

TRY ONE OR MORE OF THESE ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOUR FAMILY DISCOVER THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED.

PRAY FOR GODLY LEADERSHIP:

Read: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Do: Make a prayer flag together with your family to pray for national, state and local leaders. Cut several stars from white paper. On each star, write the name of a local, state or national leader. Glue the stars onto blue paper. Glue red and white ribbon in a row across the top. Hang the prayer flag on the refrigerator or any visible area for the family. Pray for a different leader each day.

Pray: Dear God, please give our leaders the courage to do what is right and guide them into making wise decisions. We specifically pray for INSERT NAME/POSITION that he/she will follow Your leading in his/her position.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Read: Psalm 91

Do: Make a card for a soldier or someone who has served our country. Write an encouraging note. Invite younger children to draw a picture. Include Scriptures for comfort and strength. When finished, mail to the following address: A Million Thanks, 17853 Santiago Blvd #107-355, Villa Park, CA 92861

Pray: Pray for those who are serving in the armed forces protecting our freedom. Take turns reading each of the verses of **Psalm 91** aloud as a prayer for our soldiers both at home and all around the world.

OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

Read: Proverbs 29:2

Do: Read the Declaration of Independence and find four references to God. As believers, we celebrate that our country was founded on faith!

Read: **Ephesians 3:12** (NIV) together: "In Him (Christ) and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

Optional: Make an American Flag (or use one that you already have) and use musical instruments to put on your own family parade or join in a community parade. Red represents bravery, blue signifies perseverance and white represents purity. These are three strong principles upon which our country is founded. Discuss bravery, perseverance and purity.

Pray: Thank God for the freedom that we have living in the United States of America and the freedom we have in Him. Ask God to help your family be brave, to persevere and to have purity as you celebrate those freedoms.

“ We recognize no sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus! ”

John Adams & John Hancock

DEPEND ON GOD

Read: Psalm 33:12

Do: Read portions of the Declaration of Independence aloud together. Use the example below or write a simple document declaring your own family's dependence on God. Invite your family to sign it and then read aloud your family's testimony of your dependence upon God.

“ We declare our dependence on God as a family and acknowledge that family is central to the Creator's plan. We declare our marriage is a sacred covenant before the Lord and our children are a heritage from the Lord. Therefore, as a family, we depend on Him in all things, we declare His unfailing provision and we demonstrate a life of gratitude for the freedom He has given. ”

Pray: Ask God to help your family trust His divine leadership for America and for your family.

PATRIOTIC SONGS TO SING TOGETHER

*This Is My Country
God Bless America
America the Beautiful
God of This City
My Country 'Tis of Thee*



FOURTH OF JULY

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. The Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This day represents the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR A MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION:

- Select one or more of the activities described in this guide that best fits your family.
- Host a “flag raising ceremony” using a house flag or by placing a small flag in your yard.
- Say the Pledge of Allegiance together while facing the flag with your right hand over your heart.

“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 for all.”

- Sing any of the patriotic songs listed in this guide.
- Celebrate with a cake and sing “Happy Birthday” to America.
- Take turns voicing short prayers of thanks for ways in which God has blessed America.

GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel
by Russel Moore

We need a church that speaks to social and political issues with a grand vision in mind: that of the gospel of Jesus. As Christianity seems increasingly strange, and even subversive to our culture, we have the opportunity to reclaim the strangeness of the gospel, which is what gives it its power in the first place!

America's Black Founders: Revolutionary Heroes and Early Leaders
by Nancy I. Sanders

This book weaves the histories of dozens of men and women who have earned proper recognition among the founders of the United States. For children ages 9 and up.

Under God
by Toby Mac and Michael Tait

Using unforgettable accounts of both famous and little-known Americans, this book examines the stories of men and women who forged our nation. Against these, they pair the dark side of America's legacy--racism, slavery, injustice--in order that a new generation might avoid repeating sins of the past.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

Wallbuilders.com is an organization dedicated to presenting America's forgotten history.

Operationwearehere.com and **Amillionthanks.org** give ideas, resources and opportunities to thank and encourage those in service.

4TH OF JULY AT HOME

A FAMILY GUIDE TO OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

Use this guide to celebrate our heritage while teaching truth's about our country's history to the next generation.