Suddenly sweet...) Of course, that is not my intention. I just want to impress upon you the importance of this event. Now, dear Abigail, you must see to it that I am invited. I will meet you here tomorrow at the same time. Bring the written invitation. Good day! (Leaves the area quickly.)

MISS ABIGAIL: (Shaking head and looking toward the departing lady...) Good day, Mrs. Wellington. (To the audience...) What am I to do? I would be so embarrassed to ask Mrs. Washington for a special favor. She is such a kind First Lady. Have you met her? She has given up so much for her country. She says she prefers to have Mr. George to herself back at Mt. Vernon but here she is in Liberty Village waiting for housing to be built in the brand new Capitol City, Washington, DC...named after the President, of course!

President Washington was a famous General during the Revolutionary War. He received many honors but his highest honor comes when he trusts in God and sees answers to his prayers. He told me so himself. "Abigail", he says, "I want you to know that you live in a wonderful nation. You will always be free to worship God and raise a family in freedom. Don't ever forget that America is the only place on earth where its' citizens can sleep knowing they can become anything they want to be, God willing." He says that a lot, "God willing."

Ah yes, they are a extraordinary couple. I would never want to jeopardize my position in their household. Just think, me, little Abigail, serves the President of the United States of America and his family. I cannot ask special favors. Perhaps I will ignore Mrs. Wellington's request. She will probably forget all about it by tomorrow anyway. Well, I better make my way to work before Cook comes looking for me. Have a wonderful day in Liberty Village! (Exits.)





## TUESDAY MORNING IN LIBERTY SQUARE

MRS. WELLINGTON: (Hurries onto the stage looking to the left and right for Abigail to arrive.) Have you seen her yet? Oh, I'm sure I have not missed her. She always walks right through Liberty Square on her way to President Washington's house. I found a talented seamstress right here in Liberty Village who is willing to make a new silk gown with a matching feathered hat for an important dinner party with the Washington's and their guests. Now all I need is the formal invitation. Oh, there she is! There she is! (Waving....) Good morning, Miss Abigail! Come and tell me what has been going on at the President's House.

MISS ABIGAIL: (Walking down an aisle between the students....) Good morning, Mrs. Wellington. It is a beautiful day. I have just been praising my Creator for all He has given me.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Hurry up, girl! Who are the guests and when will they be arriving? Tell me their names. I'm sure I know them from other social events. I was very influential in Williamsburg, Virginia, you know. I went to all the formal balls and fancy dinner engagements. Who...who...who....speak up girl. I cannot hear you.

MISS ABIGAIL: (Uncomfortably....) I don't know who the guests are. No one mentioned their names. I do know that there are three men and their wives and they are going to be traveling abroad. Their ship leaves on the weekend. That's why their stay with President and Mrs. Washington is set for this week. Many other guests from Liberty Village will be there to send them off with a fine farewell.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Ooo, traveling abroad! They are indeed important people. They are probably foreign dignitaries returning so their exotic countries after giving extravagant gifts to the President and Mrs. Washington. It gets better and better! Well, where is my invitation? If you give it to me quickly, I can get to the seamstress' shop when she opens.

MISS ABIGAIL: Your invitation? What invitation?

MRS. WELLINGTON: My personal invitation to the dinner with the three foreign dignitaries and their wives. You know. We talked about it yesterday. Surely you did not forget.

MISS ABIGAIL: We-ll-ll, I did not exactly forget but...

MRS. WELLINGTON: (Shouting...) But! But what? There better not be any but's! I want that invitation and I want it now. You are the contact person who is going to get me into that party. What have you done?

MISS ABIGAIL: Mrs. Wellington, I told you yesterday that I cannot ask personal favors. I could lose my job at the President's House. I cannot ask them for an invitation for you. Why don't you ask them yourself?

MRS. WELLINGTON: Anyone knows you cannot ask to be invited to a formal dinner. You must be formally invited by the host and hostess.

MISS ABIGAIL: Maybe you are on the guest list. In fact, I am sure that you will be invited if it is appropriate.

MRS. WELLINGTON: (Dejected...) No I won't!

MISS ABIGAIL: It could be that even as we speak, a formal invitation is coming to your house by carriage and driver. Maybe you should go home and look for it.

MRS. WELLINGTON: You don't understand. I have not been invited to any party for a very long time. Why? I'm very likeable. I'm very attractive. My dresses are beautiful. And best of all....I'm rich!

MISS ABIGAIL: Well, those *are* admirable qualities. Have you prayed about it?

MRS. WELLINGTON: Prayed! Why should I pray about anything? God hasn't done anything for me lately. I don't have faith in God anymore.

MISS ABIGAIL: Oh, Mrs. Wellington. Why not? Faith is the only thing more important in our lives than freedom. You must have faith....even a little...in one corner of your heart.

MRS. WELLINGTON: No, I don't. And I want that invitation. You must get me invited to that party. I'm done being nice. I'm going to use my great influence to get you fired if you refuse to help me. I will tell the President about your detours in Liberty Square on the way to work.

MISS ABIGAIL: Okay. I will ask Mrs. Washington about an invitation. You have given me little choice.

MRS. WELLINGTON: See? Who needs faith and prayer when power is much more effective? See you tomorrow!

MISS ABIGAIL: (Sadly....) Yes. I'll see you tomorrow.  
(BOTH CHARACTERS EXIT TO OPPOSITE SIDES.)

## WEDNESDAY MORNING IN LIBERTY SQUARE

MRS. WELLINGTON: Where is that girl? I must get my formal invitation to President and Mrs. Washington's dinner party as soon as possible. I have so much to do to get ready. It will be such an honor to meet the foreign dignitaries and their wives. I'm sure that is who is coming for this elegant event. Who else could it be? Abigail said they were traveling abroad and would be leaving on a ship this weekend. I cannot see her. She comes every morning at the same time. When I need her, she is nowhere to be found. If she knows what's good for her, she will be here with invitation in hand!

Oh, why am I like this? I never used to be so demanding. I remember the wonderful parties and elegant dinners in Williamsburg. I was invited to every event. I was the belle of the ball. Everyone has forgotten me now. I am alone in this world and all my money cannot help.

Could it be that I need to change in some way? Let's see...my sense of fashion is impeccable. My curtsy is perfect. I do not eat too much. I participate in lively conversation. I do not laugh too loudly. What is wrong with me?

Come to think of it, I *have* been unhappy lately. Abigail seems happy all the time. She said something about her faith in God yesterday. What was it again? Oh yes, she suggested that I pray about the situation. It has been my personal experience that when I pray, no one is listening. Does God love me? I may never know. (Exit.)

MISS ABIGAIL: (Running and waving a white envelope....) Mrs. Wellington, Mrs. Wellington, I'm here! Oh no. I missed her. She will be very happy to know that I got her a personal invitation to the dinner party at the President's House. Let me tell you what happened.

I got to the mansion yesterday when the President and Mrs. Washington were finishing breakfast. I was very nervous but I knocked on the dining room door. Mrs. Washington answered the door and invited me inside. Mr. Washington was reading some very important looking papers but he looked up and smiled at me.

I'm afraid I stuttered a little. I was so afraid I would lose my serving job. Why do I feel so threatened by Mrs. Wellington? I have done nothing wrong. I walk through Liberty Square *every* day. It is true that the Washington's do not know about my route but on the other hand why would they care?

Well anyway, Mrs. Washington invited me to sit down and have a cup of tea. Can you imagine that? Right in the formal dining room and right in the presence of the President. The tea was delicious and I calmed down enough to make the request for Mrs. Wellington.

I said, “Mrs. Washington, I have come to ask a personal favor. I have a friend, Mrs. Wellington, who knows the people you are entertaining this week are very important. She would like to come to your dinner party. Is it possible to have a formal invitation sent to her?” I waited to hear what she would say next. Would she be angry? Would she fire me and hire that girl down the street? Maybe she would laugh at me.

“Why Abigail,” she said with a twinkle in her eye, “Are you sure your friend really wants to come to this *particular* dinner party? These friends do not seem to be the kind of people she would enjoy.”

“Oh yes,” I said, “She wants very much to come and is even planning to buy a new dress and a feathered hat for the occasion. She is very sure she will like the guests.”

Mr. Washington kind of snorted behind his papers. “Well, well, a feathered hat. Is this the same Arabella Wellington that we knew in Williamsburg? Are you sure she wants to come?”

When I assured them both that this was very important to Mrs. Wellington, Mr. Washington said, “Oh Martha, go ahead and invite her. It might be interesting to introduce her to our friends.”

And it was done. Mrs. Washington printed the invitation herself and handed it to me before I left the room. I was so happy my hands were shaking. They never said an angry word and they were smiling the whole time.

So here I am, invitation in hand, and no Mrs. Wellington. I am ashamed to say that I do not like Mrs. Wellington. She needs faith in Jesus more than anyone I know. I have a few minutes before I must leave Liberty Square. I think I’ll pray for her. Dear Lord Jesus, Mrs. Wellington seems so angry all the time. She wants her own way and she seems to want to hurt me if I don’t do what she says. Please change her. Give her faith and make her Your child. Amen.

I’ll put the invitation in my apron pocket. Maybe I will see her tomorrow morning. Have a great day in Liberty Village. (Exit.)



## THURSDAY MORNING IN LIBERTY SQUARE

MISS ABIGAIL: (Cheerfully....) Good Morning, Mrs. Wellington!

MRS. WELLINGTON: (Angry....) Where were you yesterday, you lazy child. I told you I would get you fired if you didn't get me an invitation. You didn't show up and I had to pay for a silk dress and feathered hat I will never get to wear. It is all your fault. You would not ask for the invitation for me, would you? I knew it. Cowardly and lazy.

MISS ABIGAIL: Now wait a minute....

MRS. WELLINGTON: I will not wait a minute. I needed that invitation and you refused. I'm going to make a very different kind of call on the Washington's and tomorrow you will be on the street.

MISS ABIGAIL: Look what I have. (Show a white envelope.) I spoke to the Washington's yesterday and they agreed that it would be a pleasure to have you at the dinner party this evening.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Oh, you wonderful girl. How bright and courageous you are! It is a pleasure to know you and call you my friend.

MISS ABIGAIL: (To the audience....) Mercy me, can you believe this?

MRS. WELLINGTON: I cannot tell you what this means to me. I will become a member of elite society once again. The wealthy, influential people at the dinner will surely notice me and all the ladies of Liberty Village will be very jealous.

MISS ABIGAIL: I must tell you that Mr. Washington did not seem to think his guests were the type of people you usually enjoy.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Oh, I enjoy all types of people, especially if they are rich and famous. There is no problem there. I must hurry and get ready. The dinner is tonight! I almost missed it. I told you that I didn't need God. Go your way. I will come back tomorrow and tell you all about my adventures. (Runs off stage excitedly.)

MISS ABIGAIL: Little does she know that I will be at the dinner party. I am serving in the formal dining room. I will greet all the guests and I will also get to eat the delicious food in the kitchen with cook. We will be back tomorrow to tell you about the party with the Washington's. Enjoy Liberty Village! (Exit.)



## FRIDAY MORNING IN LIBERTY SQUARE

MISS ABIGAIL: (To the audience....) Are you wondering how the dinner party at the President's House went last evening? Mrs. Wellington made a grand entrance at the front door with a carriage, a driver and a footman. Her silk dress was elegant. And her feathered hat...well, Mr. Washington was in awe as he bowed and kissed her hand. I think he might have been laughing, just a little, as the feather brushed against the man in line next to her and made the man sneeze.

She was thrilled to be there and curtsied her way around the room. The special guests of the evening stood at one end of the room. When Mrs. Wellington saw them, she did not recognize their place of honor. You see, the three men and their wives were dressed humbly in wool and simple cotton. Their hair was plain and no one wore jewelry. They smiled and greeted her warmly but she just sniffed at them and walked away.

Mrs. Washington led her back to the group and said, "Mrs. Wellington, I want you to meet our special guests of honor. The Clairtons, the Hiram and the Harrisons are dear friends who are Christian missionaries to the dark continent of Africa. They leave tomorrow morning on a cargo ship that will take many months to deliver them to their port of call in Africa."

Mrs. Wellington was shocked. Christian missionaries! Who wants to meet Christian missionaries! They were poor looking, plain and did not seem to fit into the well dressed group chatting in the President's House.

MRS. WELLINGTON: (Entering from the side....) Let me finish the story, Abigail. It is true that I was not impressed by the Christian missionaries. They were not like the rest of us. How could the Washington's invite them to their elegant home? That was before I heard them speak. Before dinner, each missionary was given a few minutes to explain their faith and their mission work. You should have heard them!

MISS ABIGAIL: I did!

MRS. WELLINGTON: They talked about Jesus like He was right in the same room with us. They said He loved each of us and even died for our sins. I could not believe it. Who would die for someone like me? Each missionary explained how Jesus came to earth to save us and make us worthy of God. Do you know that it is up to each of us to ask Christ into our heart. No one else can do it. Being good doesn't please God. Even being rich doesn't impress God. It is merely saying yes to Jesus and accepting Him as Savior and Lord.

MISS ABIGAIL: ...and what happened? Tell them what happened.

MRS. WELLINGTON: What happened is that I sat next to Mr. and Mrs. Clairton at dinner. Their conversation was so dear and loving. They did not care about my dress or my hat or my money. They told me again that Jesus loved me and for the first time in my life I believed it.

MISS ABIGAIL: ....and what happened next? Tell them...tell them!

MRS. WELLINGTON: Well, right there in the formal dining room at the President's House, I bowed my head and accepted Jesus into my life. It was like a weight was lifted from me. I felt the happiness that Abigail shows every day. I was changed in a moment.

MISS ABIGAIL: That's when I saw the President hug her! Tell them...tell them!

MRS. WELLINGTON: You make me blush. Mr. Washington was listening and when I said "Amen", he gave me a big bear hug. He hugged me so hard my feathered hat fell off. He looked very happy. Mrs. Washington gave me a sparkling crystal glass of cold water and told me how happy she was for me.

MISS ABIGAIL: ...and what did she tell you?

MRS. WELLINGTON: She told me, "I'm so glad for you Arabella. This means we will be friends on earth and friends in heaven." Martha Washington was actually happy that I would be in heaven with her. Oh the joy of this is too great.

MISS ABIGAIL: ....and what did she give you? Tell them.

MRS. WELLINGTON: The President and Mrs. Washington handed me a beautiful copy of the New Testament. They printed their names inside the cover and told me to read it every day.

MISS ABIGAIL: I am so happy that you have found your faith and discovered what is really important in life. It will be the highlight of my day from now on to meet you in Liberty Square.

MRS. WELLINGTON: Thank you, Abigail for being patient with such a crabby, pushy woman. Because of you I am now a citizen of America and a citizen of heaven. And it's a good thing

MISS ABIGAIL: Yes, Mrs. Wellington, it's a good thing. Let's start our day the right way. There's a little church over there beside Liberty Square. The door is open and waiting for us to step in and pray for a while. God bless America and God bless us too. (Both characters exit arm in arm, strolling down the aisle.)

A Liberty Village Celebration  
PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
... Open House

*Students and teachers show off the decorated workshops,  
sing songs and display their crafts at an OPEN HOUSE.*

*Families wander through LIBERTY VILLAGE...AN AMERICAN FAITH  
AND FREEDOM TOUR, sampling snacks at the BOSTON TEA PARTY  
and photographing this special celebration.*

**All costumed teachers and helpers are responsible  
to be in their work area during OPEN HOUSE.**

Choose the time for OPEN HOUSE to get a high percentage of parents, church members and friends to attend. If the week ends on Friday, plan a Friday evening program. (Do not eliminate students' last day of programming to present an OPEN HOUSE if VBS is taking place in the evening.) Some churches present the OPEN HOUSE celebration on Sunday morning.

**SAMPLE "LIBERTY VILLAGE CELEBRATION" SCHEDULE**

- 7:00 P.M. –Welcome and Opening Prayer**
- 7:02 P.M. –Director introduces LIBERTY VILLAGE theme**
- 7:07 P.M. –Students sing**
- 7:10 P.M. –Recite scripture verses**
- 7:11 P.M. –Students sing**
- 7:20 P.M. –Offering**
- 7:25 P.M. –Teacher Appreciation**
- 7:35 P.M. –Students sing and close in prayer**
- 7:40 P.M. –Dismiss group to wander through LIBERTY VILLAGE**
- 8:30 P.M. –Staff begins clean up**



# The Story Teller

## ...Uncle Sam The Story Man

*This fifteen minute segment provides rest time  
and a delightful story adventure.*

**WHAT IS UNCLE SAM THE STORY MAN?** This is a unique spot in LIBERTY VILLAGE where kids hide away and hear a great five day story. The Story Teller becomes “*Uncle Sam*” who greets each student cheerfully and tells the story for the week with great enthusiasm. Choose a quiet room far from the noise of Vacation Bible School activity.

**HOW SHOULD I DECORATE?** Place a large comfortable chair in the middle of the room and surround it with American Flags, bunting, stars, patriotic sayings and bright lights. Fill the room with red, white and blue balloons and signs.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**  
**AMERICA—MY HOME SWEET HOME**  
**UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!**

**WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?** Dress like the traditional Uncle Sam. Follow these simple suggestions or create your own character: Dress in white and wear a large Uncle Sam Hat (*Oriental Trading sells beautiful hats at an inexpensive cost.*). Wear navy blue slacks, white shirt, black ribbon tie, suspenders, Uncle Sam Hat. Rent a costume at a local party shop.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF THE STORY TELLER IS A GAL?** Dress in red, white and blue colonial dress and become THE LIBERTY BELLE or wear the traditional Uncle Sam costume!

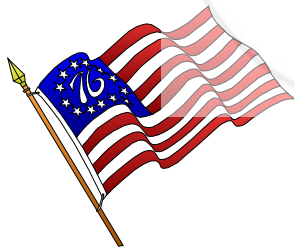
**WHO HEARS THE STORY?** All LIBERTY VILLAGE student groups visit fifteen minutes each day. Preschool **Pint Sized Patriots** are scheduled to visit but if the continuing story does not interest them, other stories may be substituted. It may be desirable to choose five separate stories from the local Christian Book Store. Preschool teachers may choose another activity for their group. Talk with the preschool team before Vacation Bible School begins.

**WHAT STORY SHOULD I TELL?** The suggested story is TROUBLE IN WASHINGTON, a five part Chip and Clare Conley mystery with complete script and large line drawings available through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES, 1-888-CEM-LIFE. As in other Conley twin stories, our Christian kids face excitement and mystery...this time at the White House in Washington, DC!

# Keep America Singing! ... Music of Faith and Freedom

“Sing aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful noise....” Psalm 81:1

*KEEP AMERICA SINGING is a 15 minute daily music session. Individual student groups sing Christian choruses and patriotic songs filled with the hope that God gives all His children. Choose upbeat songs performed in a contemporary style.*



**DECORATION.** Meet in the large group meeting room where LIBERTY SQUARE Opening has occurred. No additional decoration is needed. In a small room, use ideas from *DECORATING LIBERTY*

**VILLAGE.**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM.** Choose a few teens who stand with microphones and music stands. They become assistant leaders for the week. This appealing style is contemporary and is enjoyed by children and youth.

**MUSIC.** Use our song suggestions or create your own KEEP AMERICA SINGING music. Prepare the small groups to sing together for OPEN HOUSE...A LIBERTY VILLAGE CELEBRATION at the end of the week. Do not be afraid to use traditional American Patriotic music. It is known and loved by children and adults alike and sponsors inspiration, pride and love of God and country as it is being performed.

### GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, Land that I love, Stand beside her and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above.

From the mountains to the prairies, To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America, My home, sweet home. God bless America, my home sweet home.

It was in the fall of 1938, as war was again threatening Europe, that Irving Berlin decided to write a “peace” song. Then he recalled his “God Bless America” song that he had written twenty years earlier. He made some alterations to reflect the different state of the world and his song was born. Singer Kate Smith introduced it during her radio broadcast on Armistice Day, 1938. The song was an immediate sensation and its sheet music was in great demand. As a result Berlin soon established the *God Bless America Fund*, dedicating the royalties to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

### AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,





For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee.  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years.  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.

**Katharine Lee Bates wrote the original version in 1893. She wrote the second version in 1904 and her final version was written in 1913. Here is a note from Katharine Lee Bates: “One day some of the other teachers and I decided to go on a trip to 14,000-foot Pikes Peak. We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse.”**

### THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh! Say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,  
what so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro’ the perilous fight,  
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh! Say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave...  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

**During the War of 1812, the British captured the city of Washington, setting fire to the Capitol building and the White House. In the blaze of cannon fire, Francis Scott Key, a lawyer living in Georgetown, could still see the American flag waving over Fort McHenry. When the bombing suddenly stopped during that night, he had no way of knowing if the flag was still there or if the American stronghold had fallen to the British. But at dawn the American flag became visible, still intact over the fort. Key was inspired to write a poem. His brother-in-law took it to a printer and copies were circulated around the city. “The Star-Spangled Banner” was adopted as our national anthem on March 3, 1931.**

### MY COUNTRY ‘TIS OF THEE

My country, ‘tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died, Land of the Pilgrims’ pride,  
From every mountain side let freedom ring!  
  
Our Fathers’ God to thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright With freedom’s holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!

**Samuel Francis Smith was in seminary and very poor. He was hired to translate some verses of a**

German patriotic hymn, “*God Bless Our Native Land.*” When he read it, he immediately felt that the United States also needed a stirring national poem. Writing on scraps of papers in February, 1832, he wrote the poem “*America*”. The very next July 4, 1832, the children’s choir of Park Street Congregational Church in Boston sang it at a Sunday School celebration. One person said that it was “*strong in simplicity and deep in trust in God, children and philosophers can repeat the hymn together. Every crisis will hear it above the storm.*” Smith composed 150 hymns during his life as an outstanding and well known Baptist preacher.

**BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.  
**Refrain:** Glory! Glory, hallelujah! Glory! Glory, hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on..  
He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave; He is wisdom to the mighty, He is honor to the brave: So the world shall be His foot stool, and the soul of wrong His slave. Our Lord is marching on. *Refrain.*

Julia Ward Howe and her husband Samuel were invited to Washington by President Abraham Lincoln. They visited a Union Army camp in Virginia across the Potomac. She was urged to write a new song for the Civil War effort. She said, “*I had often wished to do so. I went to bed and slept as usual, but awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn and to my astonishment found the lines arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, ‘I shall lose this if I don’t write it down immediately....I lay down again and fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me.’* Julia became a much loved American institution after that song was published...all her other pursuits paled besides her accomplishment of one piece of poetry for which she was paid \$5 by the editor of Atlantic Monthly.

**SING A SONG OF SCRIPTURE**, 100 Scripture Songs for Kids, compiled by Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Co. Song book and cassette tape available through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES. 1-888-CEM-LIFE

- God Calls Us, page 98
- I Want to Be, page 108
- Make Me A Servant, page 102
- Servant of All, page 100
- Take My Life, and Let It Be, page 109
- By Faith, page 132
- Cares Chorus, page 127
- Philippians 4:13, page 144
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness, page 36
- Oh, How He Love You and Me, page 86
- Into My Heart, page 142
- + many other great songs that fit the theme!



**PICK A PACK OF PRAISE, 50 Songs of Fun and Faith for Kids**, arranged by Joseph Linn, compiled by Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Co., Kansas City, MO 64141. Tape and song book available through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES.

**I'm Gonna Hide God's Word Inside My Heart**, page 21

**Heart to Change the World**, page 27

**My Heart Is Steadfast**, page 3

**Yes, Lord, Yes**, page 4

**Take A Step of Faith**, page 34

+ many other great songs that fit the theme!

**THE ULTIMATE PRAISE SONGBOOK FOR KIDS, 50 Songs, Hymns and Choruses**, arranged by Joseph Linn, Lillenas Publishing Company. Tape and song book available through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES.

**"I Am Thankful to Be An American"**, page 42.

**"Saints Society"**, page 36

**"Instruments Of Your Peace"**, page 31

**"Gentle Shepherd"**, page 34

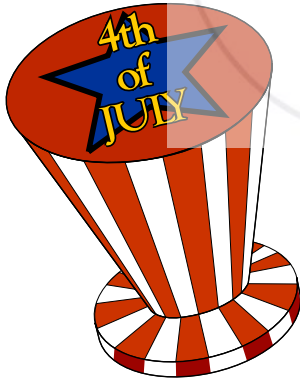
+ many other great songs that fit the theme!

There are contemporary and traditional songs and tunes that are fun to use. Consider these songs: *"God Bless The USA"*, *"They're Coming To America"* sung by Neil Diamond, *"You're A Grand Old Flag"*, *"Taps"*, *"Stars and Stripes Forever"*, *"Yankee Doodle Dandy"*, *"Dixie"*.



# Patriot's Field of Dreams

## ...Games and Guests



*PATRIOT'S FIELD OF DREAMS is a fifteen minute recreation activity. Decide what activities your team feels comfortable doing. Use active, fast paced games that encourage running, jumping, laughing and comradeship. Guests may also be invited as available in your local community. A mixture of games and guests may be the effort that makes the week fun!*

**DECORATION.** Choose an indoor or outdoor area large enough for running, jumping, ball playing and circle games. If outdoors, select a grassy spot away from traffic. Encircle the area using brightly colored pennants (*available in Oriental Trading catalog.*)

**EQUIPMENT.** Collect items needed for individual games before Vacation Bible School. Practice the games and adjust event rules for your group.

**REWARDS.** Award stickers to winning students and winning teams. At the end of each session, award stickers to everyone, including losing teams. Pieces of soft candy are popular prizes. Gather a variety of soft candies like Hershey kisses, Twizzlers, candy corn or other small treats that will not become lodged in small children's throats. (Be careful when choosing peanut based candies. Some children are allergic to them.)

## GAMES

*Use traditional games that are favorites of your local group. Purchase a game book for more ideas. If you need help planning a game schedule, use some of these old favorites.*

**HOOP ROLLING:** Equipment—hula hoops or wooden hoops, wooden dowel sticks for each hoop. Children practice learning to roll a hoop down a long field, driveway or sidewalk. This was a favorite colonial game.

**DOUBLE BALL TOSS:** Equipment—Two small balls per group of three students, whistle.

Divide the students into groups of three. The groups stand several feet apart from one another. Tell each group to stand in a triangle with several feet between each player. When the whistle blows, each group begins tossing its two balls clockwise around the triangle. No one may have two balls at the same time. When the whistle blows again, reverse the direction. Each student counts the number of times they catch a ball without dropping it. Tell each group to complete a specific amount of catches within a short period of time.

**LEAP FROG RELAY:** Groups of 5-10 students line up in single file at the starting line. The first player squats down and places both hands on his/her knees. The second player places both hands on the squatter's back and leaps over the squatter. The third player leaps over the first two players. Continue in this way until the teams reach a predetermined finish line. First complete team to leap over the line is the winning team.

**STEAL THE BACON:** Equipment—one bean bag or soft stuffed animal or tied rag. Divide students into two equal teams. The students stand side by side at opposite ends of the playing field. Assign each student on one team a number. Repeat number assignments for the other team using the same numbers. Place the beanbag halfway between the two teams. Tell the students that the beanbag represents the bacon. To begin the game, call out one of the numbers. The students whose numbers are called run toward the “bacon”. The student who reaches the bacon first grabs it and runs behind his team line to be safe. If the student reaches his team line before being tagged wins a point. If not, the other team earns a point. Play until each number has been called at least once.

**WATER BUCKET RELAY:** A hot summer day, kids and cool water are a great combination. Choose a fun water relay that insures students get wet (a little bit). Place buckets of water at the starting line. Two teams must compete to see how much water they can place into containers at the other end of the course. Decide what carriers will be used and what containers will hold the water. Suggestions: tablespoons, plastic cups, sandwich bags, hands, holey plastic cups. The best place to play a water relay is in an open area near a water source for easy refills. Time each relay heat. Vary the containers and length of course for fun!

**DODGE BALL:** Play your favorite version of this popular game. Use large basketballs/volleyballs/beach balls as the dodge balls.

**BEAN BAG RELAYS:** Provide a variety of bean bags. Divide the group into two teams. Students must race while tossing a bean bag to the end of the relay course. Toss the bean bag to the next team member from that spot. The team continues to toss and throw until the entire team has crossed the finish line. Play other relays using bean bags as desired.

## PATRIOT'S FIELD OF DREAM GUESTS



*This fifteen minute recreation activity may be used to introduce community people who talk to students about faith and freedom. Include local guests who are easily available and willing to spend a day with the groups. It is a plus if the guest is a Christian and is willing to share their testimony and how their faith helps them as leaders and American citizens. Use these suggestions or find willing guests:*

**TOWN MAYOR/LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL  
U.S. SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE  
STATE SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE**

**POLICE CHIEF/POLICE OFFICER**

**POST OFFICE POSTMASTER/POSTMAN**

**MILITARY VETERAN, RECRUITER, SERVICE MAN/WOMAN**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE**

**RE-ENACTOR OF HISTORICAL FIGURE  
(LINCOLN, WASHINGTON, ETC.)**

**COLONIAL LIFESTYLE EXPERTS IN COSTUME**

**FARMER WITH SHEEP, COWS, GOATS, CHICKENS TO TALK  
ABOUT HOW COLONIALS NEEDED THE HELP OF THESE  
ANIMALS TO SURVIVE**

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
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# The Boston Tea Party ...Colony Cuisine Snacks



*LIBERTY VILLAGE students and staff can hardly wait to eat at **The Boston Tea Party!** Make this fifteen minute snack break an enjoyable colonial treat time. Serve simple American foods and enjoy the company of every small group each day.*

The real Boston Tea Party had nothing to do with eating yummy snacks in a cozy atmosphere. Tea, the favorite beverage of colonial Americans, was being taxed by Britain. Taxes rose higher and higher and seemed like a punishment for the colonists political views. A group of American men dressed as Indians gathered at Boston Harbor, boarded British ships loaded with tea and dumped it in the harbor. Their message? *“We would rather go without our delicious tea than to be a slave to another country. Eliminate the tax or we will destroy the tea business in Europe.”* The message was heard loud and clear by the English government. That is American History.

Host a daily Boston Tea Party reminiscent of formal afternoon teas so popular during the colonial period of history. Enjoy the hospitality of quiet table talk. Urge courtesy, gentility, civility, graciousness and refined table manners. Show polite respect for the youngsters who come to the tea party. Many contemporary children live in a fast paced world where civilized time at the table does not exist. Set the mood. They will enjoy it!

**DECORATION.** Create a formal colonial tea party atmosphere. Set tables with white table cloths, real silverware, silver, crystal and lit candle centerpieces. Light the snack area with candles, glass hurricane lamps, lanterns or any soft lighting available. Scatter small pots of live flowers throughout the room. Decorate the walls with short scripture verses and patriotic slogans displayed in red, white and blue at odd angles. Place a simple rocking chair or bench in one corner with a quilt, old Bible, glasses and other colonial looking props to give the area a homey, colonial feel.



**COSTUMES AND SERVING.** Follow the costume suggestions in **Ye Olde Clothing Shoppe**. Wear simple colonial costumes with full white or muslin aprons. Become servers in an elegant tea room.

1. Greet the tea party guests at the door, give instructions and escort them to their seats.
2. Carry foods on silver trays. Borrow trays from the church or from friends. *(If all else fails, cover simple trays with aluminum foil so that the trays shimmer in the candlelight.)*
3. Treat the students with utmost respect. Say please and thank you. Listen to them when they speak or ask a question.
4. Serve formally as at an elegant restaurant. Place teapots on the tables filled with the group's favorite cold drink. (Tea will probably not be their favorite beverage.) They may pour their own drink into teacups or the servers may pour for each guest.
5. Pray before serving the snack. Use a formal childhood prayer that can be repeated in unison or ask a different leader to ask the blessing each day.

**MUSIC.** Play soft Christian music. A cassette tape or CD of music box, flute, classical hymn styles or harpsichord. The musical mood should be quiet and reserved.

**TABLEWARE.** Use real dishes, teacups and saucers, silverware and teapots. Each table should be set with basic table settings when students and leaders arrive. It may be more work to wash dishes but the ambiance is worth the extra effort. Communicate with a labor of love that the kitchen crew really cares about their part in Vacation Bible School.

**MENU.** Give THE BOSTON TEA PARTY an authentic touch by naming each colonial snack appropriately. Use the simple recipes suggested or search your own cook book for appropriate colonial dishes. It is not necessary to serve an entire lunch. Sample portions of each food are enough to provide a light snack. Have fun with the food and the preparation.

### GENTLE SUGGESTION TO THE SNACK BAR TEAM

*Do not provide alternative "safe" snacks for students who refuse to try unique menu items. Most students are willing to try a "no thank you" helping. Refill when students want more. Do not be held hostage to bad attitudes. Complainers become enthusiastic telling everyone they tried something new. The only exception should be for students with health concerns. Parents make their desires known when the student arrives.*

## THE BOSTON TEA PARTY SNACK RECIPES

### HOMEMADE BREAD/BISCUITS WITH FLAVORED BUTTERS

Bake bread at the church and fill the air with the delicious aroma. Use frozen bread dough to save time. Be generous with servings and be sure the bread is warm when placed on the plate. A delicious alternative is homemade buttermilk biscuits served with flavored butters. Provide plain butter too! Serve bread/ biscuits in covered dishes lined with linen napkins.

**Strawberry Butter:** ½ cup fresh strawberries, washed and hulled, ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter (not margarine) at room temperatures, 1 teaspoon confectioners sugar, 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice. Puree the strawberries in blender. In medium bowl beat the butter until creamy with electric mixer on high. Add sugar, lime juice and strawberry puree and continue beating until the mixture is no longer separated and is well blended.

**Peanut Butter and Honey Butter:** 1/2 cup smooth peanut butter, 1/3 cup honey, ½ cup butter. Blend until smooth in electric blender. This mixture should be very soft (almost soupy) so that it can be drizzled on the bread. Delicious, but be aware of children who may have peanut allergies. Do not serve if there is any question.

### HOT DOGS AND CORN BREAD

Serve hot dog slices (no buns) with dipping sauces of ketchup, mustard and relish. Make your favorite cornbread recipe or used boxed mixes. Serve warm with butter and beverage.

### GINGERBREAD AND WHIPPED CREAM

Make your favorite gingerbread recipe or use boxed mixes. Serve warm with whipping cream on top. Treat the students to real whipping cream rather than Cool Whip or the aerosol can creams. Whip the cream and keep cold in the refrigerator. For a wonderful aroma, make some of the gingerbread at the church on the day of serving. No one will be able to resist it!

### GINGERBREAD MAN COOKIES AND MILK

Make your favorite gingerbread man cookies and serve with icy cold milk.

### SWEET BREADS

Make a variety of date, banana, nut, cranberry and other flavored breads. Use boxed mixes or make homemade versions of these delicious breads. Serve warm with butter and beverage.

### STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Make or purchase your favorite shortcake. Top with fresh or frozen strawberries and whipping cream.. Treat the students to real whipping cream rather than Cool Whip or the aerosol can creams. Whip the cream and keep cold in the refrigerator. Serve with a cold beverage.

### FRUIT CAKE

2 cups sugar, 2 teaspoons salt, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 1 teaspoon clove, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 2 tablespoons butter (or shortening), 2 cups raisins, 1 cup water, 1 cup cider. Boil together 3 minutes and allow to cool. Add 4 cups flour, 2 teaspoons soda, sifted together, 1 cup nut meats, broken. Bake in 2 loaves, 1 hour at 325 degrees. Invert pan over the loaves while cooking. Prevents browning too much on top.

### MRS. WASHINGTON'S BEST SPICE CAKE --AS DISCOVERED BY MR. WASHINGTON!

1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon shortening, 2 eggs-unbeaten, 1 cup sour milk, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 cups flour, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 cup raisins. Cream the sugar and shortening together. Add the unbeaten eggs one at a time and mix well. Add the soda to the sour milk and stir until it foams, then add to the eggs and sugar. Sift flour and salt. Dredge a bit of flour over the raisins. Add the dry ingredients to the batter then the raisins and mix until smooth. Bake in greased loaf pan 35-40 minutes at 375 degrees. Try a lemon icing with it. *This is a very old colonial recipe.*

### PEACH COBLER

Makes 9 x 13 pan. 1 can crushed pineapple, 1 can peaches and juice, dry yellow cake mix, more peaches, more pineapple, ¼ cup melted oleo, chopped pecans. Bake 350 degrees, 30-40 minutes until golden. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

### BAKED CORN CASSEROLE

In large bowl, combine: 2 eggs-lightly beaten, 1 can (14 or 16 oz.) Whole kernel corn, 1 can (14 or 16 oz.) Cream corn, 1 stick oleo-melted, 1-8oz. Carton sour cream, 1 box (8 ¼ oz.) Jiffy corn muffin mix. Pour into a two quart butter casserole. Bake 350 degrees for 1-1 ¼ hours.

*If you have a favorite baked corn recipe, use it so students can experience a plain, homemade dish using a popular ingredient from colonial days.*

### HOT COCOA

Make this dry mix ahead of time and store in a large container with a tight lid. When ready to serve, add ½-1 cup of hot water. If serving from teapots, measure to taste.

8 quart instant dry milk, 11 oz. container of coffee creamer, 1 large container of Nestle's Quik, 1 ½ cup powdered sugar. Mix and store. Delicious for any occasion!

### HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

How lucky is the group who has someone willing to make homemade ice cream! Ask several people to bring their ice cream makers and mix the treat at church. Serve with vanilla wafers.



**EGG SALAD SANDWICHES AND POTATO CHIPS**

Make homemade egg salad sandwiches. Cut each sandwich into party sized squares or strips. Potato chips or french fries may be added to the menu along with a beverage. Serve on large platters with a favorite beverage.

**PITA POCKETS**

Serve a variety of sandwich fillings inside small pita pockets. Chicken salad, ham salad, peanut butter and jelly, jelly and cream cheese or whatever filling is a traditional favorite. These little pockets are fascinating to youngsters and hold fabulous surprises! Serve with a cold beverage.

**COLONIAL FRUIT BUFFET**

Place a variety of cut fruits in chilled bowls. Allow students to choose their fruits from a buffet line. Use apple slices, banana slices, peaches, pears, grapes, orange slices, pineapple, strawberries and blueberries. If desired, add a fruit dip. Serve with cheese and crackers.

**COLONIAL VEGGIE BUFFET**

Place a variety of cut vegetables in chilled bowls. Allow students to choose their vegetables from a buffet line. Use carrots, celery, cauliflower, tomatoes and broccoli. Serve with ranch dip, cheese chunks and potato chips.

**INDEPENDENCE SOUP**

Make your favorite vegetable soup and serve with biscuits or crackers. Add a cold beverage for a popular snack.

**PANCAKES, SAUSAGE AND FRIED APPLES**

Make a big stack of pancakes. At the same time, fry plenty of tiny link sausages. Pour off the fat as the sausages cook so they will brown nicely. Set aside to keep warm.

Core and cut large, tart apples into one inch slices. Fry the slices in a pan with a spray cooking oil or the fat from the sausages (depending on how healthy you want the snack) until a fork will pierce them easily.

When the three items are cooked, arrange them on a warm platter and rush them to the table. Pass a pitcher of maple syrup. Mmmm, add a cold beverage and the platter will soon be empty.

**Colonials loved puddings of all kinds.  
Check your cook book for other choices.**

**STEAMED BERRY PUDDING**

2 cups flour, 4 teaspoons baking powder, ½ teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons sugar, 1/4 cup molasses, 3/4 cup milk, 2 tablespoons melted butter, 1 cup berries. Sift dry ingredients. Shake enough over the berries to dust them. Add molasses and milk to the flour then the



melted butter. Last, mix the berries in gently so they won't be crushed. Pour into well greased pudding mold or can and steam 1 ½ hours. Serve with sauce.

**HARD SAUCE:** (For puddings) 1 cup confectioners' sugar, ½ cup butter, 1 egg (separated), 2 teaspoons boiling water, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Cream butter and sugar until smooth. Drop in whole egg yolk and blend well. Add 2 teaspoons boiling water. Add beaten egg white and the flavoring. Beat very creamy. Aging a day or so improves this sauce.

#### APPLE TAPIOCA PUDDING

1/3 cup pearl tapioca, 2 cups water, ½ cup sugar (or maple syrup), 1/4 teaspoon salt, 4 or 5 tart apples, pared and quartered. Soak tapioca overnight in 1 cup water. Next morning add 1 cup boiling water, sugar and salt and cook until tapioca is clear. Arrange apple slices in well buttered baking dish. Pour tapioca mixture over the apples and bake at 350 degrees about 3/4 hour. Serve hot with butter or cold with cream.

#### BAKED INDIAN PUDDING

1 quart milk-scalded, ½ cup corn meal, 1 teaspoon salt, 3 tablespoons butter, 1/3 cup molasses, 1/3 cup light brown sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 teaspoon ginger. Mix sugar, cornmeal and seasonings. Add to scalded milk and molasses and cook slowly stirring about 5 minutes. Pour into a greased baking dish and dot with butter. Bake 1 hour at 300 degrees. Add remaining cup milk and continue to cook 2 hours longer. Serve with butter, cream or ice cream.

#### POVERTY PUDDING

½ cup uncooked rice, ½ cup brown sugar, ½ teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 quart whole milk. Mix rice and 3 cups milk. Add salt and cinnamon to the sugar and mix into the milk. Pour into a well buttered baking dish and set in oven about 300 degrees. Stir with a fork occasionally as the rice cooks and add the remaining cup of milk as needed. Rice pudding is best with long, slow cooking. Bake it along with a pot of baked beans. The result—creamy and delicious! New England colonials served this pudding with maple syrup. They liked it hot with butter floating in each serving or cold with cream.

#### BEVERAGES

Beverages should be cold and delicious. Change the beverage daily. Try some of the following choices: Lemonade, orange juice, kool aid, milk/chocolate milk, hot cocoa, iced tea, apple cider/apple juice.

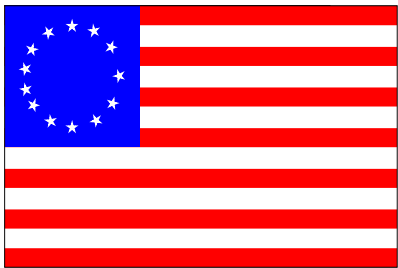
**Other favorite colonial foods:** Doughnuts, muffins, Johnny cake, beef stews, pea soups, Boston brown bread, flannel cakes, pop overs, potato rolls, fish of all kinds (codfish, oysters, clams, lobster and haddock), hash, meatloaf, goose, venison, roasted chicken, rabbit, scrapple, ham, Boston baked beans, succotash, apples of all kinds in all kinds of recipes, sauerkraut, tomatoes, molasses cookies, cakes, ginger snaps, sponge cake, fried pies, cider.

# Old Glory Headquarters

## ...A Visit With Betsy Ross

*You have freedom of choice but not freedom from choice.*  
—Wendell Jones

*This fifteen minute activity center is a daily gathering at the colonial Philadelphia home of Betsy Ross. Students meet the famous lady of the flag and learn the timeless story of salvation through Jesus Christ. Make the experience as much like visiting Betsy Ross as possible. Teach salvation and personal responsibility to faith and freedom while helping Betsy make stars.*



### A SPEEDY BETSY ROSS HISTORY LESSON

Elizabeth Griscom, also called Betsy, was the eighth child of seventeen children born to Samuel and Rebecca Griscom on January 1, 1752. She went to a Friends (Quaker) public school and along with reading, writing and arithmetic was probably taught the trade of sewing. After school, Betsy's father apprenticed her to a local upholsterer. In colonial times upholsterers performed all manner of sewing jobs, including flag making. While working, she fell in love with another apprentice, John Ross, the son of an Episcopal assistant rector at Christ Church. Mixed religious marriages were not tolerated and Betsy was "read out" of the Friends Society. She attended Christ Church sitting in pew 12 with her husband. Some Sundays would find George Washington, America's new commander in chief, sitting in an adjacent pew. Betsy did some tailoring for Mr. Washington.

In late May or early June of 1776, according to Betsy's telling, she had that fateful meeting with the committee of three: George Washington, George Ross and Robert Morris, which led to the sewing of the first flag. The five pointed star was Betsy's idea. George Washington suggested a six pointed star. Her young husband died and she was remarried to a sea captain, Joseph Ashburn, only to have her home forcibly shared with British soldiers whose army occupied Philadelphia in the winter of 1777.

She was destined to be married a third time to John Claypoole. She continued working until 1827. Then retired to live with her daughter, Susannah, north of Philadelphia. By 1834 there were only two Quakers still attending the Meeting House. One was Betsy who had been reinstated. At the last meeting, Betsy watched as the door was locked symbolizing the end of an era. Betsy died January 30, 1836 at the age of 84. She was buried in three different locations and is now in the courtyard near the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia. A major Philadelphia bridge



is named in her honor.

The details of her story have been disputed for 200 years. Historical references report on her solid faith in Christ during the difficult days of the Revolutionary War. Some historians say she did not make the first flag. They point to Francis Hopkinson, a delegate to Congress from New Jersey. Other historians say there is circumstantial evidence that overwhelmingly supports Betsy Ross as the maker of the first flag. Her grandson, William Canby, even though a young boy of eleven when Betsy died, wrote a paper for the Pennsylvania Historical Society and it was affirmed by three close family members. It was after William's story that the story of Betsy and the flag took root in the hearts of Americans.

**BETSY ROSS CHARACTER AND COSTUME.** Our LIBERTY VILLAGE Betsy Ross is going to be the person who, while reminiscing about her own life, relates the good news of the gospel of Jesus to each guest. Become a colonial gentle-lady who is excited about sharing her story of faith and freedom. The gospel is presented in a nonthreatening atmosphere. Students are given an opportunity to accept Christ at the end of the week.

Follow costume suggestions in **Ye Olde Clothing Shoppe**. Prepare a cloth flag that Betsy will be working on all week as she talks. The thirteen star flag is best but if desired, make red and white stripes and have Betsy work on adding the blue "union". (*Purchase a flag and pretend that mending is being completed.*)

**BETSY ROSS' HOUSE DECORATIONS.** Transform an empty room into a comfortable colonial living room/sewing shop where Betsy Ross sits and sews and talks to her guests. Colonial homes were notoriously spare in furnishings. Simple furnishings like a table, rocking chair, end table, candle light or lantern, fireplace, trunk, braided rug, flags, bunting, quilts, pewter or silver, wooden bowls and other simple items. Light the area only with small lamps or candles. Display a Christian flag in a prominent location.

**JUST FOR FUN:** Put a few small signs on one wall. Make the signs from posterboard.

Mrs. Elizabeth Griscom Ross, PROPRIETOR

239 ARCH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA  
FLAGS-R-US

**BETSY ROSS—BEST SEAMSTRESS IN PHILLY!**

**GET YOUR FLAGS MADE HERE**

**GO SIXERS!**

*(I know, I know...but fans will get a kick out of the reference to the Philadelphia '76ers basketball team! To continue the fun, think about visiting the official NBA web site and purchasing an item that can be worn or displayed in the room. What better fan could the team have than Betsy Ross herself?)*

**THE STAR PROJECT:** Betsy has a special project prepared for her guests. It can be completed as students sit on the floor around Betsy's chair. Prepare materials before Vacation Bible School begins. The daily project is short so that quality time can be spent listening to Betsy and learning how to become a Christian. **CHOOSE FROM THREE OPTIONS AND THREE SETS OF MATERIALS. CONSIDER AGE AND ABILITY.**

**DAILY SPIRITUAL THEMES.** Print the daily theme titles on a large handmade/posterboard Christian Flag. Point to each theme as the days pass. Review the themes each day.

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our great country was founded. In the Armed Forces, at the ceremony of retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft, a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

**First fold: A symbol of life.**

**Second fold: A symbol of our belief in eternal life.**

**Third fold: In honor and remembrance of the veteran who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.**

**Fourth fold: Represents our weaker nature. As American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.**

**Fifth fold: A tribute to our country, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."—Stephen Decatur**

**Sixth fold: Is where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**

**Seventh fold: A tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through them that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, found within or without the boundaries of our republic.**

**Eighth fold: A tribute to the One who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.**

**Ninth fold: A tribute to womanhood, it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.**

**Tenth fold: A tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.**

**Eleventh fold: In the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**

**Twelfth fold: In the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.**

**When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust." After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance**





of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today. *(The American Flag Page, Internet)*

JUNE 14, 1777: the continental congress passed the first FLAG act: "resolved, that the FLAG of the united states be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

act of APRIL 4, 1818, provided for thirteen stripes—representing the thirteen original colonies, and one star for each state, to be added to the FLAG on the Fourth of JULY following the admission of each new state, signed by president James monroe.

### **The Original Pledge of Allegiance**

I pledge allegiance to my Flag,  
and the Republic for which it stands,  
one nation indivisible—with liberty and justice for all.

--Francis Bellamy, 1892

At the first National Flag Conference in Washington D.C., on June 13, 1923, a change was made for clarity: the words "*the Flag of the United States*" replaced "*my flag*." In 1942 Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. In June, 1954, an amendment was made to add the words "*Under God*." President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "*In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war.*"

**"...His banner over me is love." Song of Solomon 2:4b**



## The Star Project ...Stars Galore!

### OPTION #1

**STUDENT MATERIALS:** Red, white and blue paper 8 ½" x 10" (or an exact proportion thereof), fold it as indicated and cut a perfect five pointed star. Instructions have been provided by the **Betsy Ross House**. The best paper to use is thin. Purchase reams of the three colors from your local office supply store. Construction paper creates thick folds which is hard to crease and cut. Avoid the frustration. Provide scissors for a small group of students since only one cut will be made. Have brightly colored markers on hand for decorating the stars.

**THE PLAN!** Groups band together to create a huge American Flag mural made entirely from paper stars. Each day the students make and decorate one star that is added to the finished project. Designate a large wall where the flag will be displayed. Measure carefully and tape off the areas of the flag before Vacation Bible School begins. Consider using large pieces of rolled paper as the flag base instead of attaching each star to the bare wall to avoid damaging the wall. Use strong shipping tape or duct tape to keep the stars on the flag. If a large number of students is expected, consider building two or more large flags. The second flag can be in the shape of the traditional Christian flag.

Because stars are added each day, there is the possibility of a great many individual stars being added so plan for it. Stars may be overlapped. On separate days make white stars for the white stripes and state symbols, red stars for the red stripes and blue stars for the union corner.

Depending upon Betsy's instructions, students fill in their name, the name of a loved one, a small picture or a message to the church. Attach the stars to the basic foundation each day so that the project is completed by Open House at the end of the week.

*The instructions for making a five pointed star by folding and making one cut with scissors is fun to try. Let the students try to fold correctly and cut. Some will be successful and others will not. Supply precut or pre folded stars each day for the youngest groups and for others who just can't "get the hang" of making those folds and that one special cut. Prepare for lots of laughter and ooo's and aaah's! Excitement builds as the flag mural begins to take shape by the end of the week.*



## OPTION #2

**STUDENT MATERIALS:** Cardboard star templates, @ 3' of lightweight jute per student, markers, scissors, paper punches, plastic bags to hold stars and jute throughout the week.

**THE PLAN:** Help students make a personal swag of stars connected with light weight jute. Punch 2 holes in each of 5 stars and connect them by tying with the jute. Younger students may color pre cut posterboard stars and may need help tying the stars together. (See Illustration.)

## OPTION #3

**STUDENT SUPPLIES:** One star per day for each student. They may decorate their star as directed by Betsy Ross using colorful markers. Posterboard stars, cardboard template (if students are making their own star), lightweight jute (@3' per student), paper punches, plastic sandwich bags to hold stars and jute until the end of the week. (See Illustration.)

**THE PLAN:** After making and decorating one star per day, one hole in the top of each star connects them together at the end of the week in a wall hanging. Five lengths of jute may be tied together in a top knot to form the base. Tie individual stars to the ends of the jute.



**BETSY ROSS' ORIGINAL STAR PATTERN**

**STEP 1:** Fold an 8 ½" x 10" (note the special size) piece of paper in half.

**STEP 2:** Fold and unfold in half both ways to form creased center lines. (Note: be sure paper is still folded in half.)

**STEP 3:** Bring corner (1) right to meet the center line. Be sure to fold from the vertical crease line.

**STEP 4:** Bring corner (1) left till edges coincide, then make the fold.

**STEP 5:** Bring corner (2) left and fold.

**STEP 6:** Bring corner (2) right until edges coincide. Then fold.

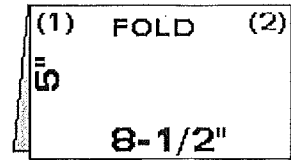
**STEP 7:** Cut on the angle as shown in the picture. Then unfold the small piece which is the actual star.

**STEP 8:** Marvel at your perfect (we hope!) 5-pointed star! If your star is not perfect, take a fresh piece of paper (8 ½" x 10"—NOT 8 ½" x 11") and return to Step 1.

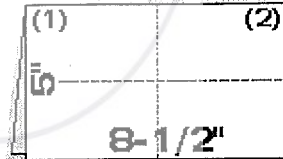


**BETSY ROSS' ORIGINAL STAR PATTERN**

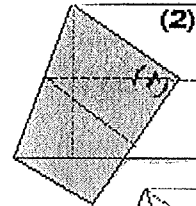
**STEP 1:** Fold an 8 1/2" x 10" (note the special size) piece of paper in half.



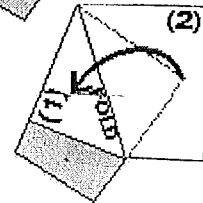
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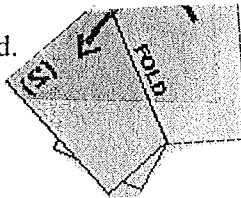
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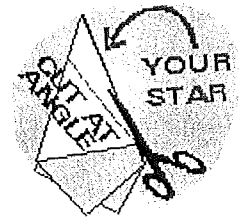
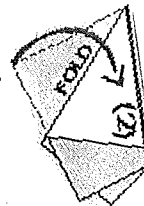
**STEP 4:** Bring corner (1) left till edges coincide, then make the fold.



**STEP 5:** Bring corner (2) left and fold.

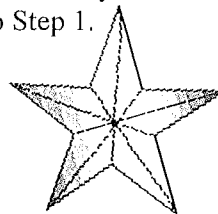


**STEP 6:** Bring corner (2) right until edges coincide. Then fold.



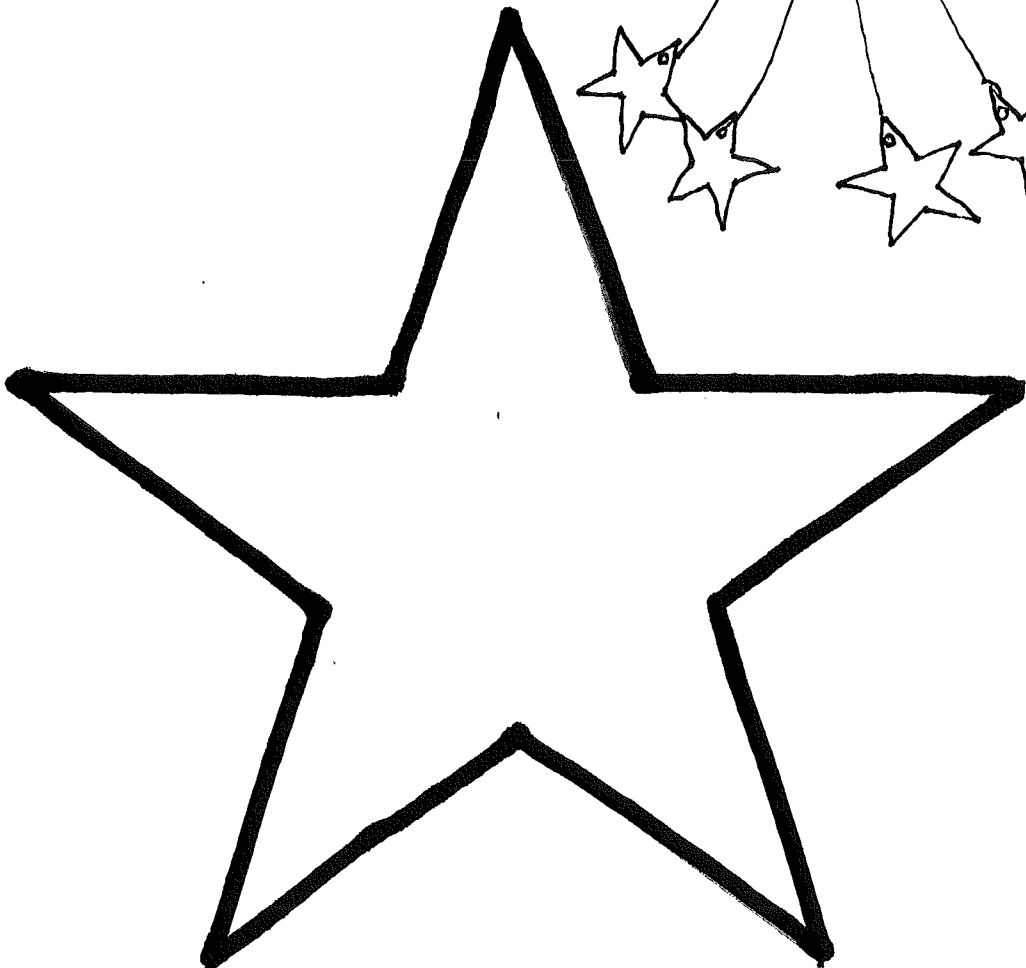
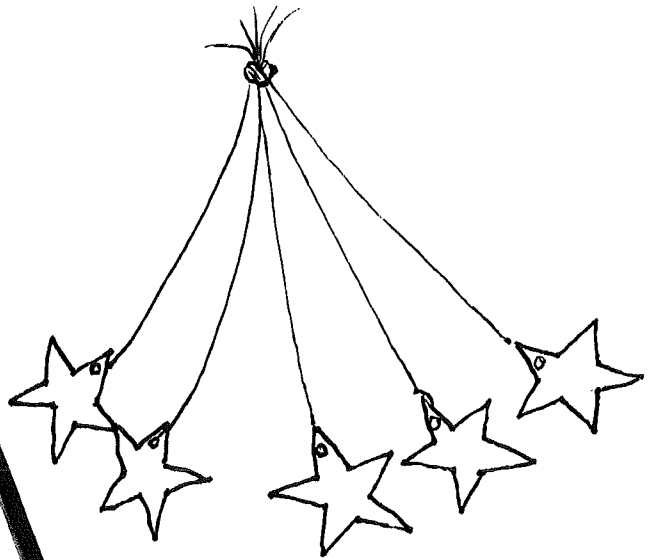
**STEP 7:** Cut on the angle as shown in the picture. Then unfold the small piece which is the actual star.

**STEP 8:** Marvel at your perfect (we hope!) 5-pointed star! If your star is not perfect, take a fresh piece of paper (8 1/2" x 10"—NOT 8 1/2" x 11") and return to Step 1.





PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE



# MONDAY WITH BETSY ROSS

## ...PEACE AND LOVE

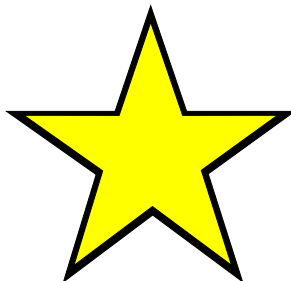
### SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1*

**BETSY SPEAKS!** Dear friends, welcome to my home. My name is Elizabeth Griscom Ross Ashburn Claypoole. You may know me simply as Betsy Ross. I was born January 1, 1752, the eighth child in a family of seventeen children. I had a lot of playmates while I was growing up. Large families were quite common in those days. There are many things about my life that I am proud of but my fame comes from one deed, making the first American flag. I'm going to tell you my story as we visit this week. I think you will enjoy hearing what happened.

I am an upholsterer. I learned how to sew in school and my father, Samuel, apprenticed me to a local upholsterer to earn my keep. It was there that I met the husband of my youth and the love of my life, John Ross. I did a lot more than make sofas and such. I performed all manner of sewing jobs, including flag making.

This week we will complete a special project together. I know you will be wonderful apprentices and together we will make a wonderful star project.



### ONE WHITE STAR AND A SMALL RED HEART:

After you cut one white star, please draw a small red heart right in the center to remind us of how much God loves us.

GIVE FOLDING AND CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WHICHEVER OPTION HAS BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE WEEK. *If you think crafting will distract the students from listening, talk first and save star making for the end of the fifteen minute time period.*

As we make our star, let's talk about the Lord. He is one of my favorite subjects. I was raised in a Quaker family. We were called "Friends". Friends gathered in the Meeting House to worship God. We loved PEACE and our Quaker preachers taught us how to LOVE each other.

PEACE and LOVE is God's original plan for His wonderful creation. When life began in the Garden of Eden, God made sure that the place was beautiful and perfect. Peace and love did not last long. I know you have heard the story of the serpent who tempted Eve to eat fruit from the forbidden tree. God told them they could enjoy the fruit of every other tree. One tree was not for them. Instead of concentrating on all the things they could have, Adam and Eve focused



on the only little fruit God told them to avoid. He actually said they would die if they ate it.

Once they ate the fruit, life in the garden ended. Sin entered the world. God's plan for peace and abundant life was ruined. God had to form a NEW plan....and that's the plan we are going to talk about this week as we make our stars. God's new plan was to send His Son, Jesus, to become our Savior.

**Listen to God's Word--**

*...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1*

John 3:16 is called "the Gospel in a nutshell". If all of God's Word disappeared and only this verse remained, we could still get to heaven. Everything we need to know about getting to heaven is included.

*For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

Remember God's perfect plan has always included peace, love and life.

**A PRAYER FOR AMERICA**  
God bless this beautiful land we love  
With grace and goodness from above.  
Preserve its' peace and liberty,  
And bestow on it true harmony!

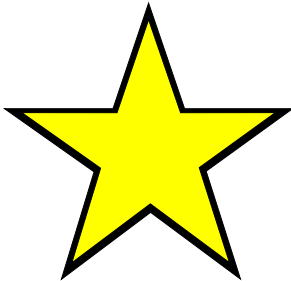


# TUESDAY WITH BETSY ROSS ...SIN IS A TERRIBLE THING!

## SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23*

**BETSY SPEAKS!** Welcome to my humble home. Yesterday was quite an experience as we struggled to make our first stars. Today you can try again as we sit and reminisce a little about life in colonial days.



**STUDENTS MAKE ONE BLUE STAR.** Do not print or draw anything on these stars. If making Option #1, these stars will form the blue union. (If students are distracted by crafting, save the activity until the end of the fifteen minute period.)

I was a good Quaker girl working for a kind merchant who appreciated my sewing talents. I made beautiful clothing for men and women. Soon people began to know my name. I met John Ross, an apprentice just like me. I was so excited the day I went home and told my parents that I had met the man I was going to marry!

Imagine my surprise when they were less than enthusiastic about my dear John. You see, he was the son of an Episcopal assistant rector at Christ Church in Philadelphia. I knew that he was a believer in Jesus. He loved the Lord as much as I did but Quakers did not marry Episcopalians! So I was punished. I was pronounced “guilty” and was “read out”, cut off emotionally and economically from my family and meeting house. My whole history and community was instantly dissolved.

How devastated I was on a November night in 1773 when I eloped with John Ross. We ferried across the Delaware River to Hugg’s Tavern and were married in New Jersey by the Governor, William Franklin, Benjamin Franklin’s son. My wedding caused an unchangeable split from my family. Being separated from my family was very difficult.

It reminds me of being separated from God by sin. The first time sin entered the world was when a human disobeyed God. Eve had an unfortunate meeting with a serpent (Satan in disguise). He slithered into Eve’s life by telling her that God had no right to forbid fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After all, he hinted, maybe God didn’t want Adam and Eve to discover the wonders that God Himself possessed. Maybe God was keeping something good from them.



Eve looked at that fruit and thought, “I should have the chance to become like God. And look at how that fruit shines in the sun. Mmmmm, one bite couldn’t hurt....” And the rest is history! Sin entered the world. All sin is disobedience to God. That’s how you know you are sinning. Think: “If I think or do this, will God be pleased?” If the answer is yes, then do it or think it. If the answer is no, run away from it. Do not allow sin to separate you from the One who loves you most.

**God’s Word says--**

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*

Most people deny they have sinful thoughts and deeds. They make up reasons for the way they act and the thoughts they think. “*I didn’t sin. No one heard the word I said*”. “*Me, sin? I’ve never done anything bad in my life!*” “*Sin? If you think I sin, you should see what my brother did last week! Believe me, I’m an angel compared to him!*” The entire time we are denying our sinful natures, we are not experiencing God’s perfect plan for us—peace and love and life.





## WEDNESDAY WITH BETSY ROSS

### ...A REAL FRIEND

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

*I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.*

*John 10:10b*



**STUDENTS MAKE ONE RED STAR.** DRAW A SIMPLE LINED CROSS IN THE MIDDLE OF EACH STAR. USE THE POINTS ON THE STAR TO PRINT FIVE FRIENDS NAMES. If the students will be distracted from the lesson, wait until the end of the fifteen minute period to make the red stars.

**BETSY SPEAKS!** While I was a Quaker, I knew what it meant to be a Quaker “Friend”. We lived peaceful lives, loved our neighbors and worked hard every day. I remember my mother helping many people less fortunate than our family. Less than two years after our wedding, John Ross and I started our own upholstery business. It was a bold decision since our competition was tough and we could not count on my Quaker family and friends for business. Since I was “read out” of the Quaker community, I attended Christ Church with John. Each Sunday we could be found in Pew number 12. Some Sundays George Washington, America’s new commander in chief, sat in the pew next to us. He became a good friend. I often tailored uniforms for him. It was an honor.

George Washington makes me think of what it means to be a friend. He had a very important position in our young nation and yet he took time to talk to me, a simple seamstress, and he was never too busy to become engaged in our lives.

He reminds me of the kind of friend God is to us. After Eve ate the delicious, forbidden fruit, she convinced Adam to try it. He looked at her, decided she didn’t die, and took a big bite. Immediately they knew they had disobeyed God. They felt different. They noticed they were naked. Oops! It was time to hide behind trees and find a few leaves to cover themselves. Funny, it had never bothered them before.

How could they have been so disobedient? They hid from their friend but God found them. They had forgotten that God was their best friend. He protected them from harm. Even when they disobeyed, He helped clothe them. Then they were removed from their beautiful home. God told Adam he would dig for food from the earth. Adam was going to be a farmer but he wouldn’t be a good farmer. Food was going to be hard to find. Eve was told she would now have pain in childbirth.



Dear Friend, God had no choice but to punish the sin of Adam and Eve. God made a new plan for the people of earth. He still loved Adam and Eve and all the people yet to be born. This is wonderful news for us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven. God's Word says it. Jesus said it often. We must believe it.

People try many ways to get to heaven. Some folks do good things for poor families or give money to worthy causes. Others go to church every week—some go to church every day! There are smart people who study books to get closer to God. Others live good, honest lives. These things are good but they do not lead anyone to heaven and they won't get you to heaven either.

**God's Word says--**

*There is a way that seems right to man but in the end it leads to death  
Proverbs 14:12*

*But your sins have separated you from God; and your sins have hidden  
His face from you, that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2*

The only way to God is through Jesus Christ. He died on the Cross and rose from the grave, paying the price for our sin.

**God's Word says--**

*But God shows His own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

God provided the only way to heaven and He gives us the choice to believe in Christ or not believe in Christ. Americans love to talk about the freedom we enjoy in this country. A wise man once said, "You have freedom of choice but not freedom from choice." –Wendell Jones.

When we don't choose to serve the Lord, we automatically choose to be separated from the best Friend we will ever have. Let's think about this while we make our red stars. Draw a small, simple lined cross in the middle of your star. Jesus is our best Friend. The points on the red star represent the friends we love here on earth.



## THURSDAY WITH BETSY ROSS ...COMING TO JESUS

### SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

Jesus said, "Come to Me." Matthew 11:28



**TODAY STUDENTS MAKE RED, WHITE OR BLUE STARS—THEIR CHOICE!** DRAW A SIMPLE LINE DRAWING OF THEIR OWN FACE WITH THEIR FIRST NAME PRINTED UNDER IT. This may be done at the end of the activity period if it is too distracting while Betsy speaks. FOR OPTION #1: Place the stars wherever they are needed on the growing flag. If the flag is filled, scatter the stars around the edges of the flag as if they are jumping into the flag to join the others.

**BETSY SPEAKS!** In January 1776 a British man living in Philadelphia wrote a pamphlet that would change the lives of all of us colonials living there. Tom Paine wrote *Common Sense* and said, "These are the times that try men's souls". Our freedom loving, rebellious hearts responded and the Revolutionary War soon began.

Fabrics needed for our business were becoming hard to come by. Business was slow. John joined the Pennsylvania militia. While guarding some ammunition in mid January, 1776, John was terribly wounded in an explosion. I tried my best to nurse him back to health but he died on January 21 and was buried in Christ Church cemetery.

My world was shattered. How could I go on? There was no hope. Then in late May or early June, 1776 three important men came to my door. George Washington, George Ross (John's uncle) and Robert Morris, a committee of three, asked me to design a flag for the nation. I had made many flags through the years. It was not a hard job but somehow I knew this was the most important job I would ever have.

Mr. Washington had all kinds of ideas. He wanted the stars to have six points. I had a surprise for him. I showed him a brand new five pointed star that could be made with just one cut of my sharp shears. He liked it! He said he wanted a new stripe added every time a state joined the union. I had this vision of the largest flag in the world dragging on the floor with 50 stripes weighing it down. I convinced him that an even better idea would be to honor the thirteen original colonies with the stripes and add one new star each time a state entered the union of states. He liked it! And that is exactly what I did. I sewed fast and furiously and soon I had a flag that an entire nation could be proud of.



I want you to hear a better story. It is the story of how you can join the millions of Christians who have come before you. You can trust in Jesus today and forever.

**God's Word says--**

*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

**Here is a simple plan for receiving Christ:**

**ADMIT YOUR NEED!** Each of us must admit our sin by saying to God, *"I am a sinner."*

**BE WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SIN!** *"Repent"* is a word which means saying *"I'm sorry"* to God.

**BELIEVE JESUS DIED AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE!** God's Word tells us about Jesus and His great sacrifice for us. Now we must believe the message.

**THROUGH PRAYER, INVITE JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE.** It is easy to become a believer in Jesus. We become Christians by simply asking Jesus to forgive us and by asking Him to enter our lives as Savior and Lord.

**Let's Pray:** Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust You and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

If you want this prayer to be the response of your heart for God, join the large crowd of people who have come before you. Stand up and be counted for God. Tell someone that you have become a real Christian today!



## FRIDAY WITH BETSY ROSS ...FAITH AND FREEDOM IN JESUS



*Today's topic shifts to the Christian Flag. Hold a fabric Christian Flag and conclude the salvation information. If more stars are needed to complete the flag mural, make more stars. Make one more star for **OPTION 2 AND OPTION 3**.*

**BETSY SPEAKS!** I have been revealing my exciting flag making story this week. It is wonderful reminiscing with you as we visit at my house. There is real joy here today. How wonderful to know we are headed for heaven. There is even more to the Christian story!

I want to tell you about another flag—a flag I did not make. In fact, it was created long after my time. It is a wonderful symbol of our faith and freedom in Jesus. I know you have seen the Christian flag. Do you know how and why it was made? Like so many great and memorable deeds of history, a Christian flag was not designed by prominent people. It was conceived at Brighton Chapel, Coney Island, New York, Sunday, September 26, 1897.

The Sunday School was holding an old fashioned Rally Day. Their special speaker did not show up. Sunday School Superintendent Charles Overton found himself in an emergency situation. There were lots of children and adults who expected to hear something wonderful about Jesus. He found an American flag and quickly talked to the group about the symbolism. As he spoke, in a flash came the thought “Why not a Christian flag?” He began talking about the cross of Jesus, His purity and the peace He brings us. By the next Sunday, Mr. Overton presented the Christian flag just as we see it today. On that day, the Christian flag was born.

Today the one hundred year old Christian flag is one of the oldest unchanged flags in the world. Was it chance, or providence, serendipity or was it the plan of God? The Christian flag has quietly and beautifully graced an ever increasing number of church sanctuaries, religious schools, national and world conferences and a host of additional situations. The flag means much to many people. It belongs. It is cherished. Its symbolism utters no words yet speaks to the hearts of millions. Let the Christian flag be known and honored for what it truly is. Let its colors, Cross and symbols lift high an expression to the name which is forever above every name, the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



When we accept Christ as our Savior, we are on a journey that leads to eternal life in heaven. The best part is that we do not have to earn salvation. Jesus gave it because He loves us. Remember God's perfect plan for us? He wants us to have peace, love and life. Now we have God's perfect gift.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9*

Are you feeling a little catch in your throat? Is humble gratitude filling your soul? That is the work of God through Ephesians 2:8, 9! Let's think over all the scripture verses we have learned this week:

*...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1*

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23*

*I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.*

*John 10:10b*

*Jesus said, "Come to Me." Matthew 11:28*

**Once we accept Jesus, there are five things we do to grow in faith and learn more about Him. (Print sentences on huge red, white and blue stars.)**

**READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY!** We cannot know and understand God unless we read His message to us.

**TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER EVERY DAY!** God waits everyday to hear our voices. Prayer is better than a telephone. God's line is always open. The moment you pray, He hears you.

**TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS!** When we love the Lord, our first response should be to tell someone else the good news.

**GO TO CHURCH AND LEARN ABOUT JESUS!** It is very hard to grow in faith all by yourself. You need the help of good friends who also love the Lord. Find these people at a church near your house.

**LOVE OTHER PEOPLE.** We must genuinely care for people we see every day. Our feelings for them will make them want to know the Lord too!





## Bible Station Tips For Liberty Village Teachers

*Each LIBERTY VILLAGE Bible Station represents a remarkable historical location in an imaginary place during the early years of the founding of America. Bible stories teach students how to build their lives on Faith and Freedom. The good news of salvation in Jesus is joyously proclaimed every day. Students enjoy a historical activity, memorize a scripture verse, hear a Bible story and complete a craft. Each day student groups visit a different station for forty five minutes. Bible Station teachers and helpers accompany their group to all activities.*

### **BIBLE STATION #1: PLYMOUTH PLANTATION**

#### **...THE THANKFUL AMERICANS**

##### **Meeting Jesus**

**Memory Verse:** “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20

**Bible Story:** Food For Everyone—A Boy and His Lunch Matthew 14:13-23

**Craft**

### **BIBLE STATION #2: FRONTIER CABIN**

#### **...THE ADVENTUROUS AMERICANS**

##### **Knowing Jesus**

**Memory Verse:** “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” John 8:32

**Bible Story:** Who Knows Jesus? Twelve Disciples/Wise Man and Foolish Man  
Matthew 10:1-4

**Craft**

### **BIBLE STATION #3: COLONIAL HOME**

#### **...THE REVOLUTIONARY AMERICANS**

##### **Growing With Jesus**

**Memory Verse:** “Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.” Proverbs 20:11

**Bible Story:** Jesus Saves A Sinful Woman John 8:1-11

**Craft**



**BIBLE STATION #4: INDEPENDENCE HALL**

**...THE FOUNDING AMERICANS**

**Serving Jesus**

**Memory Verse:** *“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.”*

Psalm 100:2

**Bible Story:** The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

**Craft**

**BIBLE STATION #5: THE WHITE HOUSE ATTIC**

**...THE PRESIDING AMERICANS**

**Talking About Jesus**

**Memory Verse:** *“Go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this*

*—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”* Matthew 28:19-20

**Bible Story:** Keep The Message Alive—Sending Seventy Men Luke 10:1-24

**Craft**

**DECORATE:** Follow the decorating suggestions in the lesson plan or fashion decorations to create the specific theme within the Bible Station. Borrow appropriate items from church members, family and friends. Make some of the decorations from construction paper, poster board and cardboard. Use lighting to make the area different and exciting.

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Follow the instructions in specific lesson plans. Borrow, rent or make simple costumes.

**MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:** Teach a scripture verse in each rural atmosphere. Review the verse as often as possible. Shorten the verse for young students. If a better game, story or activity is available, use it. Shorten the verse to match the age group.

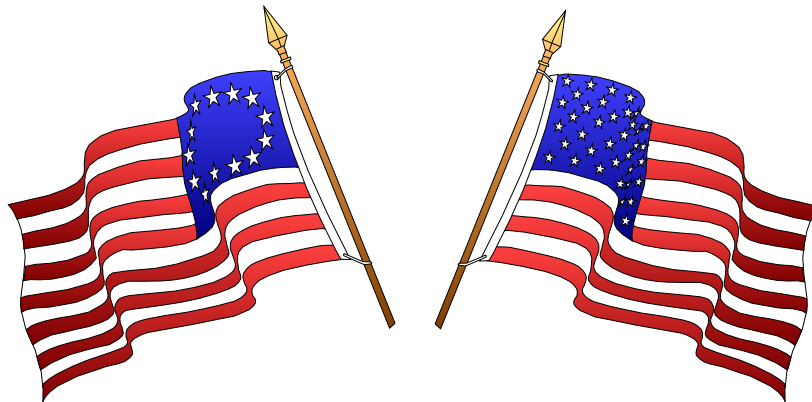
**BIBLE STORY:** Tell the Bible Story seriously. The students must be seated and quiet. Ask questions to encourage active involvement. Simplify material for younger students. Older students may read scripture and participate in discussion.



**CRAFT:** Reserve one corner in the Bible Station to complete a craft keepsake. Divide craft parts into kits. As students take their places, lay everything they need in front of them. Ask helpers to assist young students. Change the project if you find something easy and appropriate. Keep projects until Open House. Students not attending Open House may take their completed project home any time.

**TIME MANAGEMENT:** Students must complete their Bible Station activities in one session. If all suggested activities cannot be completed comfortably within the forty five minutes allotted, choose the most important details and eliminate the rest.

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** Each lesson plan includes a section called FYI. This is extra historical information that may be of interest to the teacher only. There may be some information appropriate to share with students if time allows. Use as desired.



## Bible Station Craft Recommendations

Each LIBERTY VILLAGE Bible Station includes time for a craft activity. Choose one craft from the following list to complete with each group at the individual stations. Or, if another appropriate project appeals to any teacher, develop that project. Homemade projects are fun and inexpensive so ask the crafty folks in your group to create five separate projects and gather materials for the Bible Station teachers. These suggestions are from S&S arts and crafts catalog. Prices may change. For a current master S&S catalog and/or Christian craft catalog, call 1-800-9232 (Free catalog).

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE COLORLITE BOOKMARK. Perfect for holding their place in the scriptures! Includes tissue paper, acetate strips, non toxic glitter glaze, yarn and instructions. CHB-RE433 \$11.99 per pack of 24. 50 cents per project.

LEATHER-LIKE CROSS BOOKMARKS. Create fine looking bookmarks with leather like crosses and gold and silver paint. Makes a great gift! Comes with precut crosses, gold cord, non toxic acrylic paint, brushes and instructions. 3 1/4" x 5 1/4". CHB-RE241 \$12.99 per pack of 24. 54 cents per project.

NAIL CROSS NECKLACE. Create a permanent symbol of faith with this contemporary cross kit using specially crafted flat sided and flat bottom nails and copper wire. Decorate with assorted metallic paint. Comes complete with nails, wire, non toxic acrylic paint, black cord, brushes and instructions. 2" x 2 1/2". CHB-RE291 \$22.99 per pack of 36. 64 cents per project.

EARTH TONES CROSS NECKLACE. Create beaded crosses with the colors of the earth. A fun and easy project. Includes beads, black cord and instructions. 2" x 2 3/4". CHB-RE424. \$20.99 per pack of 24. 87 cents per project.

COLORLITE STAINED GLASS SUN CATCHERS. Light up any room with these beautiful sun catchers. Your group can easily create a stained glass effect by gluing tissue paper over a simulated lead design. Comes complete with heavy vinyl sheets, tissue paper strips, non toxic decoupage and liquid leading, sponges and instructions. 6" x 9". CHB-RE-265 \$20.99 per pack of 24. 87 cents per project.

GOD'S QUILT PINS. Just paint the geometric wooden tiles and arrange on the square background. Add a pin back and they're ready to wear. Includes Woodsies, pin backs, brushes and non toxic paint and glue. Size: 1 1/2" x 1 1/2". CHB-GP1309 \$15.99 per pack of 24. 67 cents per project.



DEVOTION HEART SCONCES. Youngsters love decorating these pretty sconces to use as gifts or proudly display at home. Contains metal heart sconces, nails, Christian patterns and instructions. Candles not included. CHB-RE207. \$17.99 per pack of 16. \$1.12 per project.

LARGE TIN PUNCH. Learn the traditional folk art of tin punching using nails to punch holes in tin trays. Makes a great gift or wall decoration. Includes fluted tins, 4 different design ideas, nails, wire and instructions. 7" diameter. CHB-RE35 \$15.99 per pack of 8. \$2.00 per project. CHB-CO179 Tin Trays only. \$10.99 per pack of 8. \$1.37 per tray.

TRINITY TIN PUNCH PLAQUES. Use your hammer with nails to decorate fluted tins. Includes tins, nails, masking tape, eyelet ribbon, patterns and instructions. 6". CHB-RE107 \$13.99 per pack of 12.

CATCH IT CONES. Create this colorful toss and catch game that will provide hours of fun. Your group will enjoy decorating this toy with inspirational designs and colorful paint. Comes with heavy cardboard cones, yarn, white craft foam balls, non toxic acrylic paint and glue, brushes and instruction. 4 ½" CHB-GP595 \$37.99 per pack of 72. 53 cents per project.

NAME THAT DISK. Bright primary color rub on transfers make this project exciting to young, creative minds. Includes craft wood circles, non toxic glue and acrylic paint, brushes, alphabet rub on transfers, sandpaper, yarn, wood craft sticks and instructions. 5" D x 1/8" H. RMB-GP594 \$18.99 per pack of 18. \$1.06 per project.

HUMMING TOY. *(Especially appropriate for PLYMOUTH PLANTATION BIBLE STATION-PILGRIM TOY.)* Authentic Native American style toy hums when strings are pulled. Fun for all ages! Includes precut cardboard circles, non toxic glue and markers, cord and instructions. 6 ½" diameter. RMB-GP1177 \$24.99 per pack of 48. 52 cents per project.

PATRIOTIC WOODSIE PINS. Red, white and blue are always patriotic and always in season. These Woodsie stars and squares in 3 sizes combine in so many imaginative designs, each pin will be unique. Kit includes Woodsies, non toxic red, white and blue acrylic paint, pin backs, brushes and instructions. Size: up to 3" x 2". RMB-SH187. \$27.99 per pack of 48. 58 cents per project.

PROUD PUZZLES. Heroic designs on this coloring project say "I'm proud of my country!" 12 piece puzzles. Includes 6 each of 4 designs printed on precut cardboard puzzles, 20 non toxic markers and instructions. 5 ½" x 8". RMB-GP838 \$13.99 per pack of 24. 58 cents per project.



**BUTTON BOX:** Make an old fashioned button box to hold all those pesky individual buttons laying around the house. Use the following supplies (folding box/craft buttons) to make this colorful, easy project.

**FOLDING BOX.** Foldable box with lid arrive flat, ready for trims. Folds up to hold treasures or gifts 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" x 2 1/4". Decorate with paint, markers and more (sold separately). RMA-CO129 \$8.99 per pack of 24.

**CRAFT BUTTONS.** New, improved quality! Assorted colors and shapes in a mixed button selection. Size varies. Approximately 400. RMA-BE800 \$3.49 per lb.







BIBLE STATION #1:

Plymouth Plantation  
...The Thankful Americans  
Meeting Jesus

**THEME:** The spiritual message in this Bible Station is a reminder that meeting Jesus is the first step to heaven. Pilgrims from across the ocean took the first step toward a new land and a new life when they boarded the Mayflower and set sail in search of religious freedom. Students discover how meaningful life and liberty is to those who seek it with all their hearts.

**DECORATION:** This space reflects a Thanksgiving Day pilgrim cabin. Fill the area with items to remind students of what the life of an early American pilgrim would look like. Simplicity is best. Find old items in the attic or garage or basement.

**Wooden table and chairs or benches:** Cover the table with cotton tablecloth, metal, wooden bowls and utensils and a colorful bowl of apples in the middle. Place a Bible on the table.

**Rag or braided rugs:** Place old rugs under the table or in another corner of the room.

Fill the corners with larger items like straw brooms, large pottery crocks, milk cans, greenery, stack of firewood, tools, buckets, large and small baskets, old boards or stacked wooden boxes.

**Fabric:** Fold old quilts and place on a bench or hang quilts on the walls. Pillows covered in muslin may be stacked in one corner. Make simple muslin curtains to hang on the windows of the room. If desired, purchase muslin (very inexpensive) and just cover the windows with unfinished fabric.

**Harvest props:** Purchase cardboard cutouts of pumpkins, autumn leaves and corn stalks. (S&S arts and crafts.) Visit a local farm and borrow one or more bales of hay for one corner of the room. Place a fresh pumpkin pie on the table along with a variety of ripe fruits and vegetables.

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Dress as a traditional pilgrim. *Simplicity Patterns*

offers costume and cap ideas for men and women. Homemade outfits are just as effective. Choose a long, dark skirt, plain long sleeved blouse, long white apron. Women wear a white pilgrim cap and men may be bareheaded. Pilgrim attire may be available at local costume shops.

Become Priscilla Mullins, a faithful pilgrim who has survived much hardship. Tell Priscilla's story eagerly and weave the scripture verse and Bible story into your immigrant tale. Her journey was filled with hardship and danger. Priscilla's deep abiding faith in God and her ability to survive helped her live a long, fruitful life. She is famous for her marriage to John Alden, with whom she enjoyed a long and happy union and had ten children. The Bible of John and Priscilla exists to this day. Its well worn pages attest to their family's devotion to scripture.

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** Near starvation, scurvy, tuberculosis and pneumonia, bitter cold, daily deaths...this was the Pilgrims' first winter in Plymouth Colony. Thanks in large part to William Bradford, the colonists survived and went on to celebrate the following year what we call Thanksgiving. William Bradford came to the New World with the other Pilgrims in search of religious freedom. With great faith in God and in his own abilities, he established a stable colony, doing his best to be just and fair to his fellow colonists as well as to the Native Americans living in the area. Bradford left a life of comfort and security in exchange for faith and freedom. He was a true founding father of our nation. He built the most God honoring community of Christians in the history of our nation—the Plymouth Plantation. It was from Plymouth that Americans learned to fear God, to love freedom and to build a covenant society. After he became governor of the colony, he was reelected more than thirty times.

**WELCOME:** Welcome friends! I am Priscilla Mullins Alden. I was eighteen years old in 1620 when I boarded the Mayflower with my family. My father died before the ship landed followed by the deaths of my mother and brother. In fact, I was only one of four women in Plymouth who survived the first winter. I kept busy helping the other women, nursing the sick and tending gardens. If I had known how many challenges were ahead of me including Indians, lack of food and terrible illness, I may have stayed in England. I married John Alden. John was the spokesman for Myles Standish who truly loved me but could not speak for himself. Myles sent his friend, John, who also loved me. I could see how much he cared and finally I said, *"Speak for yourself, John."*

Surely you have been enjoying our Giving of Thanks Feast! The celebration has been going on in Plymouth Plantation for days. Even a group of Indians has joined our fellowship. Massasoit brought with him another Indian, Squanto, whose English is quite good. I understand that Squanto met a sea captain who took him to England. After many adventures and being sold into slavery in Spain, he found his way back to his home only to find that his people had been destroyed by a plague. He stays with our colony since our settlement is on the site where his



people had lived. Squanto has taught us how to fish and harvest shellfish, where and how to plant corn and how to use the native plants. Our survival from starvation was due to this amazing man. He will remain with us for the rest of his life.

When the first harvest came in, Governor Bradford sent four men on fowling so we might rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. Then the Indians came amongst us and were accompanied by their greatest king, Massasoit. Some 90 men remained for three days and were entertained and feasted by the colonists.

Ahh, the feast was great and plentiful. We enjoyed venison, roast duck and goose, clams and other shellfish, eels, white and corn bread, leeks, watercress, wild plums, dried berries and other vegetables as were available. We are now preparing for the long winter night.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Hand print scripture verse phrases on separate pieces of brown paper or cardboard. Place the verse on the floor in front of the students. With a pointer, point to each word in the verse. Students repeat the verse until they can say it as a group. Reward the students with a small piece of soft candy or a homemade pumpkin cookie.*

I have been reading the Bible I brought on the Mayflower from England. It is the only book I own. God's words have encouraged me in times of great physical hunger and desperation. Our people have traveled far to enjoy freedom of faith in God. Many of my friends have died for lack of food, medicine and warmth. There is one encouraging scripture I want to share with you. Hide it in your heart so no one can ever take it from you.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice  
and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him  
and he with Me.  
Revelation 3:20

Meeting Jesus at the door of your heart is the first step in becoming a true Christian. Jesus politely waits for us to invite Him to come inside. Are you listening for His voice? Will you open the door? I can tell you from personal experience that dining together is a joyous occasion. Real Thanksgiving comes when we meet Jesus.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**FOOD FOR EVERYONE!**

*Sit at the wooden table with the old Bible open on lap. I have been reading this wonderful Bible story from Matthew 14:13-23. At Plymouth Plantation we feel a lot like the thankful people who met Jesus in a desert.*



Most of the people in Galilee had heard of Jesus but had never met Him. They were so eager to hear Jesus and have their loved ones healed that they began following Him wherever He went. Meeting Jesus was everything to them! Jesus did not have time to rest or even to eat. Jesus and His disciples tried sailing across the Sea of Galilee and finding a quiet place in a desert but soon a great crowd gathered. This was a hardship but Jesus looked at them lovingly and said, *“They are like sheep that have no shepherd.”* He sat down to teach them, heal them and spoke about the kingdom of heaven.

Evening came and still the people stayed. Did they forget they could not find food or shelter in the desert? No one, it seemed, had remembered to bring a lunch. Perhaps they did not realize they would have to travel so far to find Jesus. The disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away so they could find food in the towns and villages on their way home. Jesus said, *“We must feed them before sending them away.”* Turning to his friend, Philip, he asked, *“Where shall we find bread, that all these people may eat?”* Philip looked around at the crowd of five thousand men besides all the women and children and shook his head. *“If we should buy a year’s wages worth of bread there would not be enough for each one to have a small piece.”*

One boy heard Jesus and the disciples talking about what to do. Probably his mother had lovingly packed a little lunch for her boy and sent him off to have a day of boyish adventure.

He approached Andrew, showed his lunch basket and offered to give the food to Jesus. Andrew mentioned it to Jesus who said, *“How many loaves are in the basket?”*

Andrew sadly replied, *“Only five and two small fishes, but what will that be among so many people?”* Jesus told Andrew to bring the little lunch to Him. He instructed the disciples to seat the huge crowd in groups of fifty and one hundred. Then He took the loaves and fishes, gave thanks, and broke the food into small pieces. He filled a basket for each disciple to pass among the hungry people.

When the crowd had eaten all they wanted, Jesus had the disciples gather up the food that was left. There were twelve baskets full. This miracle excited the people. They wanted Jesus to become their king. How wonderful it would be to have a king that could feed everyone. Jesus would not allow the people to make him king. He had not come to the earth to rule an earthly kingdom.

## PLYMOUTH PLANTATION LESSONS

## Meeting Jesus

The people in that desert did not have any particular reason to trust Jesus. He fed them delicious food for which they were thankful. When we meet Jesus, we must consider what following Him means. The decision to be thankful for Him is up to each of us.

**1. ACKNOWLEDGE SIN.** Our first step in meeting Jesus is to realize that we have sinned.



God's Word says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

**2. ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** What would have happened if the hungry people had seen the bread and fish but refused to eat it? They would have gone home very hungry. To benefit from meeting Jesus, they had to accept the food gift and eat it. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we become forgiven children of God!

**3. ACCLAIM GOD'S LOVE.** Here at Plymouth Plantation the pilgrim colonists are celebrating God's protection by enjoying a Thanksgiving Feast. God rejoices when each person accepts His forgiveness and comes home to him. Today's Bible story is often called the Feeding Of the Five Thousand but it could also be called Hungry People Fed by a Loving Savior. They went home rejoicing and celebrating God's love!

God says the only qualification to meet Him is to believe that Jesus is God's Son, our Savior and believe that he died on the cross and rose from the grave. Talk (pray) to God about your decision and the deal is sealed. Do this any time, any where.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.** Dear Lord, please forgive my sin. I believe You lived and died for me. I want to meet you right where I am today. Thank you for being my loving and forgiving Heavenly Father. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**PLYMOUTH PLANTATION CRAFT:** Choose a craft idea from the suggestion list or design your own homemade project. One appropriate project is S&S arts and crafts catalog's project The Humming Toy. This is similar to the real toy that pilgrim children played with in their new country.

give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.  
-1 chronicles 16:8

**BIBLE STATION #2:**

Frontier Camp  
...The Adventurous Americans

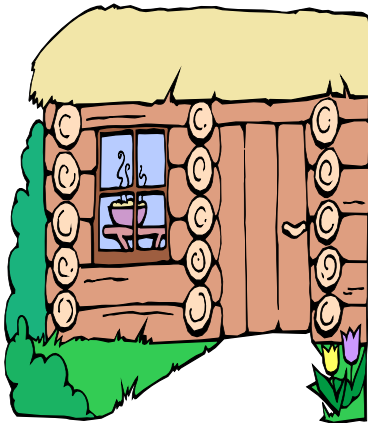




## Knowing Jesus

**THEME:** The spiritual message in this Bible Station is encouragement to know Jesus as He really is. How can we know Him? By learning about His earthly life. Use the fun theme of visiting Rebecca Boone wife of Daniel Boone at their rustic frontier camp.

**DECORATION:** This space should resemble a wooded frontier camp with tent or open rustic cabin.. Everything in it must be made of wood, stone, greenery and basketry. The simpler the better! Make a crude stone fire pit in one corner. If your church has an outdoor area and if the weather cooperates, consider presenting this station outside, complete with tent.



**Animals:** Fill the area with wood animals– racoons, birds, deer, mice, bear, sheep. This may be done by using stuffed animals or by drawing life sized animals.

**Fence and Rocks:** Place rustic fencing (small limbs, rocks, pickets) along one wall. Stack large and small rocks in corners with wild flowers sticking out from the rocks.

**Flowers and greenery:** Bring live and silk wild flowers to decorate the area. Use large jugs, glass jars, buckets and other simple containers.

**Lighting:** The area should be dimly lit. Light with small, hidden lamps along the floor.

**Sign:** Place on a tree or near other greenery: “D. BOONE CILLED A BAR.” Somewhere in Kentucky these misspelled words were found carved into the bark of a tree.

**Tent or Lean-To:** A small tent or lean-to can be made of muslin, real canvas or tarps. Let students sit in the tent for a portion of class time.

**Justice Tree:** The Bible story may be told under Daniel Boone’s “Justice Tree”. See FYI for explanation. Make a large tree or cut a limb from a living tree and place it in the camp area. Print the words JUSTICE TREE and attach to tree.



**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Dress as a frontiersman or woman. Wear buckskins and a Daniel Boone coonskin cap or long prairie dress with apron and bonnet. Simplicity Patterns offers costumes that work well. Homemade costumes are also appropriate. Choose a long skirt, long sleeve blouse and long apron. Check with local high schools, historical societies and costume shops if extra help is needed.

Become **Rebecca Bryan Boone**, Daniel Boone's patient, often lonesome wife. Or, become Daniel Boone, the famous frontiersman and early American explorer who once said, "*I've never been lost. Once I was bewildered for three days, but I've never been lost.*"

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** Daniel Boone, 1734-1820, son of Squire Boone and Sarah Morgan was born and raised in a log cabin in Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, about ten miles east of Reading. Squire Boone was a prominent Pennsylvania businessman (blacksmith shop, small farm and weaving business) and a devout English Quaker. When the Quakers expelled his sister, Sarah, for keeping company with Jacob Stover (German, non Quaker), Squire got sore, quit the Quakers and became a Roman Catholic.

Daniel did his part to help by working on the farm and tending the cows. This is where he learned to be a great woodsman. Indians taught him all about being a good hunter. Daniel learned so well that these traits helped him fight other Indians. At age 12 he started shooting with a gun that his father had given him. He loved the freedom of the outdoors and soon became a skilled woodsman, even better than the Indians.

In 1750, settlers began to crowd the Boones so they moved to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and in 1751 to the Yadikin Country in North Carolina. As a young man Daniel began the adventures he is known for, opening new regions of Kentucky for settlement. He established Boonesborough, Kentucky in 1775. In 1795 the Spanish government gave Daniel a land grant of 8,500 acres on the north side of the Missouri River near St. Charles, Missouri. He was appointed Magistrate of his district and held court under a great elm known as the *Justice Tree*.

Daniel Boone's daughters and their mates and children and his sons all settled near him. He volunteered in the War of 1812 and was disgusted to be turned down because he was 78 years old. He died in November 1820 and was buried near the Missouri River. In 1845, Kentucky removed his body and that of his wife, Rebecca, to Frankfort, Kentucky.

Rebecca Bryan was born in Virginia in 1739. Rebecca met Daniel at a wedding where he gave her hand a tight grip and told her he would be back from war. They were married August 14, 1756.

The marriage was a good match for Rebecca was as handy with a rifle as her husband. In 1773 Rebecca, the mother of eight children, went with Daniel on the trail to Kentucky. The family settled in several places before reaching Kentucky. She worked hard—especially when her aunt died leaving six children (ages 6-16). Rebecca insisted they live with them.



Rebecca was the first white woman to stand on the banks of the Kentucky River. Daniel built a cabin with a dirt floor, a hole for a window and daylight coming through the logs. Daniel also built her a loom that he had promised her. She was soon busy weaving cloth out of nettles. She taught her daughters to bake corn cake, the frontier staff of life: pone, the Indians called it. Everyone in the family learned the kinds of work necessary in pioneer Kentucky.

Rebecca faced many challenges in the untamed land. She molded bullets and loaded rifles at times of siege. She guarded the cabin and children while Daniel hunted. She never despaired when Daniel was reported killed, nor gave up hope when Indians captured him. Boone always returned from his adventures to find his wife waiting for him. She followed him wherever he moved determined not to “hopple her traipsin’ Man”. She and Daniel closed their long life together in a new settlement in Missouri. Rebecca’s “forever rest” began in her sleep March 18, 1813. She was a true Christian woman and pioneer filled with great courage and patience.

**WELCOME:** Are you friend or foe? Advance at your own risk. One cannot be too careful while camping on the frontier. I see you are friends! Sit down and rest awhile. My name is Rebecca Bryan Boone. I am eager for news from the east. My dear husband, Daniel, is hunting for dinner. He killed a bear last month and now we need more meat. I’m getting tired of tree squirrel pie for breakfast and supper. We are building our Kentucky cabin over yonder. Until it is done, we are doing the best we can here in the deep woods of America.

It has been powerful hard living in the woods. I am lonely for human company besides all my brood of children—13 in all, countin’ the ones left to me by my aunt and uncle. Of course, I know Jesus and He has been a true comfort to me. Do you know Jesus? I mean, do you really KNOW Jesus? I’ve been thinking about that lately. What does it mean to KNOW Jesus? It isn’t like He is visible here waiting for a handshake. He is all around me but I cannot see Him. Sometimes I just wish I could see Him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Before Vacation Bible School, print the verse on a large rock. Ask the students to sit around the fire pit or under the tent to think about a special message from God’s Word. Say the words as a group and then ask individuals to say it alone.

*You shall know the truth  
and the truth shall make you free.*

*John 8:32*

I wrote this verse on a big rock so I will never forget that my relationship with Jesus is strong and true. My Daniel and I are adventurous Americans. We love truth and we love freedom. When I heard that Jesus said these words, I wanted to put them in my freedom loving heart.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**WHO KNOWS JESUS?**

**Twelve Disciples, Wise Man and Foolish Man.** Matthew 10:1-4 (*Print the names of the twelve disciples on twelve separate small rocks.*) I found a Bible list of twelve men who knew Jesus like I would like to know Him. They traveled with Him, ate with Him, listened to Him teach and watched Him heal people. I wonder if they really, *really* knew Him. You know....inside and out, upside and down. Did they KNOW their friend Jesus was God's Son and the Messiah Savior?

There were many more disciples than twelve men. Jesus' teachings were so wonderful that lots of people wanted to be disciples (students/pupils). Throngs of people followed Jesus from one place to another. Finally Jesus chose twelve men for special training so they could help tell God's message. He wanted to send these men to places where he had never gone. They were going to be trained to preach to many people about the kingdom of God.

Jesus knew the hearts of men and could easily choose these special disciples by Himself but He wanted God's help. He slipped away and climbed a mountain to pray about His choices. There in the hills He prayed all night for help and wisdom and for strength to do His work.

In the morning Jesus was ready to approach the men who would talk to their world about Jesus, the Messiah. Look! I put their names on some pebbles. First He chose Simon (renamed Peter) and Andrew, brothers who followed Jesus and knew all about Him. Then He found James and John, brothers who had been partners with Simon and Andrew in the fishing business. Soon He chose Matthew, the tax collector. No one liked tax collectors but it would be handy to have someone around who knew about money. Perhaps Jesus knew that Matthew needed to have a close friend. Philip, Thaddaeus, Thomas, Bartholomew and another James accepted the call of Jesus another Judas who was a rebel fighter and then the famous Judas Iscariot who sold out his Lord before Jesus died on the cross.

What a mixed up group of guys! I bet they thought they knew Jesus very well the day they decided to leave their regular lives behind to follow Him across the hills and valleys of Galilee and into Jerusalem. Little did they know that their lives were going to be turned upside down. Nothing would ever be the same again. One of the first things Jesus did was to sit down on a hillside (The Mount of Olives) and teach. He told His disciples God had a better plan for life on earth. God's plan would prepare human beings for life in heaven.

Jesus said people can be happy if they are poor in spirit, if they mourn, are meek, hunger and thirst for right living, show mercy to others and suffer for the sake of right living. There must have been some very puzzled looks. How can this be? Jesus taught how Christians should live and pray, how they should treat their enemies and friends. He carefully explained how much God loves people and cares about each person.



At the end of His talk, Jesus said, "Those who hear my words and do them are like a wise man who built his house upon the rock. When the rain fell, the floods came and the winds blew, the house stood strong. But those who hear my words and do not obey them are like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. When the rain fell, the floods came and the winds blew, the house fell Great was the fall of it."

**FRONTIER CAMP LESSONS:**

**How to KNOW Jesus**

The people were so surprised to hear these wonderful words of hope. They thought Jesus was the greatest teacher of all. They wanted to KNOW Him and obey His teachings. How could they? It seemed so hard: Love your enemies, Pray for those who treat you wrong, Do good to those who hate you. However, they knew these words sounded like the words of God. Many people left the hillside that day with a greater desire to serve God, knowing God would help .

**How to KNOW Jesus**

*Print on large, green, paper leaves. Place on the wall or hang from a tree.*

1. I can KNOW Jesus by learning what He was like while He was on earth.
2. I can KNOW Jesus by studying what He had to say in God's Word.
3. I can KNOW Jesus by praying every day and getting close to Him.
4. I can KNOW Jesus by being faithful to Him even in hard times.
5. I can KNOW Jesus by searching for Him in every corner of my life.



**CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

**CRAFT:** Choose a craft project from the curriculum list of S&S arts and crafts catalog suggestions. If desired, create a homemade project of your choice.

O Lord, since you are my rock and my fortress,  
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

—Psalm 31:3

**BIBLE STATION #3:**

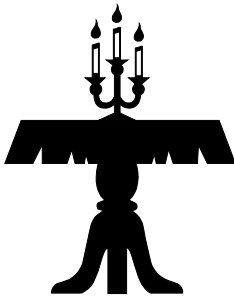
Colonial Home  
...The Revolutionary Americans



## Growing With Jesus

**THEME:** The spiritual message in this Bible Station is a reminder to grow in Jesus. After the United States was founded, colonials settled into comfortable homes and unique businesses determined to “grow” their nation into a power house of moral strength and good character. To do that they had to break ties with Great Britain. It was a “Revolutionary” time of change. Our faith grows as we do what we know is necessary to stay close to Jesus. Reading the Bible, praying and going to church are crucial to our steady Christian growth.

**DECORATION:** Gather before a warm fireplace and spend some time in devotion to God at Martha Washington’s home. Decorate the area to resemble the colonial sitting room at Mount Vernon. Place a wooden rocking chair, braided rug, wooden table, candlesticks, old Bible, afghan or quilt in a cozy corner setting. If a small fireplace is available, place it beside the furniture grouping or draw one on the wall. Print embroidery sampler words on one wall: *“A Diligent Scholar is an Ornament to a School.”*, *“God Save America”*.



From all the enemies of truth,  
Do thou, O God, preserve my youth,  
And free my mind from worldly care,  
From youthful sins and youthful snares.

Sarah Siddall

Darken the lights so that candles flicker brightly. **(When using candles, it is mandatory to have a bucket of water in one corner.)** Wicker baskets, pottery, crystal water pitchers, green plants, white cotton curtains may round out the scene. Spare and simple is the description of even wealthy colonial homes.

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Dress as Martha Washington. Wear a long skirt or a simple long dress. Wear a long white apron over the skirt and don a colonial “mob” cap. As our initial First Lady, Martha was the perfect hostess. Whether cooking for tired soldiers in a small cabin during the Revolutionary War or greeting men and women of dignity in a lovely home, she was always gracious and welcoming.

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** Martha Dandridge Custis Washington once said, *“I think I am more like a state prisoner than anything else, there are certain bounds set for me which I must not depart from....”* She did not entirely enjoy her role as first of First Ladies. She once said, *“many younger and gayer women would be extremely pleased. I would rather be at*





home.”

She was born June 2, 1731 on a plantation near Williamsburg. Typical for a girl in the 1700's, Martha's education was almost negligible except in domestic and social skills but she learned all the arts of a well ordered household and how to keep a family contented. At 18, Martha married Daniel Park Custis and had four children. Two died in infancy and two were very young when their father died in 1757.



From the day Martha married George Washington in 1759, her great concern was the comfort and happiness of her husband and children. She followed him bravely to battlefields and finally to the Presidency. She wrote to a friend, *“I cannot blame him for having acted according to his ideas of duty in obeying the voice of his country. I am still determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions and not upon our circumstances.”*

Martha's warm hospitality made her guests feel welcome and put strangers at ease. She took little satisfaction in *“formal compliments and empty ceremonies”* and declared that *“I am fond of only what comes from the heart.”* Abigail Adams praised her as *“one of those unassuming characters which create Love and Esteem.”*

In 1797 the Washingtons said farewell to public life and returned to their beloved Mount Vernon, to live surrounded by kinfolk, friends and a constant stream of guests eager to pay their respects to the celebrated couple. After George died in 1799, Martha lived at Mt. Vernon until May 22, 1802 and died that day of a “severe fever”. Both Martha and George are buried at Mount Vernon where George planned an unpretentious tomb for them.

(White House Biography of Martha Washington, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov))

**WELCOME:** Welcome, dear guests! Come in and rest at my lovely Mount Vernon. My sweet George is out riding his favorite horse along the Potomac and checking on the fields. I was just getting ready to have my devotions for the day. Perhaps you would like to join me. Before we open the Bible, let me tell you a little about myself. *(Share some of the FYI information with the group in a conversational tone.)*

**MEMORY VERSE:** George Washington is known to have said, *“Father I cannot tell a lie, I cut the tree.”* He tells me that is a childish story people love to believe is true. Trust me when I tell you that it is not in the glare of public but in the shade of private life, that we look for the man. Private life is always real life. Behind the curtain, where the eyes of millions are not upon us, we will always be sure to act like ourselves. If we act greatly, we must be great indeed. I have heard it said, *“Our private deeds, if noble, are noblest of our lives”*.





Moral character is critical. In modern America I have heard that things have changed. Our words can be justified. People often say, *"It was just a little white lie"*. We don't know who we can trust anymore. Just saying you are a Christian doesn't make it any easier to know whether we should trust you or not. God's word says, *"A man is known by his words."* Today's special verse is:

Even a child is known by his actions,  
by whether his conduct is pure and right.

Proverbs 20:11

Are you known by your words? Do you know that we will all stand before the Lord and make an account for every word, action and deed in our lives. Dishonesty and misbehavior may seem unimportant or harmless to you at the time but God is just. His word will stand forever.

### **BIBLE STORY: JESUS SAVES A SINFUL WOMAN**

**John 8:1-11:** One morning some enemies of Jesus decided to trick Him. They wanted Jesus to make a mistake with the many religious rules and regulations the Jews had to follow to be considered close to God. They went to Him and asked their tricky question. If He did not agree with the Law of Moses, the rulers could accuse Him of making Himself greater than Moses.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a sinful woman. They said in their sly way, *"Master, this woman is very wicked. We caught her committing sin. Moses commanded in the Law that such people should be stoned to death. What do YOU think we should do?"* Jesus knew these men wanted to trick Him so he ignored them. He stooped down and wrote in the sand as if He had not heard their question. The men were very angry that they were ignored! They asked Him again and again, louder and louder!

Finally Jesus stood up and looked into their eyes, *"Let the man among you who is without sin throw the first stone at her."* He bent down and kept writing in the dust. The angry men looked from one to another as they remember some of their own sins. They became embarrassed and looked away. Some stared at the ground. One man was so uncomfortable, he left. Another followed and soon the room was empty.

Jesus looked up from His drawing and saw that only the woman was standing before Him. He asked her, *"Where are those who accused you? Did no man condemn you?"* She said, *"No man, Lord."* Then he said, *"Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."*

### **COLONIAL HOME LESSONS: GROWING IN JESUS**

This woman was truly a sinner and so are we. Jesus is interested in having each of us GROW in our faith. We do that by learning what pleases God and then practicing what we know. Here are a few ways we can grow in Jesus. Let's take a look at them and determine to grow!

**PRINT THEME PHRASES ON LONG WHITE TAPERED CANDLES.**

**LEARN THE BASICS OF OUR FAITH.** Learn how faith in Jesus fits into life on earth. Listen to Bible stories again and again until they change your life.

**MAKE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS.** Christians meet in Sunday School and keep growing in God's Word. Seeing how other Christians follow Jesus really helps to grow in Jesus.

**READ GOD'S WORD.** Looking at the Bible, it may seem too big to read. Choose one or two verses each day. Think about what you have read and let God speak to you.

**PRAY EVERY DAY.** When we read the Bible, God speaks to us. When we pray, we speak to God. He is waiting to hear your voice. Take time every day to talk to the Lord. There are no right or wrong words. Speak your mind. He will understand your heart.

**SERVE OTHERS.** There comes a time in the life of every young Christian when it is time to take what is learned to help others. It may be that you will serve others by providing food and clothing for those in need. Or, you may give money. We often forget, in our busy schedules, to reserve time to listen to others. When you serve, you grow in Jesus!

**SHARE THE GOOD NEWS.** The story of how Jesus came to rescue us from sin is exciting to hear. Many folks have never heard the good news about Jesus. Share His story with them so they can become believers too!

**CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

**CRAFT:** Choose a craft project from the S&S arts and crafts catalog suggestions or choose an appropriate homemade project that can be completed in about fifteen minutes.

**BIBLE STATION #4:**

Independence Hall  
Founding Americans  
Serving Jesus



**THEME:** The spiritual message in this Bible Station is a reminder to serve Jesus. Use the famous early American Philadelphia site where our founding fathers faithfully served and knit together a nation, discover how serving Jesus is rewarding.

**DECORATION:** Empty a classroom of all modern furniture and replace it with plain wooden benches and one old wood desk. Wooden chairs placed along the wall adds to the feeling of a large gathering area. It is effective if the room is rather bare and dark. Arrange feather quills in small bottles on some of the desks. Candle lamps and candlesticks may be placed on benches or tables. Make a large Liberty Bell and place it in one corner. Papers are strewn on the floor as if left in haste. Hand print (or use the samples provided) the words from the



Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution on the papers. In large letters print and attach to one wall:

## Continental Congress Independence Hall July 4, 1776

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Dress in colonial costume. Become Elizabeth, a custodian who has arrived to clean Independence Hall after the men of the Continental Congress have retired for the day. Invite the students to observe history in the making while accompanying you in your task of cleaning this room of history and service to the United States.

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** Independence Hall is the historical building in Philadelphia built between 1732 and 1753. It was originally intended to be the State House for the colony of Pennsylvania. It was the meeting place (1775-1781) of the Continental Congress. General George Washington was appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army there in 1775. The Declaration of Independence was adopted in the east room on July 4, 1776, and four days later the famous Liberty Bell, then in the tower of the hall, was rung to acclaim its adoption. In 1787 the U.S. Constitution was framed in Independence Hall by the Constitutional Convention. It was the seat of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1789 to 1800.

In the corridors of Independence Hall, our founding fathers gathered to declare America's independence. With freedom won, they convened again to define the principles that remain the pillars of our national life. The Constitution they created there states in its first three words where the ultimate power in our nation still resides: "*We, the People.*"



Independence Hall was restored in 1898 and is now maintained as a museum, housing the original desk and chair used by the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Liberty Bell, formerly housed in Independence Hall, was moved to a separate glass pavilion in 1976. The hall and nearby pavilion together form part of Independence National Historical Park. (*“Independence Hall,” Microsoft, Encarta Online Encyclopedia 2000 <http://encarta.msn.com> 1997-2000 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.*)

The Liberty Bell was made in 1751 to celebrate the fifty year anniversary of Pennsylvania’s original constitution. Printed on the Bell are the words from Leviticus 25:10, *“Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”* It was delivered from Britain to Philadelphia where to the horror of the workmen, it cracked as it was hung up to try the sound. The break was probably caused by flaws in its casting or by being too brittle. It was melted down, recast with more copper and was raised again. It seems that they added too much copper. The tone was terrible! The third time the bell was broken up and recast. It was finally hung weighing in at 2080 pounds!

The Liberty Bell tolled frequently. Among the more historically important occasions, it tolled when Benjamin Franklin was sent to England, it tolled when King George III ascended the throne in 1761 and it tolled to call the people of Philadelphia together to hear the readings of several important laws. It called the First Continental Congress into session 1774, the Battle of Lexington and Concord in 1775 and its most resonant tolling was on July 8, 1776 when it called the people to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence.



For a while the Liberty Bell was hidden in the floorboards of a church in Allentown, Pennsylvania so that the British would not melt it down for cannons. How the crack appeared again is not known. However the final expansion of the crack which rendered the Bell un-ringable was on Washington’s birthday in 1846.

George Lippard wrote about an elderly bellman waiting in the steeple for word that Congress had declared Independence. The fictional story continues that privately he began to doubt Congress’s resolve. Suddenly the bellman’s grandson, who was eavesdropping on the doors of Congress, yelled to him *“Ring, Grandfather! Ring!”* This story so captured the imagination of people throughout the land that the Liberty Bell was forever associated with the Declaration of Independence. Now, on every Fourth of July, the bell is rung (symbolically tapped), in unison with thousands of bells across the nation. (*The Liberty Bell Home page*)

**WELCOME:** Come in! My name is Elizabeth. I am getting ready to clean this room after a hard day of work by the most important men in Colonial America. They have argued back and forth for days. These are dangerous times, young people, dangerous times. Actually Independence Hall belongs to you. (*Share some of the information from FYI.*) I can see by the paper tossed on the floor that some important themes were discussed today. Let’s be nosy and



peek at what they wrote. *(Pick up crumpled paper from the floor and read from the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution.)* Yes, I can see the hand of Tom Jefferson in this. You know him, he's the tall red head who has looked so tired lately. I hear that he has been up all night for several days writing this new Declaration of Independence from Britain. Now he's what I call a servant of our country.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Being a servant is not always easy. There are some things we don't understand in the Bible. This verse is not one of them. We are to serve the Lord gladly! Does it say anything about how others look at us or respond to the Lord? No. Our job is to serve gladly and come before Him with joyful singing. No matter how tired we get, being a servant is a happy job.

Serve the Lord with gladness;  
Come before Him with joyful singing.  
Psalm 100:2

*Teach this verse from a crumpled paper found on the floor. Show the students the paper and then read it together until everyone can say it from memory.*

**BIBLE STORY:**

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

**Luke 10:25-37:** Jesus told the story of a humble servant to some lawyers who were trying to trick Jesus. Their question to Him was: *"Who is my neighbor?"* The servant was a Samaritan who was hated by the Jews. One day a man traveled the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way robbers stopped him. They took his money, tore off his clothes, beat him and left him half dead by the roadside. Now this was not very neighborly!

Soon a priest came along. He saw the poor man lying there, but he would not stop to help. He did not say a kind word as he lifted his robes and walked away. Next a Levite. He saw the wounded man but he never took a second look. He hurried on, knowing that the man could die if someone did not help soon. After all, who wants to touch a dead person. Yuck!

And die he would, except that a kind hearted Samaritan came along at just the right time. He saw the man lying there. He stopped his little mule, climbed down and bent over the stranger. He saw that the injured man was a Jew. Even though the Jews were not friendly to his people the Samaritan felt he must help this Jew who was in great trouble.

He poured oil on the man's wounds and bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his mule and took him to a nearby inn. He stayed and cared for the sick man. The next day the Samaritan





had to continue on his journey. He gave money to the innkeeper and said, "Take care of this man until he is well. If you need more money, I will pay you when I come back from my trip."

What a nice guy! Jesus ended his story by saying to the tricky lawyers, "Now which of these three men was a neighbor to the one who was attacked by robbers?" One lawyer said, "The man who treated him kindly." Jesus smiled and replied, "Go and do the same."

**INDEPENDENCE HALL LESSONS:** That Jesus! He sure had a wonderful way of putting things right. I'd like to think that He would say the same to us today. "Go and do the same." It is up to each of us to become servants of Jesus. How can we be good servants and good Americans at the same time? Let's see if we can find something on the floor that will help us. Find crumpled papers on the floor with the following information:

The Golden Rule—Matthew 7:12

...Do unto others as you would have them do unto you....

\*\*\*\*\*

Matthew 9:37-38

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest...to send out workers into His harvest field.

\*\*\*\*\*

II Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

\*\*\*\*\*

What should we do as Christians and Americans?

- \*Become an educated and informed American Citizen
  - \*Vote in all the elections
  - \*Make your voice and opinions known
  - \*Write letters to your elected officials
  - \*Pray for your leaders





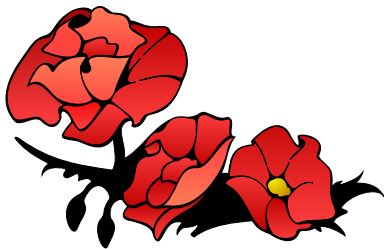
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**CLOSE WITH PRAYER FOR OUR AMERICAN LEADERS.**

**CRAFT:** Choose a craft project from the S&S arts and crafts catalog suggestions. Or, create an appropriate homemade project that can be completed in about fifteen minutes.

...where the spirit of the Lord is, there is  
freedom.

-ii corinthians 3:17



The Declaration of  
Independence  
**IN CONGRESS, July  
4, 1776**

The unanimous Declaration  
of the thirteen united States of America,



When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness....

## The Preamble of the United States Constitution

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union,



establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



**BIBLE STATION #5:**

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# The White House Attic

## ...American Leaders

### Telling About Jesus



**THEME:** The spiritual theme of this Bible Station is a reminder that it is a believer's joyful task to tell others about Jesus. **The White House Attic** helps students discover how easy it is to share their faith with friends and family.

**DECORATION:** This space resembles an attic storage area in **The White House**, Washington, D.C. Stack battered boxes and antique items in the Bible Station. Broken furniture, old hats and wooden boxes with trinkets should be scattered through the area. **Visit your own attic and you'll get the idea!** Use some of the old items stored in your attic. The featured item in the Bible Station attic is an old trunk which will be opened. Specific items in the trunk will be used during lesson time. Borrow an old trunk or make one from a large box.

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Dress in colonial costume. Become Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison. Since Dolley was a friendly, outgoing personality, it could be that her sense of humor would lead her to allow a few guests into The White House Attic for a unique experience. Enjoy a friendly get together while going through an old trunk.

**FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):** Dolley Payne Todd Madison remains one of the best known and best loved ladies of the White House. She was born in Virginia around 1769 but grew up in Philadelphia. She grew up in the strict discipline of the Quaker Society but nothing muted her happy personality and her warm heart. She was married for three short years to John Todd and was left with a small son. With her charm and her laughing blue eyes, fair skin and black curls, Dolley soon attracted the attention of "the great little Madison", as she called James Madison. They were happily married in 1794. Dolley's social graces made her famous.

**She was talented in politics and could smooth quarrels. Hostile statesmen, difficult envoys from Spain or Tunisia, warrior chiefs from the west, flustered youngsters—she always welcomed everyone. Forced to flee from the White House by a British army during the War of 1812, she returned to find the mansion in ruins. Dolley literally had to run before the enemy soldiers burned down the beautiful home. She only had time to rescue the famous Gilbert Stuart painting of George Washington by cutting it from its frame. Today the painting hangs in the East Room as the only surviving White House artifact of the founding fathers. Undaunted by temporary quarters, she kept entertaining.**

**After President Madison died, she remained in Washington until her death in 1849, honored and loved by all. The delightful personality of this unusual woman is a cherished part of her country's history. (White House Biography of Dolley Madison, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov))**

**WELCOME:** Welcome to The White House. I'm Dolley Madison and my husband is President James Madison. I love to talk...do you love to talk? There always seems to be so much to say...so much to tell people. I'm always afraid that if I don't tell people what I know I will never have another opportunity to speak to them. Let me tell you about myself. (*Share some of the FYI material at this time.*) It must seem strange to you that I choose to entertain you in The White House attic. Pardon our dust! You seem to be jovial folks who would appreciate a romp in the attic. After all, you never know what you may find in the home of famous people. It has been a long time since I lived here and many wonderful men have served America as President. I think we will discover some interesting artifacts.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Find" a dusty, glass covered frame in the attic items with the scripture verse printed inside it. Read it aloud to the group. Pass the frame around the group. Decide how much of the scripture to teach each group by their ages and by the time available.*

...Go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and  
then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands  
I have given you; and be sure of this-  
-that I am with you always, even to the end of the world.  
Matthew 28:19-20

These are the last words Jesus spoke to His friends before leaving earth for heaven. They are good words to remember. Actually, these words are the believer's marching orders. We are to **GO**—There is no way to tell others about Jesus unless we are in the world with those who

need Jesus. We are to **MAKE DISCIPLES**— Jesus desires to have His children telling the good news of salvation. **IN ALL THE NATIONS**— The good news of salvation is not just for Americans. People all over the world need to hear about Jesus. I like the end of the verses the best because Jesus reminds us that we are never alone.

**BIBLE STORY: KEEP THE MESSAGE ALIVE**

*Show an old piece of luggage or traveling bag. Pull it from the items scattered in the room. Look what I found! It's Teddy Roosevelt's old traveling bag. I am told he loved to travel all over the world. Word has it that he was so energetic that he learned French, Spanish and German so that he could communicate with leaders. He read one to two books A DAY! -- Even when he was president! Now that's a busy guy. He reminds me of another traveling group. Their story is told in God's Word.*

**Luke 10:1-24:** There is only one way the message of salvation is spread across the world—one person tells another who tells another who tells another....You get the picture! Jesus knew He could not be on the earth forever preaching to those who were interested in God. Many people still needed to hear the gospel. Jesus chose seventy men who had followed Him and believed His message. He gave them a special gift of healing people and sent them two by two to preach in nearby cities and villages. Jesus gave them special instructions. He told them not to take any money or extra clothing. He assured them their needs would be taken care of. They were to eat the food offered them in each host's home. Then He said, *"Whatever city you enter, heal the sick that are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is come near to you.'"*

The seventy men went to the cities and followed Jesus' instructions to the letter. They healed the sick and told people of the kingdom of heaven. When their missionary journeys were over, they rushed back to tell Jesus how successful they had been and how happy the healed people were. Jesus said, *"Don't be happy about their physical healing, be glad that your names are written in heaven."* Jesus prayed, *"I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth."* Jesus knew that the process of one person telling another person the good news of salvation had begun and there was no stopping it now!

Jesus told his seventy faithful followers, *"Blessed are the eyes that see the things you see. I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see the things you see, but they did not see them. They wanted to hear the words you hear, but they did not hear them."* He rejoiced that his followers had preached the good news.





**WHITE HOUSE ATTIC LESSONS: TELL GOOD NEWS**

*Open an old trunk which has been sitting in the middle of the room. This is the center piece of the Bible Station. Find old items in the trunk along with the lesson items.*

It's time to dig into the old White House trunk and see what we find that will help us tell others about Jesus. The White House is a fascinating place to live. I think we will see some interesting things left here by past presidents and their families. Maybe the items will help us remember how to tell others about Jesus.

**OLD BIBLE:** This is a copy of George and Martha Washington's Bible. It is old now but the message is still the same. It is filled with stories of men and women who followed God. I think every President brings his own Bible to the White House. Presidents know that they must depend upon God to give them wisdom as they tackle difficult problems. We must depend upon God's Word too.

**HEART LOCKET:** This is truly a golden treasure. It once belonged to Mary Todd Lincoln. Mary was a sad First Lady. She lost all her children except one to illness and death and her dear husband, Abraham, was killed by an assassin. This locket reminded Mary that above all else, God loved her. Some people do not know that there is an almighty God who loves them. We must tell them!

**PIECE OF COAL OR BURNED WOOD:** Now, who would save an old lump of coal/wood in The White House trunk? I remember when the President's House was heated by wood and coal. Today the President's family is cozy and warmed by modern heating. It is a reminder that we are all sinners. Even though some people refuse to believe they are sinners, the Bible says, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23 We must tell them!

**PIECE OF SOFT FLANNEL, OLD NAIL, SMALL ROCK IN A BEAUTIFUL WOODEN JEWELRY CASE:** These are the dearest treasures of all in The White House trunk. I remember the day I placed them in the trunk. The White House had been destroyed by fire and I wanted everyone who enjoyed the new White House to remember the good news of Jesus. These items remind us that God provided a way for us to be saved from sin. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to be born. The **soft cloth** reminds us of the soft swaddling clothes and the Bethlehem manger. The **nail** reminds us of the Cross of Calvary where Jesus died and the **small rock** reminds us that the cave tomb where He was placed was empty after three days. When the stone rolled away, Jesus was gone! He had risen from the dead just as He said! It's time to tell everyone!



**WRAPPED BOX:** I think the children of the White House wrapped this gift for you! Many children have lived here with their famous, courageous parents. The attic has always been a favorite place to play. I heard about the silly shows that Tad and Willie Lincoln put on up here. In fact, one day they even wore their mother's dress and forced all the White House staff to come and watch. They even charged a ticket price! Ha! What astonishing kids.

This treasure reminds us that God's only rule for salvation is that we reach out and take the gift of Jesus. We cannot be good enough to get to heaven so Jesus did the work for us. (*Open the box to discover book marks, key chains, pictures of Jesus, erasers or any other small gift to give students.*) You must open a treasure to enjoy it. Tell everyone you meet!

**How do we enjoy Jesus?** We go to church, we have Christian friends, we learn about Jesus, we read God's Word, we pray and we tell other people about Him. As we get to know Jesus, we depend upon Him to be our Friend and to keep us from danger.

### CLOSE IN PRAYER.

**CRAFT:** Choose a craft project from the S&S arts and catalog suggestion list or create an appropriate homemade project that takes about fifteen minutes to complete.

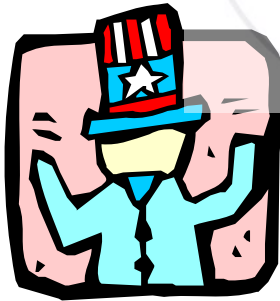
now it is required that those who have  
been given  
a trust must prove faithful.  
-1 corinthians 4:2

god Loves america. when you consider what he went through to bring our forebearers to this magnificent Land, and when you realize what he accomplished in bringing forth a new nation on this continent—a government founded on christian principles and dedicated to life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness—you have to realize that he had a dramatic vision and purpose for this nation.  
—James Kennedy



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## Town Criers...The Nursery



### **WHO SHOULD COME TO THE *TOWN CRIERS***

**NURSERY?** Invite youngsters birth through age three who are children of teachers and helpers. It is the decision of each church to open the nursery to the public. LIBERTY VILLAGE is not designed for students under four years old who do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers more security.

### **HOW MANY HELPERS SHOULD WE ASK TO HELP IN THE**

**NURSERY?** Ideally, provide one helper per baby in charge of all care for that infant from bottles to changing diapers. If that is not possible, ask one adult and a variety of assistants to watch the children. This staff may change from day to day.

**SHOULD WE PLAN ACTIVITIES?** The nursery is a babysitting service but tell a few stories, sing some songs, play tapes and videos, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by the ages of the children.

**SHOULD WE FEED CHILDREN IN THE NURSERY?** Ask the parents. They may want to provide snacks from home. If you do feed toddlers, be sure the food is safe and healthful. (**WARNING:** No popcorn, hot dogs, lollipops or hard candy which could get caught in a tiny throat.)

**HOW SHOULD WE DRESS IN THE NURSERY?** Wear washable clothing and shoes that are low and comfortable. The key to being happy in the nursery is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.

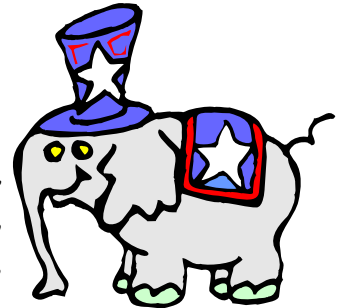
**WHAT SHOULD WE BRING FROM HOME TO MAKE THE NURSERY A PLEASANT PLACE?** Bring Christian tapes. Play music at a low, non-threatening volume. Bring a small fan if days are hot and humid. Place the fan away from children—preferably on a shelf or high table.



## Pint Size Patriots ...Preschool



*THIS AREA IS FOR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS AGES FOUR THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN. Decide whether to include five year old students in this group or to allow them to become part of the kindergarten group.*



**THEME:** PINT SIZE PATRIOTS study the same spiritual themes as older students. Each day's activities emphasize what older students are learning but on a preschool level with a preschool teaching team.

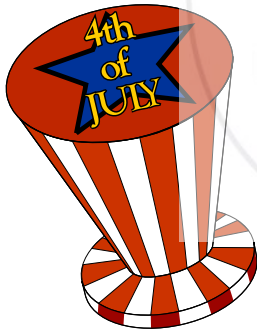
Use the curriculum as a guide but provide plenty of time for rest, play and simple crafting. At no time feel pressured to move students to activities if they are crying or upset. Cancel your appearance in favor of free play time if the group needs to rest or calm down.

**TEACHERS:** There should be one helper for every two-three PINT SIZE PATRIOTS. Parental help is welcomed and encouraged. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Make each day fun and relaxing. Students should be able to chatter and sing without being reprimanded. However, run away children or rudeness must not be tolerated.

**HOME BASE DECORATION:** This room is where some activity for preschool children takes place. Use ideas from the section in the curriculum for simple decorations.

**TOWN CRIERS:** Behavior in this age group is unpredictable. If a few children continually cry, ask helpers to keep them busy separately with play and coloring in the home base area. Movement around the building may be threatening for some younger students. If one or two children never calm down, it may be necessary to ask a parent to stay with their child or take that child home and try again next year. We want to accommodate as many young students as possible, but crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. The child may be too young and will do better at a later time.

## Planning a Pint Size Patriots Day



*Two hours + is a long time for preschool students. Plan the day around lots of play time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other outdoor toys to play indoors or outdoors. Purchase small story books from the local Christian book store. Use these books as fill in teaching times. Travel with the students to all areas of LIBERTY VILLAGE as suggested in the daily schedule. If your students tire easily, omit some activity stops. They do not have to participate in every activity.*

**NATURE WALK:** This may be the highlight of each day and should be inserted when a fifteen minute activity is not appropriate for the preschool student. When taking a walk, go with a nature bracelet. Place a band of duct tape (sticky side out) around each child's wrist. As children walk, let them pick up leaves, sticks and flowers and stick them to their bracelet. When you return, discuss all the treasures they found. Talk about how our loving God made everything for our enjoyment and to meet our needs.

**LIBERTY SQUARE OPENING:** PINT SIZE PATRIOTS may participate in the opening if they can sit still for fifteen minutes. This is an opportunity to organize name tags and gather the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to home base for a few simple activities. This avoids chaos and distraction for the older students.

**KEEP AMERICA SINGING:** Encourage preschool students to participate in music time. Take the students to the music area and stay with them fifteen minutes each day.

**OLD GLORY HEADQUARTERS:** This is a special daily visit to Betsy Ross. Students make one star each day as Betsy tells her story combined with the good news of salvation.

**BOSTON TEA PARTY:** Take students to the daily fifteen minute snack time. Sit with them. Use this time as a bathroom and hand washing break.

**UNCLE SAM THE STORY MAN:** This is a continuing story time. If your preschool students can sit quietly for fifteen minutes, take them. The suggested story is a Chip and Clare Conley mystery entitled "*Trouble In Washington*". **It is NOT written for their age.** An option may be to purchase five short (2-3 minute) stories to tell our group at home base. Perhaps a series of age appropriate videos would work well. You decide!





**BIBLE STATIONS:** Rather than trying to duplicate Bible Station decorations, take preschool students to one station each day for their Bible time. Tell the Bible Station teacher you will use their room for fifteen minutes when their class is not in session. Use the props available in each area to tell the Bible story. Use copies of each Bible Station lesson plan as designed for older students. Activity suggestions may be used or not used at the discretion of your staff. Simplify each Bible story as needed.

**PATRIOT FIELD OF DREAMS:** Take preschool students to the daily fifteen minute *Games and Guests* time. There are many games these young students can play. If you feel more comfortable, plan separate recreation for your small ones and create your own games.

**REST TIME:** Allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken home base, play a tape of Christian music or listen to a taped story while encouraging quiet activity.

**CRAFTS:** The perfect preschool craft is one which can be completed by the student with a minimum of teacher help. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Stringing large beads is a favorite activity. Purchase one craft project for each day. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience. S&S arts and crafts catalog offers many projects for the preschool student. (S&S prices could change.) Local craft stores may have ideas for projects.

### S&S CATALOG RESOURCE CRAFT BOOKS

**PRESCHOOL ARTS AND CRAFTS.** Foster creativity with easy to do projects that and introduced by original poems. Kids will have fun drawing, cutting, pasting and painting. Play with clay and building materials, kitchen items and outdoor objects. Build excitement around birthdays and holidays. Ages 3-5. Soft cover, 160 pages, SR9-BK1181 \$12.99 each.

**THE GIANT ENCYCLOPEDIA** of theme activities for children 2-5. This book offers 48 themes and more than 600 teacher developed activities that resulted from a nationwide contest. The activities are clearly described and require a minimum of preparation. Soft cover, 512 pages. SR9-BK955 \$29.99 each.

**MUDWORKS.** Basic, enormously useful text invites creative adventure and exploration while offering guidance in some favorite messy activities—bread and glue dough, plaster of paris, plastic jellow and more! Clearly written, easy to use and fun! Soft cover; 150 pages for 3 and up. SR9-BK834 \$13.95 each.





**S&S PRESCHOOL CRAFT PROJECT SUGGESTIONS**

**SQUISH ART.** Create squish art by using our special tool. Experiment with color mixing and create exotic forms. Includes heavyweight cards, frames, squish art tools, non toxic finger paints and instructions. 5" x 7". SR9-GP231 \$20.99 per pack of 25. 84 cents per project.

**PUZZLE PIECE FRAMES.** Here's an interesting collage activity for framing favorite pictures or photos. Use the non toxic washable markers to color the 28 puzzle pieces and then glue them to the cardboard frame in a unique pattern. Glue sold separately. Frame 5 1/2" square; picture opening 2 1/4" x 3 1/4". EMB-GP1028 \$6.99 per pack of 12. 58 cents per project.

**SLAMMIN' SIGNS.** Your students will enjoy decorating these amusing wooden plaques. Includes 3 each of 5 assorted designs on 1/8" thick craft wood plaques, non toxic acrylic paint, brushes, sandpaper and instructions. 3" x 6" and 3" x 7 1/2". EMB-GP1354 \$9.99 per pack of 15. 63 cents per project.

**MAGIC COLOR WHEELS.** This easy to assemble project creates a stained glass like design. Kit includes 4 1/4" plastic frisbee saucers, brightly colored tissue paper strips, non toxic glue and instructions. EMB-GP1267 \$19.99 per pack of 24.

**HAND PRINT POEM.** Even the youngest in your group can create a meaningful memento for his or her parents. Includes printed poem sheets (Let the Children Come to Me....), non toxic poster paints and instructions. 9" x 12". EMB-RE4 \$12.99 per pack of 30. 43 cents per project.

**MORE EASY SUGGESTIONS...**

Don't forget that four and five year old children love to make cereal necklaces (Cheerios or Fruit Loops or Apple cereal). Bring enough for lots of snacks along the way!

Make Alphabit Name Plaques with the child's first name.

String large beads onto vinyl string for a great VBS necklace.

Purchase white t-shirts for each student. Let them place their own painted hand prints all over the shirt. (Messy but so much fun!) Or let them use fabric safe markers to paint little pictures or "modern art" all over their shirt.

Take each student's photograph and place their photo in a hand made frame.